



SEPTEMBER 2025

A Pastor's Thank You

to the members of St. John's Lutheran Church – September 2025

Greetings to you in the powerful name of Jesus the Christ!

Steve & I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for our 6+ years of ministry together in this place called St. John's Lutheran Church.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our time with all of you. All of us have weathered the ups and downs of church and ministry life and God has helped us through each season.

You know the Bible verses from Ecclesiastes 3

¹ *For everything there is a season and a time
for every matter under heaven:*

² *a time to be born and a time to die;*

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ *... a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up;*

⁴ *a time to weep and a time to laugh;*

a time to mourn and a time to dance...

NRSVue

[And may I add: a time to arrive and a time to depart.]

As Steve & I depart, we are so very thankful for all of you and our time together. We will take many treasured memories of St. John's with us as I retire and we move to Clifton. God and God's love is truly present in this place. Thank you for all the cards, gifts, and well wishes you have given us these past few days. Mainly, thank you for calling me to be your pastor!



May each of you enjoy God's Blessing & Peace,
Pastor Chris & Steve Schoon

CROP Hunger Walk 2025

St. John's has been involved with the Community Interfaith CROP Hunger Walk for many years. Because recent executive actions and policies are pushing more individuals and communities into poverty and hunger. CROP Hunger Walk is again partnering with CWS to step up to meet the increasing need. The local planning team has set a goal of \$20,000 to provide just and sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty. A portion (25%) of the funds raised here will go to the local food pantries.

From combating droughts globally, providing food and shelter to refugees, supporting survivors of natural disasters, to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks are transforming lives. All are welcome and encouraged to register and raise funds.

This year's walk will be hosted by Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sandwich. The Oct. 5th walk is at the fairgrounds in Sandwich on Suydam Road. Various routes to suite all walkers young and old. The walk starts at 2:00 pm with registration between 1:15 and 2:00. There will be refreshments at the end of the walk.

See Mark or Mike at a registration table in the Welcome Center the last part of September to donate or register for the walk.



Flowers for St. John's



The Flower Peddler in Sandwich closed its doors on June 30, 2025. This is the place St. John's has gotten the altar flowers and holiday plants for a very long time. Because of this closing, we have had to find a new flower provider. We contacted Ivy Oaks Floral in Somonauk and are happy to say Angi, the owner, is willing to provide flowers for the altar and seasonal plants. The price will be \$22.50 a vase for altar flowers. This includes a delivery to the church so the altar guild members can place them on the altar. The seasonal plant price will be announced closer to the holiday. However, if you choose to bring flowers from some other source, that will be fine. If that is what you choose, you will be responsible to place them on the altar before the 5:00 Saturday service and remove them after the Sunday service. Please call the office to make sure the church is open before bringing your flowers. All flowers for the altar must be fresh-no artificial. We hope the new arrangement will be as rewarding as the one we had with The Flower Peddler.

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

September 16th

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

September 17th

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

The month of September at St. John's has always been designated as LWR Shipping Fund month. This year we will continue the tradition as we get ready to pay for the items we have assembled to be shipped to the places where they are needed. Getting the items to Elgin is done on a volunteer basis by members of St. John's. We have made many items that will need to be shipped so we hope the Shipping Fund will reflect what is needed.

The prices that LWR has projected is will cost to get the items to where they need to go are:

Quilts \$2.80, School Back Packs \$2.85, Personal Care Kits \$1.50, Baby Care Kits \$3.10 and Fabric Kits \$1.80.

In order to ship everything St. John's has assembled in the last 12 months, we will need about \$3300. Please be generous when contributing to the Shipping Fund. You can do it in addition to your regular offering by designating Shipping Fund or by using a blue envelope and marking it Shipping Fund. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Work days for September will be used for putting together quilts, baby care kits and cutting out school back packs. There are always donations which need to be sorted and baby care quilts to be made. Please consider spending a little time with us as we do God's work with our hands!

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - August 10, 2025

Members Present : Connie Hamer, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Joanne Robinson & Pastor Chris Schoon.

- ◇ Pastor gave Devotion.
- ◇ Wayne called meeting to order @ 9:58am
- ◇ Joanne made motion to accept consent agenda. Connie seconded. Motion carried.
- ◇ Treasurers Report. Scott said we are still doing ok financially. We received a large donation.
- ◇ Committee Reports,
 - × Fellowship/ Hospitality
 - ⇒ Church Picnic Aug 3rd at Somonauk Park went well. Talked about maybe moving time to 10:00
 - × Outreach- No Report.
 - × Finance
 - ⇒ Will plan for meeting in September. Mission/Stewardship- See Report
 - × MOG- No Report
 - × Parish Ed
 - ⇒ Confirmation Starts September 10th. Rally Day September 14th.
 - × Property
 - ⇒ All lights have been changed to LED.
 - ⇒ Asphalt sealcoating and striping has been completed.
 - × Worship
 - ⇒ Hymns and organists have been scheduled thru September.
 - × Tech
 - ⇒ New Computers are needed for Financial Secretary, Pastor and Office. Will check with Lincoln and Jim Beal.
 - × Pastor's- See Report In addition to report.
- ◇ Supply Pastor Tom Rogers has been scheduled for Aug 30 & 31st., and Sept 13 & 14. Saturday Sept 6th will be Service of the Word. Sunday Sept. 7th will be Ecumenical Service at the Sandwich Fair.
- ◇ Presidents Report
- ◇ Call Committee has been put together. Including the following:
 - × Lily Horsch, Adam Killey, Jerry Lundeen, Wendy Merkel, and Robin Raupp.

