

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



November 2024

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Each Sunday

- 8:00am Divine Service (live streamed)
- 9:30am Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
- 10:30am Divine Service

## IN THIS ISSUE

- November Birthdays
- Announcements
- Council of Deacons September Meeting Minutes
- November Church Calendar

## REMINDERS

Please notify the secretary of any **changes in personal information**, including address, phone number, email, etc.

If you are **unable to serve** on your scheduled day, it is your responsibility to find someone to serve in your place.

## A LETTER FROM REV. MATTHEW MOSS

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

### *O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord!*

Venite! Come! These words open Psalm 95 which rings out in our sanctuary every Friday for chapel. I'd like to take this newsletter to reflect on that short psalm and what it says about gathering for corporate worship. First, a disclaimer: Yes, the Bible also uses the word "worship" to include other sacrifices in our daily life together as Christians. We do love and serve our neighbors as an act of worship. Don't let that fall by the wayside as we look at this psalm and corporate worship. If you do, then we will fall into some shallow ceremonialism or atrocious hypocrisy where we "worship" like Christians on Sunday morning, as if we live by the means of Grace, but then live like heathens the rest of the week! Heaven help us if that becomes the case!

*"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!"*

*Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!" (Ps. 95:1-2)*

Come, gather, there is a body of believers waiting to join with you in song to the Lord, and He is not absent, but present with us! The psalm is not speaking like a father to his children, "Come on" as if telling them to do something they are not. This is a very literal invitation to move from one location to another, and in this new location a new activity will take place. From the earliest pages of the Bible, a *gathering* for worship is essential to how God meets with His people. You probably can find ways to make yourself "feel" closer to God or "more spiritual" all by your lonesome. But that's not what God wants. It's not how He works. It's not how He has set up His church. Come! Come from your homes to the House of God.

One of the most noticeable things you will be doing from Exodus 15 onward all the way to eternal life in heaven is **singing!** I

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I know, I've heard your self-deprecating jokes when you think you can't sing well, so you "just" make a joyful *noise* as if it were some lesser cacophony. Not so! First, you **can** sing and **should** work on it a bit. A tiny proportion of people are truly "tone deaf". If you're not one of those three or four people at St. John's, then you *can* sing, and you *should* sing. If it takes a little work, that's okay. Most things worth doing take a little effort and we shouldn't shy away from that, especially when the practice is in the presence of a loving Father in heaven. The church's song is a consecration of your voice, setting apart a special way of using it, all to the praise of a loving savior. That's what Psalm 95 calls Him, "the rock of our salvation."

As we come to God's House this November, especially for national days of Thanksgiving, let us reflect on why the Bible tells us to come with "thanksgiving" and "songs of praise" – in all the psalms the praise and thanks are given for specific deeds done by God to save us by His grace. The Psalms will always then include a "For" or "Because" to show what God does, such as:

***FOR*** *the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.  
In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also.  
The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.*" (Ps. 95:3-5)

The *Venite* was written long before the great work of Christ Jesus on the cross and at the empty tomb. A few verses later we'll hear about the Exodus, but right here it takes us all the way back to the Creation event and the ongoing creative or providential work of our Lord God to uphold the universe with the word of His power (Hebrews 1). All other gods are false. Many are the result of demonic lies from the devil to deceive whole nations. The true and only Great God and King is Yahweh, the LORD. There is no pantheon of gods, one over the sea, another over the mountains, another over the land. All of it remains in the powerful hands of the one God who formed it all. It was His love for His fallen creation that led Him to send forth His Son, our Savior. In fact, our belief that Christ's mission was for the whole world and not just the Jewish people, is built on this doctrine of Creation!

*"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!"* (Ps. 95:6)

Another invitation! Like the parables of the feasts from Luke 14 and Matthew 22, we all too often reject, forget, or supplant the Lord's invitations to gather in His presence. We engage all manner of entertainment, busy-ness, or just plain laziness and sleep. This Psalm will soon wake us up from that stupor. Here it calls to engage our whole body. "Worship" in Hebrew here means full body prostration, lying face down in the ground. Bowing and then kneeling actually depicts a rising up. In guilt and humility we would be totally lost and condemned to the dust, but in the presence of a loving God who rescues us from sin and death we are raised from flat to bowed to kneeling. And this Maker will also raise the dead to stand in the judgment, to live and reign with Him eternally!

