

Office Hours

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

Church Staff

Pastor Karla Leiby
pastorkarla@stjohnslutherannorrvy.org
570-854-3919

William Jacavage
Director of Music

Sue Billman
Office Manager
sjelc300@ptd.net

Tina Pontius
Treasurer

Joyce Shearer
Payroll Treasurer

Barb Moyer
Restricted Fund Treasurer

Congregation Officers

Mike Erdley, President
Holly Bedisky, Vice President
Eric Shearer, Secretary

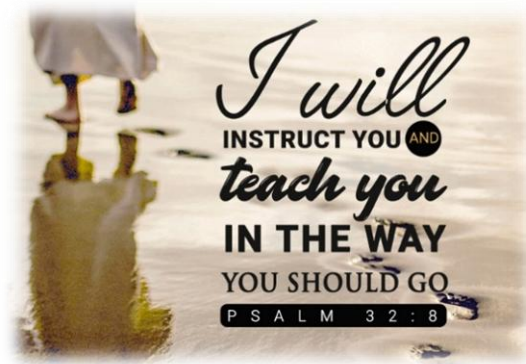
Congregation Council

Mike McWilliams
Teresa Meisinger
Pam Miller
Teresa Miller
Tom Propst
Karen Smeltz
Randy Stine
Craig Treacher

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<https://stjohnslutherannorrvy.org>



“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!” (1Cor 1:3)

As we begin the fall season, we return to the familiar and we anticipate the new things at St. Johns! This coming Sunday we begin a new start for our Children and adult Sunday school programs. We will complete our catechism group with a final session and will be confirming 5 youth on Reformation Sunday. A new catechism class will begin the first week of October. A Bible Study will restart next week on Thursdays at 10 am in the Library. We are so excited for these programs to continue and hope that you will have the opportunity to engage with them. The end of September we will celebrate my time as your called pastor, but more importantly all the ministries that we have done together over these past 8 years for the good of our community.

In the Sundays ahead we continue to learn from our great teacher, Jesus about the ways that we are to live in community together. These teachings include forgiveness, grace and mercy, and repentance and new life. These who us how we use the gifts God has granted us, and how we become great through serving others. As we walk together on this journey of life, we have so much to learn from Jesus who continuously instructs us in the way we should go!

As we journey together, I pray that God opens our hearts and minds that we may learn from our great teacher how to love God and love our neighbors with the same love, grace, and mercy that Jesus has given to us.

Blessings,

Pastor Karla

FALL BIBLE STUDY



LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE

New Revised Standard Version
Updated Edition

Join us to study Paul's letters to the Philippians and
Thessalonians as the early church was forming.

We'll be using our new Lutheran Study Bibles!

Thursdays 10am-11:30 am

September 24th through November 19th

St. John's Library

Contact Pastor Karla with any questions

570-854-3919 or pastorkarla@stjohnslutherannorrey.org



You are cordially invited to join us on **Sunday, September 27, 2026**, following worship. Church Council and Worship & Music are hosting a light luncheon downstairs in the Social Hall.

We will be celebrating Pastor Karla's 5th Anniversary Year of her Ordination — honoring our past, giving thanks for our present, and looking forward to the future.

Additionally, we will also be recognizing the ministries of St. John's, along with all the volunteers who ensure the church's services and activities bring the church's mission and vision to life.



Attention All Service Assistants

If you are unable to fulfill your role as a Sunday worship assistant, please try and find a replacement or switch another week with someone. If you are unable to find someone, please contact Trudy Baker, Volunteer Coordinator, at 570-490-7032.

If you need a new copy of service assistants names and phone numbers, please see Trudy.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sunday School Has Begun

Sunday School classes for children began last Sunday. It's not too late – you can still join in ! The children meet in the classroom straight back the hallway from the church office.

Adult Sunday School meets in the church Library.





Notes From the Director of Music



Understanding the Hymn of the Day in Our Lutheran Worship

Each week we usually sing three hymns . In this article I'd like to explain the "Hymn of the day" usually sung after the sermon.

In the rich tapestry of Lutheran worship, the **Hymn of the Day holds a special place. It is more than just a song; it is a vital element that enhances our worship experience and deepens our understanding of the Scriptures. Let's explore what the Hymn of the Day is, its significance, and why we designate it as such.

The Hymn of the Day is a specific hymn chosen for each Sunday service that aligns with the readings and themes of the day. Typically, it is sung after the sermon, serving as a response to the Word of God. This hymn often encapsulates the message of the day, allowing congregants to reflect on the Scripture and the sermon through song.

