



**Saint John Lutheran Church**  
Bellevue, Iowa  
*A Congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*Growing and responding  
Every Day as disciples of Jesus*

**November 2024**

**WEEKLY WORSHIP**

**Saturday - 5:00 pm  
Sunday - 10:00 am**

**~ ARK ~**

Education with  
Children  
(Kindergarten  
Through 5th grade)

**Friday 3:20—5:00 pm**

**~ CONFIRMATION ~**

6th - 8th Grade  
**Wednesday  
6:00-8:00 pm**

**~ EMAIL ~**

Office  
saint-  
john.bellevue@gmail.com  
Pastor  
sjpastor.pp@gmail.com

**~ WEBSITE ~**

**SAINTJOHNLUTHERAN.NET**

**LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK  
SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH - BELLEVUE, IOWA**

**CHURCH PHONE:  
563-872-5849**



**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING**

**Sunday, November 3**

**Set your  
Clocks Back**

**Coming Events**

**You Should Know About!**

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING  
WORSHIP**

**November 24 - 6:30 p.m.  
At Saint Joseph Catholic**

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING  
DINNER**

**Thursday—November 28**  
Dining In  
Take Out or Delivery

To view all the pictures in color within this newsletter, go to our website: [saintjohnlutheran.net](http://saintjohnlutheran.net) and click on newsletter.



# A Thanksgiving Feast

Thanksgiving was always a feast at our house. There was the turkey, mash potatoes, sweet potatoes with melted marshmallows, cranberry sauce, vegetables, rolls, and dessert - a sliver of mince and pumpkin pie topped with a scoop of ice cream and a dollop of whipped cream. I never went away from the Thanksgiving table wanting more.

I was brought up believing that heaven would be one big feast. If that heavenly feast is anything compared to my past Thanksgiving meals, I know that I will not be in need of anything or wanting more. I will be content. Wow...perhaps that is what heaven is all about - living content - being grateful for what we have. Giving thanks to God for all the blessings in our life.

On Thanksgiving day, many people take time to give thanks for what they have. For a brief moment they take an inventory of God's blessings and forget about focusing on what they lack. What is sad is that we so often fail to take an inventory of God's blessings every day. We find our selves wanting more which leads us to living a life of being discontent. We fail to see the joys of life that surround us.

My hope is that we all might be people of God who are truly content and grateful every day. Can you imagine a world where the poor and starving are feasting with us? Can you imagine a world where all the people are content and grateful?

Do we have to wait until we go heaven to experience a life of living content and grateful everyday? I believe the answer is NO. We can begin today and every day—living content and grateful with all the blessings God provides for us as we await the day when we will join the saints in heaven at the ultimate Thanksgiving feast.

*Pastor Paul*

**OBSERVING  
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 2 & 3**

On November 2 & 3, we will be observing All Saint's Weekend. At the beginning of our worship we will be remembering and lighting a candle for the following individuals who have died since November 1, 2023.

**Roger Schladetzky  
Stan Pataska  
Jennifer Back  
Linda Ries  
Mike Roth  
Bobby Tennant  
Verrena Dagitz-Stein  
James Keil  
Rosie Williams**

*For all the saints  
who from their labors rest  
All who by faith  
before the world confessed  
Your name O Jesus*

All Saints' Sunday



We will also be recalling our newest brother in Christ who was baptized since November 1, 2023

**Sage Koranda**

*I was there to hear  
your burning cry  
I'll be there when you are old  
I rejoiced the day  
you were baptized*





Miranda Sieverding .....	11/2	Tiffany Michels .....	11/17
Rayna Kilburg .....	11/3	Trista Ries .....	11/17
Amy Kucera .....	11/3	Greta Dagitz .....	11/18
Cash Kirk .....	11/4	Gloria Sagers .....	11/19
Jaedyn Gannon.....	11/5	Jane Weinschenk.....	11/20
Paetyn Gannon .....	11/5	Dylan Portz.....	11/21
Juliana Penniston.....	11/5	Benry Ries.....	11/21
Christine Burns .....	11/6	Josh Edwards, Jr.....	11/22
Miley Peters .....	11/6	Julie Koranda .....	11/23
Kali Knake.....	11/7	Billi Schreoder .....	11/23
Ricky Booker.....	11/9	Sue Bevan.....	11/24
Glenda Meyer .....	11/10	Bill Sieverding.....	11/24
Kayla Claussen .....	11/12	JoElla Roling .....	11/24
John Pataska .....	11/12	Kellen Herrig.....	11/25
Ashley Kieffer.....	11/13	Amber Gilmore .....	11/27
Brucks Sieverding .....	11/13	Chris Kellogg.....	11/27
Lena Sieverding .....	11/13	Makray Reistroffer .....	11/27
Daniel Martin.....	11/15	Kyle Rausch .....	11/28
Gloria Petesch .....	11/16	Jackson Baker.....	11/29
Mike Back .....	11/17	Brendon Booker .....	11/29
Ryan Dempewolf.....	11/17	Beth Gleason.....	11/29
Cambree Jess.....	11/17		