- ◇ Council Motion was made to allow GHG Gala Feb 21, 2026 with setup Feb 20, 2026. Also use of Welcome Center. Connie made motion Cindy Second. Motion Carried.
- ◇ Since Pastor Chris Schoon is retiring. She needs to be removed from Heartland Bank Accounts. Following will remain on accounts. Scott Horsch, Robert Fraley & Wayne Karp. Joanne made Motion to Adjourn. Cindy seconded. Motion Carried.
- ◇ Meeting Adjourned 10:52.
- ◇ Closed with Praying The Lord's Prayer

With Gods Help, Wayne Karp



Pastor Jen Beamsley giving a blessing over Pastor Chris and Steve as they transition into retirement.

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 8-6-25

The August Stewardship meeting was called to order at 8:59 a.m. with Karol Grandgeorge, Mike Hamer, Pastor Chris Schoon, and Connie Hamer present. We prayed acknowledging that all we have received is from God's hand.

The July minutes were approved.

Mike's offering report for July was as follows: General Fund - \$20,005.09; Capital Fund - \$1144.41; Lutheran Disaster Response - \$50; Worship/Altar Guild Committee - \$464.13 (total - \$659.13); MSHV - \$100 (total - \$632.52).

Connie took the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Vets supplies to Wheaton on July 3rd. We already received a thank you card.

Karol will write about the LWR shipping fund which is our Sept. emphasis in her LWR article. Michael will get a CROP (Oct. 5th) article written for the Sept. Journal. Connie did the Children's Charities article for the August Journal.

Michael indicated that there is no need to purchase additional giving envelopes at this time.

For our August emphasis, we ordered enough school supplies to fill 450 school bags.

The next Fellowship Feast is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26th at the United Church of Sandwich from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. St. John's is responsible for veggie, potato, and casserole dishes. A sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center. The next dinner is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 23rd from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. here at St. John's with a Thanksgiving ecumenical service to follow at 6:30 p.m. We have not decided on the main course at this time.

We adjourned the meeting at 9:46 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 3rd at 8:45 a.m.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 8-6-25

Present: Pastor Schoon, Lois Spizzirri, Julie Horsch and Toni Lundeen.

We began our meeting with prayer at 1:00 pm.

New tables have been put in place for Communion

Our new altar flower provider will be Ivy Oaks in Somonauk.

Supply pastors will be used through September.

Aug. 17th Jen Beamsley will be at St. John's to preach and meet with Council.

Worship on September 7th will be at the Sandwich Fairgrounds at 8:30am

Worship time changes to 9:45am on September 14th. Sunday School and Adult Forum will resume.

St. John's will host the Thanksgiving Community Feast on November 23rd from 4:30-6:00, followed by the ecumenical service at 6:30.

Worship in the park went well even without a keyboard. It was suggested not to even hassle with a keyboard next year.

Submitted by: Julie Horsch

Rebekah Circle for September '25

Date: Thursday, Sept. 18th

Time: 1:00 pm.

Location: St. John's Lutheran

Lesson: Lesson: Pray Always – Session #3

Hostess: Ellie Kulton



September

BIRTHDAYS

Joe Denault	09/01	Madison Vermeland	09/13
Ward Hearn	09/03	Karie Misener	09/18
Jennifer Reuter	09/04	Homer Hulon Sr	09/19
Chuck Lee	09/04	Benjamin Stahl	09/24
Bob Fraley	09/06	Susan Keenan	09/27
Jackson Vidito	09/08	Bryan Drost	09/28
Wayne Karp	09/08	Merlyn Milligan	09/28
Ron Merkel	09/09	Angie Shoener	09/30
Charles Vermeland	09/13		



September

ANNIVERSARIES

Dale & Joanne Robinson	09/03	Ward & Cheryl Hearn	09/20
Christine & Steve Schoon	09/16	Blair & Paul Lindstrom	09/26
Don & Rose Rubis	09/17	Bob & Anita Reis Sr.	09/30
Dan & Kelly Denault	09/19		

St. John's Interim Pastoral Care Plan

As we walk through this time of transition together, we want you to know that **St. John's is being cared for**. With the help of the Synod and several area pastors, we've put an **Interim Pastoral Care Plan** in place so that worship continues each week and your pastoral care needs are supported until an interim pastor is placed.