The term "Hymn of the Day" emphasizes its connection to the particular liturgical day. Each week, the church calendar presents unique themes and scriptural readings. The Hymn of the Day is carefully selected to resonate with these elements, reinforcing the message and enhancing the worship experience.

Here are a few reasons why this title is significant:

The hymn reflects the specific themes of the day, whether it be a celebration, a solemn reflection, or a call to action, creating a cohesive worship experience.

Singing the Hymn of the Day provides a moment for the congregation to respond to the teachings of Scripture and the sermon, reinforcing what has been learned.

It allows the congregation to come together as one voice, expressing shared beliefs and emotions through music. This communal aspect is vital in fostering unity within the church.

Many hymns of the day are rich in theological content, teaching important truths about God, Christ, and our faith.

The Hymn of the Day is typically introduced by the pastor or worship leader, who may provide context or insights related to the hymn. This introduction can help congregants engage more deeply with the hymn's message.

Usually sung after the sermon, this placement allows for reflection and reinforces the sermon's message before moving into the rest of the service.

The hymns vary in style and era, from traditional Lutheran hymns to contemporary worship songs, ensuring that all members of the congregation can connect with the music. The congregation is invited to sing joyfully, often accompanied by the organ.

In conclusion, the Hymn of the Day is a beautifully intentional part of our Lutheran worship, designed to connect the congregation with the day's message and each other. As we gather each Sunday, let us embrace this opportunity to reflect, respond, and rejoice in our faith through the hymns we sing.

As you prepare for the next worship service, consider the significance of the Hymn of the Day and how it can deepen your worship experience. Perhaps take a moment to read through the hymn selected for the next Sunday, reflecting on its message and how it relates to your own faith journey.

May our songs continue to glorify God and bring us together as His beloved community!

God's Peace,

William Jacavage (Bill)
Director of Music
St John 's Lutheran Church

Luther's Lending Library



Come check out our lending library. You can pick out books to take home and read or if you have any books you'd like to share, drop them off on the shelves. We have a wide genre to choose from.

GETTING READY FOR WINTER



Kate's Kupboard will be helping children get ready for the upcoming cold, winter months. At the November 21st Kate's Kupboard, hats, scarves, gloves and socks will be available for the children. **Children must be present to select the items that they need.** Gloves will also be available for the adults.

Social Ministry Meeting

A Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20th at 11:00 a.m. in the church library. All people of the congregation are invited to join us. We are a small but mighty group. Some of the things we do on our committee include – Christmas bags for our shut-in and homebound members, Easter gifts for shut-ins and homebound, Birthright Tree, Mitten Tree, we hold fundraisers, and sometimes event gatherings. If you would like to help on this committee, come join us on the 20th. If you are interested in helping but cannot make the meeting – please talk with Sue in the office.

W E L C O R N E R A

WELCA Meeting

All ladies are invited to the Women of the ELCA meeting scheduled for **Monday, September 21 at 10:30 a.m.** in the church Library. Plans for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar will be discussed. We hope you will join us.

THANK YOU



A HUGE **Thank You** to everyone who donated items for this year's school kit collection. We collected and bagged a record number of **52** school kits to take to the Synod for shipping and distribution.

Christmas Items Wanted

Summer cleaning?? Attic cleaning??

WELCA is looking for Christmas decorations and good, gently loved sellable gift items for our next Christmas Bazaar. Items may be dropped off at the church during normal office hours.

PLEASE NO RUMMAGE!!



Christmas-at-Sea Seafarers International

WELCA invites you to participate.

Bring joy to seafarers who will not be home with their families for Christmas. Bags are available on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. Take a satchel bag (or more), pick the size you will be purchasing, S, M, L. *New shirts only please.*

- 1 sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded
- 3 pairs of socks – thermal or white gym, no ankle socks
- 1 t-shirt
- 1 knitted winter cap (matching scarf optional)
- 1 can of nuts (10 oz or less) or a bar of chocolate (2-3 oz)
- A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!



You pick the colors, styles, and brands, but please no substitutions from the list – the Christmas-at-Sea satchels are to be comparable for each member of the crew. ***Please remove all store tags from clothing.***

Please assemble the satchel with sweatshirts and t-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a S, M, L.

Satchels need to be returned to the church no later than October 25th in order to be shipped to the Seafarers International House in New York.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because complete strangers ashore have taken the time to share the spirit of Christmas.

Junkyard Wisdom

Every now and then God shows a sense of humor.