*We apologize for any errors or omissions.  
If you notice any mistakes, please contact the  
church office.*



## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

**NOVEMBER 3 - 2:00 am**

**DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS  
BACK ON SATURDAY EVENING!**

# *Celebrating Their Wedding Anniversary*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Connie & Eldon Merfeld .....	Nov. 5 .....	24
Billy & Ashley Reistroffer .....	Nov. 9 .....	3
Gary & Stephanie Penniston .....	Nov. 16 .....	28



## *Anniversaries—40 Plus Yrs*

<b>Tom &amp; Julie Koranda .....</b>	<b>Nov. 6.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Judy &amp; Dale Pataska.....</b>	<b>Nov. 22.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Connie &amp; Pete Anderson ...</b>	<b>Nov. 26.....</b>	<b>42</b>



### **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 - 6:30  
AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC**

Let's come together on Sunday, November 24 at 6:30 for the annual Ecumenical (Community) Thanksgiving Worship. This year, we will be gathering at Saint Joseph Catholic church. After the service there will be time for fellowship.

## *Pastoral Acts*



Baptism—September 29  
**Sage Thomas Koranda**  
Parents: Drew & Erica (Casel)

## **Memorials & Gifts Received In Memory of**

***Jim Keil***

*Saint John Local & Global Outreach*

***Pastor Paul's 25th Anniversary at Saint John  
Saint John Lutheran***



### ***Bellevue Bread Basket***

Served 41 families  
(89 people)  
in October



## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER NOVEMBER 28

Saint John will again be providing a Thanksgiving Dinner for those people in the Bellevue area who will be alone or unable to prepare a Thanksgiving meal.

### **RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED.**

As in the past years, we will be offering the option of dining in, picking up your meal or having your meal delivered.

**DINING IN** - the meal will begin at noon.

**PICK UP** - Meals can be picked up from 11:30 - 12:00.

**HOME DELIVERY:** Meals will be available for those who are elderly or those who have physical limitations that will keep them from coming to the church to pick up their meal.

**Deliveries will be made on that day  
between 11:15 and 11:45.**

### **TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION:**

call Diane Carson at 563-542-0458 by Thursday, November 21.

**Donations** for the meal will be accepted, but a donation is not expected.



## PIES NEEDED FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER

As in the past, we asking for your help in providing pies for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the church. Bring your pie for the Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 27.



## *Celebrating the Rite of Confirmation*

On Sunday evening, October 20, we held our annual Confirmation Banquet to honor those students who will be confirmed. The parents of the students also invited to attend this dinner.



**Bottom - Top: Kylie Ernst, Makaila Scheckel, Brennan Ries and Liam Eichhorn**



Our Confirmation Ministry is a Christian educational ministry for middle school youth (6th - 8th grade). The purpose of Confirmation is to assist each youth to grow deeper in their relationship with God, and to prepare them to live their life as a faithful Christian who strives to make a positive difference in the world.



The foundation for our confirmation learning is the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. This learning is accomplished in both a large group setting and a small group gathering that is guided by the pastor and an adult group leaders.

Each group (class) leader has made a commitment to follow their group from the beginning (6th grade) to the Rite of Confirmation. **We want to thank Krisy Dempewolf** for her faithful service in being the 2024 confirmation group leader and mentor.

## *Rite of Confirmation*

*October 27, 2024*

On Sunday, October 27, we gathered to witness the Rite of Confirmation for **Liam Eichhorn, Kylie Ernst, Brennan Ries, and Makaila Scheckel**.

During the Rite of Confirmation these four youth publicly share their intention to continue to live in the covenant God made with them at their baptism. They will also indicated their desire to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.



