

St. John's Messenger



Volume 105, Issue 10

October 15, 2025

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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***"Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"***
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

As the season changes, the world often feels as though it is in complete turmoil, and so many struggle with day-to-day living, the practice I have been turning to is gratitude! For amongst all these challenges, I know that God is still present. The Holy Spirit is still leading and guiding us with love, mercy, forgiveness, and grace. And I am grateful for each blessing placed in my life each day.

As we continue to explore the gospel of Luke, we see great examples of gratitude repeatedly. We heard this past week about the ones who were healed, and especially the one who turned back in gratitude and Jesus told him, "your faith has made you well!" This faith, even the size of a mustard seed, takes our gratitude and makes it so much more. In the coming weeks we will explore how this gratitude for what God has done for us in Christ Jesus, calls us to a prayerful relationship with him, challenges us to act for justice, leads us to a life of humility, and compels us to generosity. While we think gratitude is our response to God, that it is about lifting up our thanks and praise to the Holy One, it is so much more. A life lived in gratitude leads to a new life of abundance in all things. This gratitude reorients us in love for our creator and one another. Gratitude guides us toward the life that is "God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

May we all practice gratitude in this season of change and allow that gratitude to lead us closer to life in the Spirit, grounded in Christ Jesus, and steeped in God's presence!

Blessings,

Pastor Karla



Notes From the Director of Music



The Beauty of the Sanctus: A Glimpse into Our Worship

As members of our Lutheran church community, we gather each week not only to hear the Word of God but also to express our faith through song. One of the most profound moments in our liturgical worship is the singing of the Sanctus. This ancient hymn, derived from the Latin word for "holy," is an integral part of our worship service and carries with it a rich history and deep significance.

What is the Sanctus?

The Sanctus is a hymn that is traditionally sung during the Eucharistic prayer, often just before the consecration of the elements. Its text, originating from Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8, proclaims the holiness of God with the words: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of Your glory." This declaration not only acknowledges God's majesty but also invites us into a communal recognition of His divine presence among us.

The Historical Significance

The Sanctus has been a part of Christian liturgy for centuries, tracing back to the early church. Its inclusion in our worship reflects the continuity of faith that binds us to believers throughout history. The hymn allows us to connect with the heavenly chorus, uniting our voices with those of angels and saints who have sung these words across generations.

A Call to Worship

When we sing the Sanctus, we are not merely reciting words; we are participating in a sacred act of worship. This hymn serves as a call to focus our hearts and minds on God. It encourages us to reflect on His holiness and our relationship with Him. The repetition of "holy" emphasizes the transcendence of God, reminding us that while He is infinitely above us, He is also intimately involved in our lives.

A Moment of Reflection

As we sing the Sanctus, it's a fitting time to reflect on our own lives and our response to God's holiness. It provides an opportunity for personal confession and renewal. By acknowledging God's holiness, we are reminded of our need for grace and the transformative power of His love.

Encouragement to Engage

In our worship services, the singing of the Sanctus is often accompanied by the congregation's enthusiastic participation. Let us continue to engage fully, lifting our voices in praise and allowing the music to deepen our connection to God and one another. Whether you are a seasoned singer or someone who prefers to listen, your presence and participation are valuable.

As we gather each week in worship, let us cherish the singing of the Sanctus as a vital expression of our faith. It is a moment that invites us into the mystery of God's presence and reminds us of our call to holiness. May our hearts and voices unite as we proclaim together, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts."

Let us embrace this beautiful aspect of our worship, allowing the Sanctus to resonate not just in our services but in our lives as we go forth to serve God and our community.

William Jacavage

Director of Music, St. John's

Reformation Day – October 31

We are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:24

Reformation is the day we remember Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-Five Theses. Luther didn't intend for these to be translated, printed and spread to others. He was wanting to debate with theologians of the church. There were many happenings in the church at the time that were contrary to Scripture. One of those was about how justification was taught. Our reading from Romans reminds us that we are justified by grace. This grace is a gift from God through Jesus Christ. There is nothing we can do to earn this grace or save ourselves. We do not need to buy indulgences to free us or our loved ones from purgatory. Martin Luther is a blessing from God. He was not a perfect man, but one to be thankful for. The rich educational practice found in the church is rooted in Luther's passion for all to hear and learn God's work. We daily use his writing to enrich our devotional life. Our hymnody is full and theologically sound due to inspirations from Luther. His teachings point us to the Word and Sacraments, the wonderful gifts of grace from God.

Excerpt taken from Portals of Prayer

C O R N E R W E L C A

Raffle Basket Reminder

Deadline for raffle basket donations is November 2nd.

Christmas Bazaar

When doing any fall cleaning, or downsizing, WELCA is looking for *Christmas decorations and good, gently used sellable gift items* for our next Christmas Bazaar. Items may be dropped off at the church during regular office hours. ***PLEASE NO RUMMAGE!!***



Calling all St. John's bakers!

We've got some of the best bakers around and we need your help. Baked good items are needed for the Christmas Bazaar. Please have items bagged/wrapped for individual sale. Bake sale items should be brought to the church by December 5th.



Seafarer Bags Due

Just a reminder if you have a Seafarer's Bag, please return them to the office by **Sunday, October 26th.**



Christmas Bazaar

**Friday, December 5 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, December 6 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Crafts, gifts, basket raffle, Christmas décor, delicious food, bake sale, white elephant and pink elephant items.