***FOR*** *He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.*" (Ps. 95:7a-b)

Another key-clause, this explains why and how we rise from flat in the dust to kneeling before Him. He is our God, a God slow-to-anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The final two phrases are a joyful, playful mixing of metaphors. You'd expect it to be sheep of His pasture, but it's people. And then we are the *sheep* of His hand, instead of some image of children being held by the hand. It works

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

beautifully. He is the Good Shepherd who feeds us, His people, with His Word. That is our pasture. As sheep do feed from the shepherd's hand when they are little, weak, and just growing, so we come and kneel at the rail to receive from our Shepherd's hand the food we need for living. Joyfully and wonderfully the Venite ends here when we sing it in Matins. The Psalm goes on with a terrifying but absolutely necessary warning:

*"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways." Therefore, I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest." (Ps. 95:7b-11)*

These words may get left out of the Venite, but Hebrews 3–4 make a lot of use of them. Heed this warning from Psalm 95. Do not let another "Today" go by where your opportunity to pray and rest in God's Word goes ignored. Do not let another Sunday pass by where the invitation to the Lord's Supper goes rejected. When you study the history of God's love and how He blesses His people from Creation through their redemption from slavery in Egypt, then the time of temptation and wilderness rebellion becomes even more egregious. When we then advance to thinking about God's great and mighty salvation of all mankind in the Rock who is Christ, and how He claimed us in Baptism, taught us His word, preached His Gospel, absolves our sin, and offers His own body and blood under the bread and wine, we quickly see that we do not deserve even this most blessed warning! For we often ignore a far greater invitation, we look down on far more amazing gifts from God in Word & Sacrament, and all too often spurn the rest He desires to give. That being true, His warning still stands, because God is patient and merciful. So let not one more "Today" go by when the alternative is to **Come**, sing, praise, thank, and rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

See you Sunday,

*Pastor Moss*



# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### November 1

- Phil Kuehne
- Alann Robinson

### November 2

- Danny Bussing
- Diana Cahlander

### November 3

- Sam Schutte

### November 4

- Ryan Maurer
- Patty Picotte
- Everett Radintz

### November 5

- Michelle Johnson

### November 6

### November 7

- Peter Day
- Phil Koehler
- Samantha Orth
- Colin Vetsch

### November 8

- John Meyer

### November 9

- Kayla Brown

### November 10

- Marlene Kettler

### November 11

- Liz Glock
- Gerald Steeber
- Brent Tillmann

### November 12

- Lucas Kiesow

### November 13

- Joan Dolbec
- Therese Noren
- Arlene Rogge

### November 14

- Stephanie Haver
- David Moss
- Simon Say

### November 15

### November 16

- Karen Howey
- Eric Kaiser
- Lori Kiesow

### November 17

- Ellenna Baltes
- Mark Schutte

### November 18

- Evalyn Diers

### November 19

- Katie Moss
- Athena Nnamerenwa
- Aphrodite  
nnamerenwa

### November 20

### November 21

- Jim Giefer
- Ryan Klein
- Mary Pozarski

### November 22

- Stephanie Heidorn
- Jeremy Koosman

### November 23

### November 24

- Jacob Gordon
- Ben Kothrade

### November 25

### November 26

- Liz Wicklund

### November 27

- Jon Bode
- Matthew Nauth

### November 28

- Jody Preus

### November 29

- Matthew Koosman
- Cynthia Rowe

### November 30

- Dave Giefer



# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE** is not available at this time. Financial updates will resume in the near future as we allow time for our new business manager to learn more about her position. Questions may be directed to [Stephanie.Parris@stjlutheran.org](mailto:Stephanie.Parris@stjlutheran.org) or any member of the Board of Administration in the meantime.



**ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE OPENING SOON** (January 2025). There has been A LOT of interest in our preschool program and it will fill quickly. Apply now to notify us of your interest in enrollment in preschool and/or K-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Contact Principal [Kristen.Skura@stjlutheran.org](mailto:Kristen.Skura@stjlutheran.org) or Preschool Director [Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org](mailto:Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org) for more information or to schedule an education consultation.