# *Confirmation Anniversaries*

## **Seventy Years - April 11, 1954**

Phyllis Ann Thielen  
Nancy Lee Jackle  
Ellen Christine Griebel  
Bonnie Mae Felderman  
Gloria Lynn Guenther  
Harlan Henry Duesing  
Alice Kay Yeager  
William Henry Dieckman  
Roger Lee Dagitz

## **Sixty Years—March 22, 1964**

Timothy Allen Galusha  
Neill Gamble Yeager  
Randall Glen Peters  
William Lester Reistroffer  
Wayne Howard Kuhl  
Karen Leigh Grable  
Dianne Marie Hayward  
Judith Ann Griebel  
Judith Elaine Goettler

## **No Confirmations in 1974**

(Changed to 3-year program)

## **Forty Years—May 27, 1984**

Steven Lynn Brinker  
David John Carter  
Scott Alan Feuerbach  
Michael William Hayes  
Janell Lynn Keil  
Tina Marie Putman  
Deanna Lynn Williams

## **Thirty Years—May 22, 1994**

Amanda Ann Alviar  
Justin Charles Bevan  
Levi Raymond Cox  
Deborah Kay Graham  
Brooklyn Beth Weinschenk  
Jeremias Benjamin Zamzow

## **Twenty Years—May 2, 2004**

Samuel Patrick Iosbaker  
Emily Elizabeth Kair  
Kaitlin Marie Kucera  
Ryan Michael Newton  
Samuel Jon Rogis  
Mathew Allen Schlecht

## **Ten Years—October 26, 2014**

Taylor Mae Back  
Keily Jean Davis  
Alyssa Kay Poll  
Eliza Margaret Scheckel

## **CHRISTMAS STARS ARE COMING!**



We are preparing for the “*Christmas Star*” ministry that provides gifts to children and a holiday meal box for the family. This is the 30th year for this outreaching ministry.

This year the tree and stars will be up beginning November 16.

There will be two stars for each child. Each star will indicate the child’s age, gender, clothing size, and some suggestions for the gifts.

We invite you to pick a star or two and purchase the toys or clothes. Then wrap the gift and please **TIE the star to the package** rather than taping it on them. This will help the “elves” take the star off and put the child’s name on the package. **Gifts need to be returned to the church by December 10.**

The suggested cost for each gift is between \$20 and \$25. Please **do not put your name or the name of the church** inside the package. Some of these gifts come from “Santa.”

**Cash Donations Welcomed;** If you would rather give a donation to assist with the cost of providing food for a holiday meal box, place your gift in an envelope and mark it “Christmas Star.”

If you know of a family in the Bellevue area that has children (middle school or younger) and are financially struggling, contact Gloria Sagers (872-4418).

**Please feel free to come in during the week to pick up a star. Make sure you put your name beside the appropriate star number on the chart.**



## CONFIRMATION NEWS

Our confirmation ministry continues to gather on Wednesday evening with 41 students participating—the largest number of confirmation students.

This fall we are focusing on the Ten Commandments. We began the fall with looking at the history of Hebrew faith journey starting with Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, and Moses. We were reminded of God’s calling and promise, God’s protection and turning bad situations into something good, and God’s plan for delivering the people out of Egypt. All this leads up to God giving the Israelites the Ten Commandments to guide them to live a life of freedom.

Over the coming Wednesdays, we will explore each commandment and how it can be a guide for us to live in faith as a disciple of Christ.

**NO CONFIRMATION** gathering on Wednesday,  
November 27 due to Thanksgiving

## ACTOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

Saturday	Student	Sunday	Students
Nov 2	Avianna Herrig	Nov 3	Haily Feller Jocelyn Ries
Nov 9	Tayden Kilburg	Nov. 10	Miranda Kettmann Davis Braet
Nov 16	Jax Eichhorn	Nov 17	Aubrey Putman Blake Putman
Nov 23	Casey Rowan	Nov 24	Katie Sausser Tobias Humphrey
Nov 20	Cambree Jess	Dec 1	Brendan Booker Fischer Johnson



## ARK NEWS

### ARK

**continues on Friday, November 1.** This year we have averaged 60 youth (Kind – 5th grade) participating at ARK. We began looking the stories of creation, and Adam and Eve, and Cain and Abel.

In October, we did not every week because of homecoming, no school, and trick or trunk.