Help needed – mark your calendar!

Bazaar set up, Wednesday, December 3 from 8 a.m. till ???


Bazaar cleanup/repacking Saturday, December 6, from 1 p.m. till ???

Any help, and hour or two, or more would be greatly appreciated.

Worship & Music Notes



Remember to turn your clocks **BACK** one hour on Saturday evening November 1st.



ALL SAINTS' DAY Sunday, November 2

All Saints Memorials

Alec Litchard
Esther Bartholomew
Helen "Dolly" Naginey
Charles R. Barnes
Shirley Gautsch
Phyllis Gordon
Joan Springer

All Saints Baptisms

Ledger Joseph Miller
Harlow Brynn Berry Reimard
Vincent Mason Reitz
Connor Josiah Dum

Affirmation of Baptisms

Joseph Gregory Miller
Jessica Lashae Milewski

Annual Congregation Meeting

On November 16th, St. John's will hold their annual congregation meeting. Purpose of the meeting will be to vote on the 2026 proposed budget and election of council members. **Please plan to attend.**

Copies of the proposed budget will be available on Nov. 9 for review.

Veterans Observance Sunday, November 9

Dear Lord,
Today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country. We pray that you will bless them, Lord, for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us. Bless them abundantly for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made, for their many different contributions to America's victories over tyranny and oppression. We respect them, we thank them, we honor them, we are proud of them, and we pray that you will watch over these special people and bless them with peace and happiness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

By Joanna Fuchs

Harvest Home Sunday November 16

Worship & Music will be collecting non-perishable foods, personal care items and cleaning supplies for Harvest Home. Donations will adorn the altar on Sunday the 16th, and then will be given to this year's Mitten Tree families at Christmas. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.



The intergenerational Sunday School Class and Breakfast will be held on the following dates:

Sunday, October 26
Sunday, November 23

There will be no breakfast in December, due to Christmas.

All are welcome to join us for a lesson, breakfast and fellowship. If possible, please bring a dish to share.





*Vincent Mason Reitz
and
Harlow Brynn Berry Reimard*

*Welcomed into St. John's family
through Holy Baptism
on September 21st.*



St. John's Handchime Choir

We recently added a 3rd octave to our chimes, and some new ringers too. We will be playing on Reformation Sunday, October 26th.

NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **September 20, 2025**.

We helped **615** people by distributing **186** household/personal care bags, **170** produce boxes, **186** packs of meat and **327** bags of groceries. We helped **116** babies and provided adult care products to **28** people.

The total cost was **\$5,365.60**.

Thank you to **ALL** the volunteers who helped with this Kate's Kupboard in any way.

We helped one baby between our August and September Kate's Kupboard.

A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to the H. Blanche Savidge Community Trust for their recent generous donation of \$40,000.00 to St. John's. The council approved that \$20,000 be used for Kate's Kupboard and \$20,000 be used for the general support of the church. We appreciate that the Trust considered and granted our 2025 requests.



PRAYERS: Scarlett Erdley; Dean Raker; Tina Kropa; Lennette Pehowic; Lou VanGilder; George Rebuck; Deb Shearer-Shutt; Brenda Drachler

HOMEBOUND Mike Payne; Doug Manning; Kathryn Lebo; Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Mary Rogers; Nevin Brungard; Elaine Kohl; Nancy Hendricks; William Wagner; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; David Bartholomew; Marti Row

2025	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Sept. Income:	\$ 24,089.60	\$ 21,209.76
Year to Date Income:	\$180,266.46	\$193,637.84
Sept. Expenses:	\$ 17,266.55	\$ 20,363.57
Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 177,458.43	\$ 195,216.05
Income Less Expense – Sept.		\$6,823.05
Year to Date		\$2,808.03



Pictured ABOVE – Bishop's Day held here at St. John's on October 2nd.

Pictured BELOW – Synod Youth at the Murder Mystery event on October 12th at St. John's.



November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Fellowship Hall reserved 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
2 All Saints Sunday Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism 10:15-12:15 Venture Crew 6-8:00 p.m.	3	4 AA 7:00 p.m.	5 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. MomCo 6-8:00 p.m.	6 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	7	8 
9 Veteran's Observance Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. 	10 Finance 7:00 p.m.	11 AA 7:00 p.m.	12 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	13 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Scout Dist. Committee 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	14 	15 Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
16 Harvest Home Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism 10:15-12:15 Congregation Meeting	17 	18 AA 7:00 p.m.	19 Messenger Folding 9:00 a.m. Blood Drive 1-6:00 p.m. MomCo 6-8:00 p.m.	20 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Scout Roundtable 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	21	22
23 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Breakfast & Intergenerational Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	24 Preschool Chapel 11:30 a.m.	25 AA 7:00 p.m.	26	27  HAPPY Thanksgiving!	28	29
				*****Pastor's Vacation*****		
30 1st Sunday In Advent Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism 10:15-12:15	Dec 1	2	3 Bazaar set up 8:00 a.m.-?	4	5 	6 
	*****Pastor's Vacation*****			Kitchen Reserved	Christmas Bazaar	
					Friday 9-5	Saturday 9-1