A month or so ago I wrote a post titled [*Don't Be Boring*](#). It was a simple encouragement to keep expanding our lives so we don't become dull, predictable people. It was fun to write, though maybe not my best work. One reader even teased me by calling the post... boring.

About a week later, I had one of my least boring days in years. It almost felt as though God was smiling and saying, "Don't be boring, huh? You sure you want that?"

The day started strangely enough. I woke up at 5:00 a.m., which never happens. I'm usually a six- or seven-o'clock kind of guy.

Later that morning, while putting leashes on the dogs, I leaned down and slammed my head into the pointed corner of a tile countertop. Not the edge. The corner. It hurt. A lot.

What makes it even dumber is that I've been putting leashes on those dogs in that same room for fourteen years. I know exactly where that countertop is. Somehow, on this particular morning, I managed to forget.

A little while later I was over at our family ranch when my wife texted, "Come to the chicken coop ASAP. We have a hawk in here." I ran over and sure enough, there was what looked like a young hawk standing in the corner. It couldn't fly, so we carefully caught it and moved it into the shade while I called a wildlife rescue center. They arrived quickly and informed us it wasn't a juvenile hawk at all. It was a peregrine falcon. The next thirty minutes were spent trying to catch an injured bird that wanted absolutely nothing to do with us. At one point I found myself crawling on my stomach beneath a tree until I was only a foot away from him. We just looked at each other.

I was trying not to frighten him. He was trying to decide whether I was there to help or to make things worse. I'll admit another thought crossed my mind as well: I really hope this bird doesn't peck my eyes out. Mostly, though, I was simply in awe. He was magnificent. It was, in a way I don't fully understand, a spiritual moment. Eventually we caught him, and he was taken to a nearby wildlife hospital.

About that time my daughter, who works at our family company, texted with news that a significant transaction had finally closed. "Fantastic," I wrote back. "Champagne tonight!"

An hour later a contractor called. "Hey, is it okay if we start early?" I honestly thought he was joking. What contractor starts early? It was completely unexpected, and entirely welcome.

Driving home, I noticed what looked like a small puff of smoke rising from a nearby hillside. I barely gave it a second thought. By the time I got home, that little puff of smoke had become a wildfire. And it appeared to be heading our way. For the next twelve hours we watched fire engines race by, helicopters and airplanes make water drops, and sirens echo across the valley. Eventually flames crested a ridgeline about a mile away. Then they evacuated a large golf course community between us and the fire. Naturally, we started asking if we were next. Without saying much, we began making mental lists of what we would take if we had to leave and what we would have to leave behind.

The updates came slowly. After a few hours, it was ten percent contained. Another couple of hours and then the words we had been hoping to read: *Forward progress stopped*. We slept a little that night. Not much. By the next morning the fire was forty percent contained, evacuation orders were gradually lifted, and the immediate danger had passed.

A day or two later I found myself thinking back over everything that had happened. It had been one very un-boring day. There had been pain. Wonder. Good news. Anxiety. Relief. A close encounter with one of the world's most remarkable birds. A business victory worth celebrating. The quiet gratitude that comes from watching firefighters protect complete strangers.

Would I do it again? Well... most of it. Not the head banging. And I could happily skip the wildfire. There are some forms of excitement that lose their appeal very quickly.

Which made me realize something. When I wrote *Don't Be Boring*, I wasn't suggesting we should chase excitement. Plenty of people live incredibly exciting lives while remaining surprisingly shallow. What I meant was something different. Don't stop paying attention. Don't stop being curious. Don't become so settled into routine that you miss the extraordinary moments hiding inside ordinary days.

None of what happened that day was on my calendar. I didn't schedule a conversation with a peregrine falcon. I didn't plan to celebrate a business milestone, worry about a fast moving wildfire, or discover that contractors occasionally arrive early.

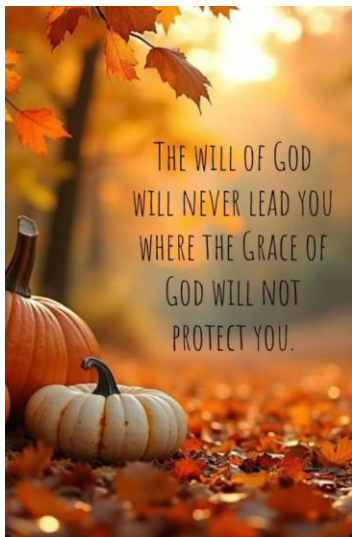
Life showed up. It forced me to pay attention. Maybe that's the real opposite of boring. Not adventure, but attentiveness. God simply invites us to stay awake to the life we're already living.