Starting November 1 we should be able to meet every week until Thanksgiving. We want to give a shout out for all the volunteers that are helping this year.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Story</b>	<b>Page in the Spark Story Bible &amp; Bible Passage</b>
<b>Nov. 1</b>	Noah Builds an Ark	P. 20 Genesis 6:5-22
<b>Nov. 8</b>	God Floods the earth	P.20 Genesis 7-8, 9:8-16
<b>Nov. 15</b>	Abram follows God's direction	P. 26 Genesis 12:1-8
<b>Nov. 22</b>	God make a covenant with Abraham	P 30 Genesis 15:1-18
<b>Nov. 29</b>	<b>No ARK—Thanksgiving</b>	
<b>Dec. 6</b>	Angel visits Mary	P.196 Luke 1:25-38
<b>Dec. 13</b>	Jesus is Born	P. 212 Luke 2:1-20
<b>Dec. 20</b>	The shepherds celebrate Jesus' birth	P 212 Luke 2:1-20
<b>Dec. 27</b>	<b>No ARK—Christmas Break</b>	



**WELCA Circles**


**ELIZABETH CIRCLE:** Tuesday, November 19 at 1:30 pm

**REBECCA CIRCLE:** Tuesday, November 26 at 3:30 pm



**Bellevue Bread Basket**

Served 42 families  
(94 people)  
in October



*Thank You*

I want to thank the council for organizing a celebration of my 25 years of service here at Saint John. I also want to thank all who attended the worship and fellowship, for all the kinds words of appreciation, and the many gifts, especially the beautiful quilt from the Quilt Tyers. And, I want to thank God for the opportunity to serve Saint John as their pastor and partner in our thriving shared ministry.

## **Hurricane Relief: Lutheran Disaster Response**



With your help, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to be there to support people affected by Milton, Helene, and any other storms that may strike this season.

Your gifts in support of Lutheran Disaster Response help our church provide immediate relief, such as water, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

**To Give:** Place your gift in an envelope and mark it “Lutheran Disaster Response” and place in the offering plate. Or, you go on-line to: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Ways-to-Give>

## **ELCA CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS EMPHASIZES THE NEED TO SPEAK THE TRUTH**

In a perfect garden, created by God for the sake of humanity, evil entered in the form of deception and lies. Christians refer to this story, found in the biblical book of Genesis, as the fall of humanity. This foray into human sin began when Adam and Eve, the first humans created in the image of God, were deceived.

Humans have contended with the powers of deception ever since.

Yet we are a people who know and proclaim the power of God at work in the world. We proclaim the power of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, the one who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

We know that the power of truth is greater than the power of deceit.

We, the members of the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, speak with one voice to condemn the hateful, deceptive, violent speech that has too readily found a place in our national discourse. We lament the ways this language has led to hate-fueled action.

We refuse to accept the ongoing normalization of lies and deceit.

We recommit ourselves to speaking the truth and pointing to the one who is truth. We find courage in our collegiality and implore the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as our partners and friends, to join us as we:

- Pledge to be vigilant guardians of truth, refusing to perpetuate lies or half-truths that further corrode the fabric of our society.
- Commit to rigorous fact-checking, honoring God's command to "test everything; hold fast to what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
- Reject the use of humor that normalizes falsehood, remembering that our speech should "always be gracious" (Colossians 4:6).
- Boldly advocate for the marginalized and oppressed, emulat-



ing Christ's love for the least among us.

- Courageously interrupt hate speech, standing firm in the knowledge that all are created in God's image.
- Lean in with curiosity, engage with those who think differently and "put the best construction on our neighbor's action" (Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment).
- Amplify voices of truth.

Emboldened by the Holy Spirit, may we resist deception and lift up the truth that all members of humanity are created in the image of God.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all as we respond to the Spirit's invitation into this intentional commitment against deception and for truth.

In Christ,  
The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America

*10/1/2024 7:55:00 AM*



# S T E W A R D S H I P

In November, we will be inviting the members and participating partners of Saint John to commit themselves to *“Fearless Living and Giving”*. We will be asking you to move beyond our fears and our self-centeredness, to engage ourselves into a journey of trusting and responding to the needs of doing and supporting the work of God’s kingdom.

In this coming month, each household will be receiving a stewardship mailing that will be inviting them to indicate their intention for 2024 in regards to giving and serving.

**We are asking for you to complete and return the “Estimate of Giving - 2024” card, and a “Time and Talent - 2024” sheet by November 24.**

In preparation for your response, we encourage you to prayerfully ask God to open your heart and guide you in making your decision on how you will be living out your faith in 2024 through *“Fearless Living and Giving”*



# Direct Giving

## *e-Offering*

Did you know that 40% of our yearly offerings to support the ministries of Saint John are received through our “e-Offering” financial program?

If you haven’t heard about “e-Offering,” it is way of giving to the church by using an automatic withdrawal from your checking or saving account. The amount and frequency is determined by the giver and can be changed or cancelled at any time upon notification to the Office Administrator at Saint John.