Worship

- Weekly **pulpit supply** is being arranged so worship and preaching continue without interruption.
- You can expect Saturday and Sunday services to feel familiar and steady as we move through this season together.

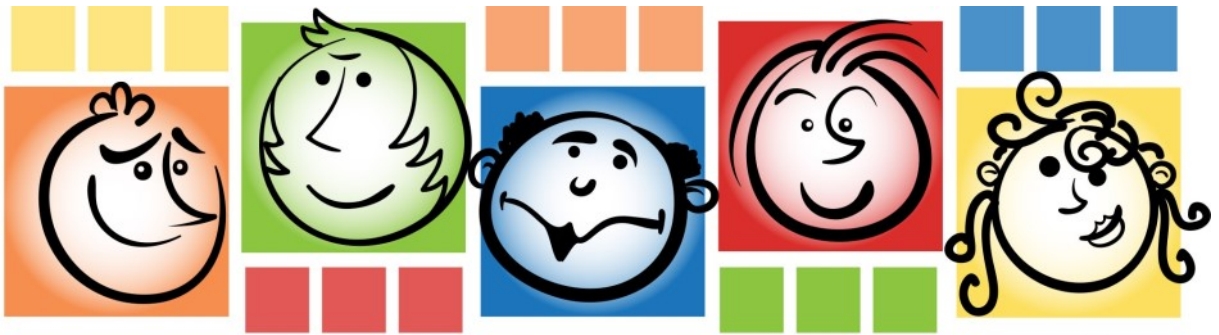
Pastoral Care Team

- **Area pastors (Pastor John Rothfusz and Pastor Hope Johnson)** have graciously offered to walk alongside St. John's during this time.
- They'll be available to help with **urgent pastoral care needs, funerals, and some weddings** (depending on their availability).

If You Have an Urgent Pastoral Care Need

1. **During Office Hours:** Call the church office, and they'll connect you with the right person for support.
2. **After Hours or Weekends:** A **designated council member** will serve as your emergency contact and help connect you with the pastoral care team.
3. Wayne Karp 708-284-6361





MEETING

Property Committee

10am Wednesday, September 3

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, September 3

Fellowship & Hospitality

2:00pm Wednesday, September 3

Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, September 3

Church Council

10:00am Sunday, September 14

Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday, September 18

MOG Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, October 7



**VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL WAS A
SMASHING SUCCESS!**

A FUN TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
September 2025	1	2	3	4
7 9:00am Worship	8	9 9am-3pm LWR School Kit Workday	10 8:45am Stewardship 10:00am Property Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 2:00pm Fellowship & Hospitality 6:30pm Confirmation Orientation @ Salem	11
14 9:00am Worship 10:00am Church Council Meeting	15	16 <i>LWR Workday 9:30am-3pm 7pm-9pm</i>	17 <i>LWR Workday 9am-3pm</i> 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem	18
21 Worship Time Change 9:45am Worship	22	23	24 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem	25
28 9:45am Worship	29	30		

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	4	5	6 5:00pm Worship
	11	12	13 5:00pm Worship
	18 9:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Rebekah Circle	19	20 5:00pm Worship
	25 9:00am Bible Study	26	27 5:00pm Worship
			5:00pm Worship

The page is framed by a decorative border featuring autumn-themed elements. At the top, there are several yellow and orange maple leaves. On the left and right sides, there are thin, winding orange lines with small leaves attached. At the bottom, there are three large, vibrant yellow sunflowers with dark brown centers, and more orange and yellow leaves scattered around them. The background of the page is white, and the text is centered within this space.

The Parents Corner

Our first daughter, Cindy, taught as the mathematics teacher at a small high school near the Mississippi River. When she married and relocated, she became a math teacher in a junior high near Indiana. That she was a math teacher at all was a surprise to me. You see, during her school career, she had no trouble with reading, spelling, history or anything else. Just mathematics. In first grade, she couldn't learn addition, she wasn't going to learn addition and she wasn't going to school anymore! Fortunately, I had a big wooden container slotted with stacks of different colored poker chips. We used them to work addition problems until she was comfortable with addition, and then subtraction. Those big, round chips were used to illustrate the accuracy of the multiplication tables and that memorizing them was a worthwhile shortcut and useful in division, also.

Then came negative numbers. She declared she couldn't understand them and she was doomed. I sat with her to work problems and realized she understood very well. She just didn't trust that she did. I talked with her teacher, who then assigned Cindy to tutoring younger students. With help, her weakness was turned into strength to help others.

In John 14:16, Jesus tells us that He will ask God that we are given a counselor to guide us. Martin Luther reminds us that our counselor, the Holy Spirit, "fills troubled hearts with joy toward God. A counselor encourages us to be happy that our sins have been forgiven, death has been conquered, heaven has been opened, and God is smiling upon us." Thank you, Jesus.

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: Stella Gardner
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: Jason & Kim Boczek
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: 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 September 2025

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



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