Junkyard Wisdom
August 2026
<https://junkyardwisdom.com>



PRAYERS: Rick Smeltz; Peggy Campbell; Trish Long; Bob Haile; Jim Herbert; Helen Peters; Connie Freitsch; Jeanne Hafer; Marty Rafter

HOMEBOUND and CONTINUED PRAYERS: Chris Eisely; Kaye Wolfe; Barb Eisley; Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Nevin Brungard; Nancy Hendricks; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; Bill Wagner; David Bartholomew; Marti Row



2026	ACTUAL	BUDGET
August Income:	\$ 16,957.08	\$ 19,267.83
Year to Date Income:	\$ 165,209.21	\$ 176,961.64
August Expenses:	\$ 23,077.18	\$ 22,574.57
Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 182,735.08	\$ 181,811.60
Income Less Expense – August		- \$ 6,120.10
Year to Date		-\$17,525.87

Mark Your Calendars!

Celebrating Five Years of Ordained Ministry!

This September, St. John's celebrates a milestone worth giving thanks for the 5th anniversary of The Reverend Karla Leiby's ordination.

Pastor Leiby's history with St. John's stretches back to September 2018, when she joined our congregation as Vicar through the Cooperative Program with the Upper Susquehanna Synod and United Lutheran Seminary, serving in that role through May 2021. That season of shared ministry planted the seeds for what was to come. On August 1, 2021, following a trial service, the congregation voted unanimously to call her as our pastor. One week later, on August 8, 2021, she led her first service as our called pastor, and on August 21, 2021, she was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament — a moment that marked the beginning of a new chapter for both Pastor Leiby and our church family.

In the five years since, we have walked together through worship, milestones, challenges, and everyday moments of faith — a ministry built on the foundation of that beginning. And as we look ahead, we give thanks for the ministry still to come, trusting in God's continued guidance for Pastor Leiby and St. John's together as we continue to be a light in our community, making Christ known through nourishing, serving, and faith.

Mark your calendars now! Join us as we celebrate this anniversary — honoring our past, giving thanks for our present, and looking forward to the future — on **Sunday, September 27, 2026**, following worship. Thanks be to God for our years of ministry together — and for all that lies ahead.

Celebrating St. John's Ministries and Volunteers

The 5th anniversary of Pastor Karla's ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament continues and gets bigger as we celebrate of all the ministries here at St. John's that Pastor Karla has nurtured, started, and enhanced over the past five years and the three years prior when she was our vicar. Church Council and Worship & Music are hosting an intergenerational brunch downstairs in the Social Hall to give thanks and recognition to all the volunteers whose work makes our ministries here at St. John's possible. We hope you can join us as we celebrate together — Pastor Karla's five years of ministry, and recognize the many volunteers that make St. John's what it is.

St. John's Ministries

Altar Guild Teams
Bible Study Groups
Blessings Shed
Born Again Boutique
Boy/Girl Scout Ministry
Building Maintenance and Grounds Teams
Children's Church Ministry
Community Vacation Bible School
Easter Sunrise Service
ELCA Program Support
Flower Crew
Funeral Meal Team
Garden Crew
Grief Share Ministry

Home Communion Teams
Kate's Kupboard
Mitten Tree Family and Birthright Tree Ministry
MomCo
Online Service Ministry
Pink Envelope and Quiet Change Ministry
Providing Meeting Space for Community Organizations
Social Ministry and WELCA Programs and Activities
Sound System Ministry
St John's Preschool
Synod Support
Tissue Box Ministry
Worship Resource Bag Teams
Worship Service Assistants and Musicians



October 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bible Study 10-11:30 a.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	2	3 Fellowship Hall Reserved 11 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
4 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Crew 2307 6-8:00 p.m.	5 	6 Troop AA 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	7 MomCo 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	8 Bible Study 10-11:30 a.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Scout District Comm. 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	9	10
11 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall reserved Scout Eagle Board of Reviews 1-5:00 p.m.	12 Finance 7:00 p.m.	13 Troop AA 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	14 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15 Bible Study 10-11:30 a.m. Messenger deadline 2:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Scout Roundtable 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	16 	17 Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall reserved 12-5:00 p.m.
18 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	19 	20 Social Ministry 11:00 a.m. Troop AA 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	21 Messenger Folding 9:00 a.m. MomCo 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	22 Bible Study 10-11:30 a.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	23 Scout Rummage Sale Set Up	24 Scout Rummage Sale Fellowship Hall
25 Reformation Sunday Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. 	26	27 Troop AA 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	28 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	29 Bible Study 10-11:30 a.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	30	31