

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

The Crossbeam

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR ST. JOHN'S PARISH MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS



Sunday, November 23, 2025
Christ the King,
Year C

JEREMIAH'S PROMISE OF THE EXECUTION OF "JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE LAND" FINDS IRONIC FULFILLMENT IN THE EXECUTION OF JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. IT APPEARS UTTERLY CONTRADICTORY THAT A KING SHOULD BE CRUCIFIED WITH A CRIMINAL. THIS VICTORY APPEARS FOR ALL THE WORLD AS HUMILIATING DEFEAT. YET THROUGH THE GATE OF DEATH JESUS OPENS THE DOOR TO PARADISE.



From the Pastor's Desk

FROM MY SERMON...

"SEASONS ONCE HAD A RHYTHM TO THEM, TUNED TO THE HARVEST OR THE HUNT, WITH RITUALS SPACED THROUGH THE YEAR TO BRING THE RAIN, PRAISE THE SUN, MARK THE TIME BETWEEN SOLSTICE AND EQUINOX, CELEBRATE BIRTH AND HONOR DEATH. OUR HOLIDAYS ANSWER OUR NEEDS TO FEAST AND MOURN AND MANAGE RISK, OUR CUSTOMS CUSTOMIZED TO THE POINT THAT THE ROMAN PAGANS HAD A HOLIDAY SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO PREVENT A CERTAIN KIND OF MOLD FROM DESTROYING THE WHEAT BY OFFERING ANIMAL SACRIFICES TO THE GOD OF MILDEW. WE REMEMBER THOSE WE LOVE ON VALENTINE'S DAY, THOSE WE REVERE ON EASTER OR PASSOVER OR RAMADAN, THOSE WE FEAR ON HALLOWEEN. THANKSGIVING WAS A CELEBRATION OF HARVEST, THE STUFFING OF ONESELF A NATURAL RESPONSE TO ALL THE WORK THAT ONCE WENT INTO MANAGING ONE'S CROPS AND NOW GOES INTO MANAGING ONE'S RELATIVES. JUST AS MEALS AND SLEEP AND WORK AND RECESS PACE THE DAYS, SO DO HOLIDAYS PACE THE YEAR. CLUMP THEM TOGETHER, AND THEY LOSE THEIR FIZZ AND JUICE, THE USEFUL LITTLE MONTHLY BOOSTS TURNED INTO A PILEUP OF DUTIES AND LISTS. WHEN EVERY DAY IS A HOLIDAY--OR MORE PRECISELY, PART OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON--NONE REALLY ARE."

FROM A TIME ARTICLE, MERRY HALLOWMAS

SOMETHING TO PONDER TODAY.
PEACE AND BLESSINGS THIS DAY.
PASTOR V.



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS PEOPLE AROUND THE MEANS OF GRACE—
THE SAVING WORD OF GOD AND THE SACRAMENTS.

FEATURED THIS WEEK:
SATURDAY SPOKEN WORD
5 P.M. - IN-PERSON

THE SUNDAY ASSEMBLY
9A.M.-IN-PERSON SERVICE W/ SCS
10:30A.M. - IN-PERSON SERVICE AND LIVESTREAM
BROADCAST ON OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) AND ON OUR WEBSITE!



[This Weeks Bulletin \(click here\).](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY

DECEMBER 4TH, 11TH, 18TH @ 6PM

DECEMBER 7TH, 14TH, 21ST @10:30AM-1PM

YOUTH GIFT WRAPPING

DECEMBER 14TH @ 9AM

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SOUP SALE

DECEMBER 21ST

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE



Altar Flowers

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
BERNIE**

BY SUE SPRINGER

YOU CAN REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION
BY ORDERING A FLORAL ARRANGEMENT USING THE ALTAR FLOWER
CALENDAR LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 @ 5P.M.
VICKY WIENKE- ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23 @ 9 A.M.
NATHAN SETLOCK-ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23 @ 10:30A.M.
KAREN ROTHENBERGER- ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23 @ 9 A.M.
KRISTEN HOCHULSKI- USHER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23 @ 10:30 A.M.
ROGER MCGILL- USHER

SUNADY NOVEMBER 23 @ 10:30 A.M.
GRACELYN GERMANO- ACOLYTE

ALTAR GUILD FOR NOVEMBER:
NANCY WEBER
JUDY KELLY

THIS WEEK 11/23 - 11/29

TODAY:

9A.M. WORSHIP W/SCS
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP
7 P.M. TRY AGAIN (AA)

MONDAY:

10 A.M. SPROUTS
1 P.M. ARTHRITIS WALKING GROUP
6 P.M. SPROUTS
6:45 P.M. ZUMBA
7:30 P.M. AL-ANON

TUESDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. TAI-CHI
6:30 P.M. SA BUFFALO

WEDNESDAY:

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS EXERCISE GROUP
7 P.M. CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

12 P.M. NA
7 P.M. NA

FRIDAY:

10 A.M. SPROUTS
10 A.M. ENJOY LIFE (NA)
7:30 P.M. GARDENVILLE GROUP (AA)

SATURDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
5 P.M. WORSHIP



OFFICE CLOSED

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27
AND FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28

UPCOMING AGAPE MEAL DATES: **DECEMBER 7** **JANUARY 4**

HELP NEEDED

WE ARE IN NEED OF LITURGICAL READERS
FOR THE SATURDAY 5PM SERVICE.