Many of our people who use “e-Offering” to support the general fund have also supported other funds (i.e. World Hunger, ARK, Youth Bible, etc.) by using the pew envelopes.

What are the advantages and benefits for using ‘e-Offering?’

- ◇ “e-Offering” is a reliable and secure way to maintain your on-going support for Saint John.
- ◇ “e-Offering” helps you to avoid writing that larger check to catch up when you have been absent from worship for a period of time. Those who use ‘e-Offering’ find that their yearly level of support to the church increases because their offerings are not tied to their attendance at worship.
- ◇ “e-Offering” provides ‘Snow-birds’ with a sense of comfort knowing that they are still contributing when they are gone for a period of time.
- ◇ “e-Offering” provides for a more constant receipt of offerings to pay the bills. In today’s time with people not worshipping every week, our offerings we receive in the plate can fluctuate dramatically.

The leadership of Saint John would encourage all members and participating partners to consider signing up for “e-Offering.” There are brochures at the back of the church.



## GIFT

*Growing in Faith Together*

“ . . . You must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Our role as God’s stewards is one of many dimensions - grateful, responsible, self-sacrificing, willing, sharing, proportionate, committed, regular, and challenged. By generously giving our ourselves, we discover the joy in Christ.

There are ten principles of stewardship. They are:

1. **Respond Gratefully** to what God has first given us. All that we do is a response to God’s grace and blessings. Everything we are, have and use comes from God. Grateful stewards put God first. “. . . But they gave themselves first to the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 8:5)
2. **Obey responsibly** to glorify God as a faithful proclamation of God’s word. We acknowledge our faith and show our faith in the gospel for the glory of God and for the building up of the body of Christ. This takes courage. It involves our life-long obedience, including the ways we treat our families, others, and ourselves. “. . .you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ” (2 Corinthians 9:13)
3. **Sacrifice proportionately** as Christ sacrificed for us. For our sake Jesus gave up everything to make us rich through the cross and the resurrection. We are called to sacrifice so others may share in God’s word and blessings. “. . .gave according to their means, and even beyond their means.” (2Corinthians 8:3)
4. **Give willingly** as moved by the Holy Spirit. We have been prepared to give of ourselves. We give our time, talents, and resources freely. “ For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave...” (2 Corinthians 8:3)
5. **Share abundantly** as we have received. The purpose of these gifts is for the good of the community of God. We give to build up the body of Christ. We use and share our gifts for the benefit of all. “. . .and God is

P  
R  
I  
N  
C  
I  
P  
L  
E  
S  
  
O  
F

able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)

6. **Give proportionately** is our way of giving in relation to our abundance. We are to give according to our “means,” not according to an income or a budget. “If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have,” (2 Corinthians 8:12)
7. **Commit intentionally** means making a statement about your intent and following through. As members in the body of Christ, we are asked to make a commitment of our time, talents, and resources as a faithful response to God and as a statement of support for God’s work. “...arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised.” (2 Corinthians 9:5)
8. **Contribute regularly** means practicing our stewardship on a daily basis. By doing so this becomes a lifestyle. Paul instructs us: “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn.” (1 Corinthians 16:2)
9. **Live genuinely** means putting your faith into action. This is the tangible demonstration of what is sincerely on our hearts and where our treasure is, not simply a verbal expression. The Macedonians set an example that Paul called to the attention of the Corinthians. “I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others.” (2 Corinthians 8:8)
10. **Accept a challenge** means recognizing the dynamic nature of our faith. As our faith grows so will our blessings, and our responsibilities. Paul writes, “...the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:6)

# S T E W A R D S H I P

## *What is the Purpose of the Church?*

There are times when I find myself feeling a little discouraged and wonder why people are not “buying into the church” - participating like our ancestors once did. In those moments, I ask myself, “How would people respond if our church was to close our doors?” All these thoughts lead me to ask this question, “What is the purpose of the church?”

In the book “The Purpose Driven Church” the author Rick Warren states the purpose of the church can be summarized in God’s goal for every believer. These goals express what God wants each of us to do with our lives.

**Goal One: God wants you to be a member of God’s family.** The purpose is fellowship and living in relationship with each other as a family. **To follow Christ is not just a matter of believing - it’s a matter of belonging.**

**Goal Two: God wants you to be a model of God’s character.** The purpose is growing up to become more like Christ. In 1 Peter 2:21 we read, “To his you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps”

One’s growth in faith is not measured by one’s learning but by one’s lifestyle. In confirmation, we encourage our students to “walk the talk.” Being a confirmed member is not what you know but how you live out your life. It’s not about me, but about others.

