



December 2022



Worship Schedule

**Sundays:**

8:00 am Divine Service  
(live-streamed on our web-site: [stjlutheran.org](http://stjlutheran.org))

9:30 am Adult Bible Study  
10:30 am Divine Service

**Address Updates:**

Help us keep our files up-to-date. E-mail: [secretary@stjlutheran.org](mailto:secretary@stjlutheran.org) or call 763-420-2426, ext. 10

**Special points of interest:**

- December Birthdays
- Monthly Calendar
- Pastoral Inspiration
- Minutes of the Deacon Council Meeting
- Financial Updates
- History Committee notes



**Please remember...**

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, it is up to YOU to find someone who will take over for you.

# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church December Newsletter



...Pr. Matthew V. Moss

9141 County Road 101,  
Corcoran, MN 55340  
763-420-2426



## Membership Renewal – Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany

By now you should have received your pastors' letter announcing the New Church Year. In it we proclaimed this Church Year will be one of **Renewal**. We sincerely want to see every household and every member of our church receiving Christ's gifts of Word & Sacrament more and more regularly. There is no better time for you and your household to rededicate yourselves to this renewed emphasis on regular attendance than the next two months of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

This "Time of Christmas" not only features some of the Christian's favorite hymns and special traditions, it also focuses our attention on how "God the Father gives the gift of His Son, wrapped up in our human flesh and blood to restore us to the image of God" ("Exploring the One-Year Lectionary," by Randy Asbury). In the sin of Adam and Eve, our human nature lost the image of God, but now as Christ Jesus ministers to us, we are being restored to that blessed image of God, to be finally perfected at the Resurrection of the Dead on the Last Day.

In Advent we hear how He came of old, how He comes in the Word & Sacraments, and how He will come again to judge the living and the dead. The twelve-day feast of Christmas then celebrates the "incarnation", that for our sakes God took on human flesh and blood to save us. God became Man! Then, in Epiphany, we see that Man revealing to the world that He is God- the star at His birth, His baptism in the Jordan, His miracles, and His most glorious transfiguration.

I cannot think of a more joyful time of year to recommit yourselves to regular, weekly attendance. And is there any time of year that is easier to invite back into the fold a friend or relative who is wavering or already has departed from the faith? Come, receive the gifts of the Lord. Invite others into His generous presence. And share with them the joy we have in sins forgiven and eternal life with Christ.

See you Sunday (and Wednesday),

Pastor Moss

**Deacon Meeting**  
**Date: October 13, 2022**

**Attendees:**

<b>Present?</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Present?</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
X	Jesse	Mathwig	X	Dennis	Schwecke
X	Steve	Kruse	X	Todd	Haag
X	Ted	Schmidt	X	Scott	Kulberg
X	Jerry	Rogge	X	Rob	Borcherding
X	Russ	Reznechek	X	Ross	Meyer
X	Leif	Briel	X	Pastor	Johnson
X	Sam	Kuphal	X	Pastor	Moss
X	Phil	Schutte		Gretchen	Dolan
X	Andrew	Heinen	X	Cory	Olson
X	Dave	Kiesow			

**Call to Order:**

CTO by Jerry at 7:02pm.

**Opening Prayer:**

By Pastor Moss

CONNECTING THE DOTS  
BETWEEN DEACONS AND DUTIES

Theological Study for the October 2021 Meeting of St. John's Deacon Council

**Theological Study:**

**Deacon Minutes:**

9/8/22 Deacon Meeting Minutes – Motion Phil S, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jesse M, Motion passed

**Deacon Board Reports:**

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**Pastors Report:**

Written report submitted.

Motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve new members. Motion passed.

New Members: Laura Ellinghuysen, Marni Briel and Daston, David & Noelle Diers and Evalyn

Motion made and seconded to transfer and release the members as presented. Motion passed to transfer members.

Transfers: Jacquelyn Magnuson, Mark & Gina Dorethy, David Freytag

Removals and Record-Keeping: Kevin Fuhrman, Arlys Peterson, Arnold Smith, David Vanderpool, Rachel Voigtlander, Angela Frolik, Kaity/Michael/Nick Minnihan, Matthew Pecht, Tony Priebe, David Sletten, Michael/Rachel/Rhett/Remy/Abriella Williams

**Board of Spiritual Life**

Written report submitted

**Business Manager's Report:**

Written report submitted

- Accounting and financial processes review 70% complete
- HR process and policy review 75% complete

**Board of Administration**

Written report submitted

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**Principal's Report**

Written report submitted

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**Board of Education**

Written report submitted

- New school logo discussion
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**Congregational President:**

No report

- Pastor Moss elected as delegate to Synodical Convention

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Deacon Chairman Selection, Deacon Assignments, Committee Assignments:**