HELP IS ALSO NEEDED FOR THE COFFEE HOUR.
A FEW MINUTES TO HELP SET UP AND CLEAN UP IS ALL THAT'S NEEDED.

TURKEY BOXES

THE SIGN UP SHEETS AND LISTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE FOYER.
WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON WITH INFLATION AND THE GOVERNMENT
SHUTDOWN ALL OF THE FOOD PANTRIES ARE GOING TO BE A LOT
BUSIER THAN USUAL. AS WE ENTER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, THERE IS AN
INCREASE IN FOOD INSECURITY WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. IF YOU ARE
ABLE TO, PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING EXTRA THIS YEAR TO ASSIST DURING
THIS TIME.

*"DO NOT NEGLECT TO DO GOOD AND TO SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE, FOR
SUCH SACRIFICES ARE PLEASING TO GOD." HEBREWS 13:16 "*

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
OCTOBER 2025**

ATTENDANCE FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER AVERAGED 111

ACCOUNTS:

M&T ADVANCED BUSINESS CHECKING AVAILABLE BALANCE - \$13,208.59
M&T YOUTH FUND BALANCE \$5,740.15
M&T PASTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND \$2,245.10
M&T COMMERCIAL SAVINGS - \$37,798.28
CITIZENS BUILDING SAVINGS - BUSINESS GREEN CHECKING -1315 - \$100.00
CITIZENS BUILDING TRANSFER - BUSINESS GREEN CHECKING -4616 - \$100.00
CITIZENS MIF - CLEARLY BETTER BUSINESS CHECKING -7073 - \$7,442.01
CITIZENS YOUTH SAVINGS - BUSINESS GREEN CHECKING -7057 - \$465.05

MISSION INVESTMENT FUNDS

D CK 2284 / ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH SAVINGS \$11.85
T F 3YR 6959 / ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ALTAR GUILD \$1,728.19 1.244% 01/24/26
T F 6YR 7784 / ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CORNERSTONE \$20,083.91 2.967% 04/25/26
T F 6YR 7776 / ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY \$33,224.72 2.967% 04/25/26
T F 4YR 4436 / ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CORNERSTONE \$5,177.04 4.087% 03/20/26
T F 7M 2546 / ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY \$31,189.74 2.967% 04/05/28

OCTOBER 2025 TOTAL EXPENSES \$32,496.80

OCTOBER 2025 TOTAL INCOME \$28,034.21

MORTGAGE MIF. \$189,472.91 3.875%

PRINCIPAL PAYMENT \$4000.00

INTEREST PAYMENT. \$688

TOTAL MONTHLY PAYMENT. \$4688.00

NOTE:

OUR REVENUE CONTINUES TO BE DOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR. WEEKLY ENVELOPES ARE 79% COMPARED TO LAST YEAR AND TITHELY GIVING IS ONLY AT 41% COMPARED TO LAST YEAR. WITH GIVING DOWN ITS IMPERATIVE THAT WE ELIMINATE THE MORTGAGE DEBT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS WILL SAVE \$4,688 A MONTH. MONEY IS BEING GIVEN TOWARDS THIS ALLOWING US TO PAY ON THE PRINCIPAL, BUT THESE ARE DESIGNATED FUNDS, NOT BEING USED FOR EVERY MONTH GENERAL EXPENSES. WITH WINTER COMES INCREASED COSTS. HEATING AND ELECTRIC COSTS HAVE ALL RISEN OVER THE PAST YEAR. WE HAVE HELD THE PLOW CONTRACT THE SAME OVER THE PAST YEARS BUT STORMS ARE PROVING COSTLY AS EXCESSIVE SNOW REMOVAL IS NOT BUDGETED FOR. I EXPECT THE SAME THIS YEAR.

OUR MORTGAGE IS DECREASING AT A GOOD RATE AND THE PUSH IS ON TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE THIS DEBT. THE MORTGAGE HAS 3 YEARS 10 MONTHS LEFT TO ELIMINATE IT. OUR PUSH IS TO EXTINGUISH IT NOW OR AT LEAST BY SEPTEMBER OF 2026. IF YOU CAN PAY NOW WHAT YOU WOULD IN THE TIME REMAINING OF 3 YRS 10 MONTHS,, WE CAN SAVE OVER \$14,000 IN INTEREST.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR COMMITMENT TO TITHE. TITHELY IS A GREAT CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE TO THE CHURCH ON A REGULAR BASIS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFO ON IT SEE A COUNCIL MEMBER OR RICK. WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING TO HOLD COSTS IN LINE BUT THIS YEAR IS PROVING DIFFICULT WITH INCREASED COSTS. BE ASSURED YOUR DESIGNATED FUNDS ARE GOING DIRECTLY TO THERE NEEDS. AGAPE CHURCH COSTS HAVE BEEN COVERED BY DONATIONS. IT'S GREAT TO SEE SUCH A GOOD TURNOUT FOR IT. IF YOU ARE A TITHELY MEMBER YOU CAN HELP THROUGH ACTION TEAM GRANTS.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED RICK LIPKA/ TREASURER