**MINNESOTA DOES NOT HAVE A DEATH PENALTY...EXCEPT FOR NEWBORN BABIES WHO HAVE A DISABILITY.** Minnesota law used to guarantee newborn babies the right to medical treatment, but DFL legislators voted to change the law (SF 2995 [May 22, 2023]). Some doctors are now pressuring parents whose newborn baby has a disability **forego lifesaving treatment and leave the baby to die. Shockingly, this is now legal.** Scan the QR code or visit [mcccl.org/extreme](http://mcccl.org/extreme) for more information.



### **CROSS HAS EXPERIENCED A 25% INCREASE OF NEW FAMILIES IN NEED OF FOOD.**

Please consider taking a grocery bag from the narthex to fill with canned and dry goods to donate. Their most needed items include canned goods (tuna, Spaghettios, beet stew, etc.) noodles, sauces, condiments, grains (cereal), fruit cups and applesauce, and personal care items such as shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, and diapers. In addition to providing food, CROSS also provides other services, such as clothing and household items, financial assistance, season childrens' programs, and more. You may learn more about CROSS by visiting their website at [www.crossservices.org](http://www.crossservices.org).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** The St. John's PTL is partnering with Omni Brewing in Maple Grove to raise money to support our school. On Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Omni Brewing will donate \$1 to STJ for every drink and every pizza sold from 7:00am – 10:00pm – open to close!! This is an easy and fun way to support our school. We'll see you there! Scan the QR code for extra details.



**DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A GALA AUCTION ITEM?** Would you like to donate to the silent or live auctions? Donating items or services from your business is a fantastic way to showcase it! If so, please reach out to Liz Glock at 612-247-4794 or [lizzystu@aol.com](mailto:lizzystu@aol.com). The deadline for auction items is 11/1.

**THE ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE** for the 2025/2026 fiscal year is happening now. Thank you to the families who have submitted their pledges thus far. Time remains to submit yours! Pledge cards were mailed to all families and may be returned either via the included pre-addressed envelope or the white box located in the narthex (extra pledge cards are available there as well, if needed).

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**ST. JOHN'S IS CREATING A NEW BUSINESS DIRECTORY** featuring the various community connections we have through school families and church members. If you are a business owner or have a direct connection to a local business and would like to advertise among the St. John's community, please use the QR code to complete a short form to share your information with us or contact [Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org](mailto:Tori.Kuehne@stjlutheran.org) or [Kristen.Skura@stjlutheran.org](mailto:Kristen.Skura@stjlutheran.org).



**CHURCH MEMBERS, FAMILIES, AND CHILDREN**, our school is very excited to participate in a community event supporting those who are in need this winter. We are asking for fleece fabric donations that are sized 6ft by 5ft (72in by 60in). Our students will be making the fabric into tie blankets as an all-school activity for Term 2. Donations of fabric can be sent to school from **now through November 15** (you may leave them at the front office). Miss Fuhrman and Miss Preus will be taking the donations until it's time to tie! Term 2 chapel offerings will also go towards this special. We are thrilled to be able to support the people around us by keeping them warm this winter! Questions? Contact Miss Kari Preus at [Kari.Preus@stjlutheran.org](mailto:Kari.Preus@stjlutheran.org) or Miss Anna Fuhrman at [Anna.Fuhrman@stjlutheranschool.org](mailto:Anna.Fuhrman@stjlutheranschool.org).

**ATTENTION FAMILIES OF COLLEGE AGE STUDENTS** Please send us your college age student's address (even if they are living at home, working or their school address stayed the same) so that St. John's may keep in touch with them throughout the year. Email addresses to: [sjmabrockberg@yahoo.com](mailto:sjmabrockberg@yahoo.com). Please note if you do not supply an address, you will not receive the mailings. Thank you, and we wish everyone a blessed fall!

**WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE** that our preschool teacher Hannah Lange has recently completed the LCMS's colloquy program. She will be added to the Synod's roster of Commissioned Ministers of Religion, and her contract converted to a call to serve St. John's as a rostered Lutheran Teacher. Please congratulate her on the successful completion of this important piece of training for Lutheran educators.

**Tuesday Bible Study** meets weekly at 9am in the auxiliary room. Pr. Moss is leading a study of *The Book of Psalms*.

### Altar Guild 2024 Schedule

November: Beth G. & LeAnn C.

December: Arlene R. & LuAn S.

### 2024 Usher Schedule

#### 8:00 AM

Team One: Al M., Mark R., Dennis S., Ron T.

January, May, September – 13 Sundays

Team Two: Ace C., Tom G., Joe K., Phil K.