**Goal Three: God wants you to be a minister of God’s grace.** This purpose is about service or ministry. God expects us to use the gifts, talents, and financial resources given to us by God for the benefit of others - within the family (church) and outside.

God expects all believers to be ministers in God’s name. It’s not the responsibility of the pastor to be ‘the minister.’ As members of the church, we see ourselves in a shared ministry of serving.

**Goal Four: God wants you to be a messenger of God’s love.** The purpose of the church and all its members is evangelism. We are to share the good news to others. The apostle Paul shares in Acts 20:24, “Life is worth nothing unless I

use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus - the work of telling others the good news about God's mighty kindness and love."

**Goal Five: God wants you to be a magnifier of God's name.** All of us have personal responsibility and purpose to worship God. All of us have been born with the urge to worship something. If we don't worship God - first and foremost - we will find something else to worship - a job, family, money, sports, or even ourselves. The psalmist reminds us believers, "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God's name together." (Psalm 34:3)

So as a church - the family of God - it is our purpose to gather together to worship the Lord. Yes, we can worship God outside of the church building, but God is truly magnified when all come together to praise and give thanks to the Lord. This is just one way we witness our faith in God.

The church provides people with things they cannot find anywhere else in the world.

- Worship - helps people focus on God and the truth of God's Word
- Fellowship - helps people face life's problems - not alone
- Discipleship - helps build up and fortify the faith
- Ministry - helps people discover and use their talents
- Evangelism - helps people to fulfill the mission of the Lord.

The Purpose of the Church Family Gives You

- Purpose to live for (mission)
- People to live with (fellowship)
- Principles to live by (maturity in faith)
- Profession to live out (ministry)
- Power to live on (magnifying and being filled with the Spirit of God through worship)

## Weekly Worship Attendance & Offerings

Weekend of	Sat.	Sun.	Total	General Fund Offerings
September 29	28	76	104	\$8,721.48
October 6	26	90	116	\$2,741.18
October 13	31	54	85	\$7,328.18
October 20	29	76	105	\$2,281.18
October 27	38	113	151	\$1,385.18

### FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>General Fund Balance—9/26/2024</b>	<b>2,490.90</b>
<b><u>Income:</u></b>	
General Offerings	22,457.20
Interest & Misc.	.13
Cemetery Custodian Reimbursement	500.00
Gift Received	500.00
Lodge Rental	150.00
<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>	
Budgeted Expenses	<u>(16,362.46)</u>
<b>General Fund Balance—10/29/2024</b>	<b>\$9,735.77</b>



## Saint John Council Minutes

**Present** - JoEllen Poll, Pastor Paul, Jo Ernst, Joannie Kilburg, Ann Skoff, Marla Mootz, Daniel Braet **Absent** - Shannon Abbott

**Called to order** by President JoEllen Poll at 6:24 pm. Opening Prayer led by JoEllen.

**Agenda** - MSC to approve agenda.

**Council Minutes** - MSC to approve council minutes of July 2024 as printed.

### Reports -

- a) Financial - MSC to accept the Financial Reports as printed.
- b) Local & Global Outreach Committee - MSC to accept as printed.

**Correspondence** - None

**Action by Email Vote** - None

### OLD BUSINESS -

- a) Garage Roof - Smith Construction began work on the garage on October 21.

### NEW BUSINESS -

- a) Land Line in Parsonage - MSC to permanently disconnect the parsonage phone.
- b) Land Lines in Church - The council discussed whether or not the church needs to have two church lines. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- c) Thrivent Committee Request - MSC to send \$500 from the Thrivent Choice Dollars account to Hurricane Relief.
- d) Lorraine Kuhl Estate - Saint John was the beneficiary of a \$5,000 gift from Lorraine's estate. MSC to invest \$2,000 with Thrivent Financial/Perpetual Offering Fund; and the remaining \$3,000 in the Designated Funds/Reserves Account.

- e) Approval of Confirmands - MSC to approve Liam Eichhorn, Kylie Ernst, Brennan Ries, and Makaila Scheckel be confirmed on October 27, 2024.

Pastor Paul thanked the council for the anniversary celebration on October 6.

**Next Meeting** - Monday, November 18 at 6:30 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann Skoff

**LOOKING BACK AT OUR  
FIRST COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER—2005**