February, June, October – 13 Sundays

Team Three: Duane A., Floyd L., Cory O., Jerry R.

March, July, November – 13 Sundays

Team Four: Don K., Dan K., Davey K., Jack S.

April, August, December – 13 Sundays



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### 10:30 AM

Team Five: Grant B., Dave K., Sam K.	January, May, September – 13 Sundays
Team Six: Mike D., Dan P., Tim R., Russ R.	February, June, October – 13 Sundays
Team Seven: Rob B., Tim L., Tadd P., Craig S.	March, July, November – 13 Sundays
Team Eight: Mark E., Joel J., Ed K., John M.	April, August, December – 13 Sundays



**Life Notes:** Abortion and euthanasia idolize (Exodus 32:4) death. They surrender to grief as if we have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). But we delight that Jesus has already swallowed death (1 Thessalonians 4:14) and sanctified human life from fertilization to forever. We may resist using death as a solution to suffering. And we can invite others to rejoice in the blessings of life He brings (Luke 17:21)! *Prayer: Lord Jesus, lead us to receive every life as a gift and every neighbor as a privilege. Amen.*

To read more or to learn more about Lutherans for Life, visit [www.LutheransforLife.org](http://www.LutheransforLife.org).

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School  
Council of Deacon Meeting Minutes September 12, 2024

Present	First Name	Last Name	Present	First Name	Last Name
X	Grant	Birznieks	X	Mark	Radintz
X	David	Hebert		Russ	Reznecheck
X	Andrew	Heinen	X	Ted	Schmidt
	Peter	Ims	X	Pastor	Johnson
X	David	Kiesow	X	Pastor	Moss
X	Scott	Kulberg	X	Joe	Koehler (Treasurer)
X	Jesse	Mathwig	X	Stephanie	Parris (Business) Manager
X	Ross	Meyer	X	Steve	Kruse (President)
X	Cory	Olson	X	Dr. Kristen	Skura (Principal)

**Call to Order:**

By Chairman Ross Meyer at 7:02 pm

**Opening Prayer:**

By Pastor Moss

**Theological Study:**

“The Large Catechism: *9th & 10th Commandments*”

**Deacon Minutes:**

8/8/2024 Meeting Minutes- M/S Approved.

**Deacon Board Reports:**

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**Pastors Report:** Written report submitted.

**Baptisms:**

Many baptisms on the horizon including perspective new members. Additionally, received inquiries from a couple of individuals who were former members. -Have engaged in further conversations with these individuals to better understand their intentions and circumstances.

**MNS Theological Convocations:**

- **Theology and Practice of Worship**
- Date: September 20, 2024
- Time: 9 AM to Noon
- Location: Glory of Christ Plymouth, MN

**The Lord's Supper**

End of October 2024  
Location: Fulda, MN

**Attendance Data for August 2024**

Date	Attend.	Comm.	Visitors	Sun. B.S.
Averages tor 2024	284	203	29	61
8/4/2024	222	175	16	51
8/11/2024	232	173	17	53
8/18/2024	327	231	55	63
8/25/2024	251	182	27	43



**Board of Spiritual Life:** Written report submitted.

- History committee has refreshed the narthex and feedback was good on moving registration table.
- Mercy Fund Coordinators approached one more prospective coordinator candidate, but they declined; will reach out to another before soliciting more members for consideration.

**Business Manager:**

First meeting of our new Business Manager Stephanie Parris. She introduced herself to the council and was graciously welcomed. Her start date was August 26, 2024.

**Board of Administration:** Written report submitted.

- Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERC) IRS is beginning to restart payments.

**Property and Grounds Update:**

- Carpet was completed and total cost of \$28,817 was under budget.
- Working on replacing phones, -quotes coming in next week.

**Treasure Report. Joe Koehler**

- The budget: we had a successful back-to-school night and received a significant influx of cash. From a church, school, and gifting accounts, we're in a very good financial position.
- We need to determine the approved budget since it wasn't loaded into QuickBooks. We have the document but need assistance to input it correctly. By next month, we aim to have it referenced for school giving, church plate giving, other income, and expenses.
- "Regarding the gifting fund policy, it has a 100k floor, and we are nearing that amount. We are getting closer to potential capital expenditures that would come out of the gifting fund."
- General fund offering for July was almost 90k, while it was 56k in August. This seems like a significant difference. Was there a significant gift given in July? Will check into it and get back to the deacons.

**Principal's Report:** Written report submitted.

- Jenny Roepke has recently joined us as an aide.
- Mike Nauth and Luther Mathsen have stepped up to provide lunchroom and recess support, giving teachers valuable time to prepare.
- Jon Skura serves as our daytime custodian.
- Working with the BOA on a potential bus driver candidate.
- Gary Volberding is currently serving as our temporary bus driver until we find a permanent replacement. He has requested an end date, as extending his service into October would be pushing him.

**Board of Education:** Written report submitted.

- Bonnie Radintz has joined the board.
- Update on wish list items.
- Tuition Refund Language: We discussed the language regarding tuition refunds. The updates will be available on our website.
- PTL By-Laws changes
  - Approved changes to the PTL By-Laws (Article 4, sections 1, 2 and 3 along with Article 6 sections 1 and 4) around the membership of the executive board members (3 of 6 must be STJ Church members), allowing 15 members on the volunteer committee.

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## **DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

- Deacon retreat
- PTL By-Laws changes
- Gala funds 2023 were initially designated for a Gaga pit and a Pavilion. However, the pavilion project has not moved forward, leaving unused funds. Can these funds be used for the current electronic sign budget or something else (enhancing entrance and appearance of our parking lot)?

## **Resolutions:**

From: BOE

Be it resolved that we issue a call to Hannah Lange, currently a contract teacher, as she has completed colloquy. **M/S Passes**

"Hannah Lange's name was published in the bulletin for two weeks starting on February 19, 2023."

**Motion made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 8:39 pm.  
Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

*"This is the day the Lord has made.*

# NOVEMBER 2024

*Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 7:30am Choir & Handbell Warm-Up 8am Divine Service (cc) • Choir & handbells 9:30am Anv. Celebration for K. Peterman 10:30am Divine Service (cc) • Choir & handbells 6:00pm Jr. Youth Group 7:00pm Sr. Youth Group	28	29 9am Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Adult Catechism	30 6pm Public Sch. Cat 6pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	31	1 8:10am Chapel	2
3 7:30am Choir Warm-Up 8am Divine Service (ind. cups) • Choir singing 9:30am Adult Bible Study/SS 10:30am Divine Service (cc) • Choir singing	4	5 9am Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Adult Catechism	6 6pm Public Sch. Cat 6pm Handbell Rehearsal	7 <b>DEACON REPORTS DUE</b>	8 8:10am Chapel	9
10 8am Divine Service (c. cup) 9:30am Adult Bible Study/SS 10:30am Divine Service (i. cups) • K-4 <sup>th</sup> choir singing	11 <b>VETERANS DAY</b>	12 9am Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Adult Catechism 6:30pm PTL Mtg.	13 6pm Public Sch. Cat 6pm Handbell Rehearsal	14 7pm Deacon Mtg.	15 <b>GRANDPARENTS DAY</b> 8:10am Chapel 12:30pm Dismissal 5:00pm Gala	16 6:30pm Jr. Youth Group 7:30pm Sr. Youth Group
17 8am Divine Service (c. cup) 9:30am Adult Bible Study/SS 10:30am Divine Service (c.c.)	18 6:30pm History Committee Mtg.	19 9am Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Adult Catechism 7pm Board Mtg.	20 <b>DECEMBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE</b> 6pm Public Sch. Cat 6pm Handbell Reh.	21	22 8:10am All-School Chapel	23
24 7:30am Handbell Warm-Up 8am Divine Service (c. cup) • Handbell choir 9:30am Adult Bible Study/SS 10:30am Divine Service (c.c.) • Handbell choir 12:00pm Choir Rehearsal	25	26 8:15am All-School Chapel 9am Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Adult Catechism	27 <b>NO SCHOOL/NO ESP OFFICE CLOSED</b>	28 <b>THANKSGIVING DAY NO SCHOOL/NO ESP OFFICE CLOSED</b>	29 <b>NO SCHOOL/NO ESP OFFICE CLOSED</b>	30



~1 John 1:9

*“If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

The Service of Individual Confession & Absolution is available this month by appointment only. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear God's Word of forgiveness spoken to you individually in Jesus's Name.



**The Divine Service is live-streamed each Sunday at 8:00am.**

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**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

9141 County Road 101  
Corcoran, MN 55340

**November 2024**