Ross Meyer was selected as Deacon Chairman after drawing names from a hat. After discussion, the final Deacon Assignments for upcoming year were arrived at:

<b><u>First</u></b>	<b><u>Last</u></b>	<b><u>New Board Assignments</u></b>
Ross	Meyer	Chairman
Scott	Kulberg	Secretary
Todd	Haag	Board of Administration
Andrew	Heinen	Board of Administration
Jesse	Mathwig	Board of Administration
Leif	Briel	Board of Education
Russ	Reznecheck	Board of Education
Rob	Borcherding	Board of Education
Dennis	Schwecke	Board of Spiritual Life
Cory	Olson	Board of Spiritual Life
Ted	Smidt	Board of Spiritual Life
Dave	Kiesow	Board of Spiritual Life

**Committee Assignments for Next Year:**

<b><u>Endowment</u></b>	
Appt Chair	
BOA	Andrew Heinen
BOE	Leif Briel
Deacon Chair	Ross Meyer
Congregation President	Steve Kruse
Treasurer	Tom Brady
	Mike Gaffer

**Resolutions:**

1. From BSL– Missions for the next year will be:
  - a. Rev. Wokoma
  - b. Pastor Jastram
  - c. Soldiers of the Cross

Motion made and seconded. Motion Passed.

2. Approval to perform a year-end appeal campaign to solicit donations supporting cost of education (general fund). The teme of this campaign will be “The War on Childhood Innocence” to help drive awareness to the attacks on our kids today and how St. John’s is a refuge to protect and equip children for this spiritual warfare. This will be a coordinated effort between Sam Kuphal, Pastor Moss and Gretchen to curate content and mailing/email lists to use in physical mail/email/social media distribution. We plan to target current church/school families, student grandparents (whom we’ve gathered contact information from the past few years) and past donors to STJ (i.e. gala, golf, FUNDay, etc.). This campaign will also serve as an opportunity to share the great things STJ is doing with an audience that may not get regular updates.

Motion made by Leif B and seconded by Russ R. Motion passed.

3. From BOE - Be it so moved to approve \$10K from the \$25K marketing wish list item to be used for St. John’s School upcoming marketing needs.

Motion made and seconded. Motion passed.

**Discussion Topic:**

1. BOE Call Committee for 2023/24 School year
  - a. Structure of the committee
  - b. Call responsibility is of the Deacon Council
2. Discussed Sacramental wine selection

**Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting. Motion passed.**

**Meeting Adjourned with Lord’s Prayer at: 8:55pm**

# St. John's Lutheran Church & School Monthly Reporting – October 2022

## October Summary:

October deficit of **\$24K** compared to **\$19K** budgeted deficit (total Revenue – total Expenses)

- Total revenue short **\$13K** of budget
  - Offerings short **\$12K**; school tuition/fees short **\$1K**
- Total expenses a favorable **\$8K** under budget
  - Salaries/Wages/Benefits under budget by **\$9K** (mainly fewer staff than budgeted)

## Cash and Investment Balance Details:

**Operating Fund** – Funded primarily by offerings and school tuition/fees. Pays for operating expenses and critical for short-term viability.

**Gifting Fund** – Funded primarily through member gifts and fundraisers. Pays for capital improvements/repairs and flow-thru donations to mercy/kindness.

**School endowment fund** – Funded primarily by member gifts and fundraisers. Goal to ensure the long-term viability of affordable Lutheran education.

### Cash and Investment Balances As of October 31, 2022

	TOTAL		
	AS OF OCT 31, 2022	AS OF OCT 31, 2021 (FY)	CHANGE
▶ A) Operating Fund	289,886	395,767	-105,881
▶ B) Gifting Fund	344,702	470,680	-125,977
▶ C) School Endowment Fund	347,293	347,970	-677

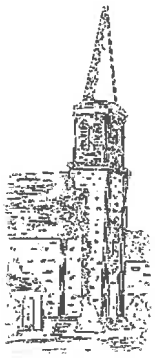
## Last Month Operating Details:

### Budget vs Actuals-Last Month October 2022

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
▼ Revenue				
4010 General Fund Offerings	60,064	71,931	-11,867	84.00 %
4020 Tuition	48,648	52,177	-3,529	93.00 %
4030 Other School Income	8,334	5,804	2,530	144.00 %
4400 Other Income	1,823	2,175	-352	84.00 %
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$118,870</b>	<b>\$132,087</b>	<b>\$ -13,218</b>	<b>90.00 %</b>
▼ Expenditures				
6200 Salaries & Wages	94,437	99,749	-5,312	95.00 %
6400 Benefits	23,499	27,112	-3,613	87.00 %
6500 Other Staff Expenses	793	1,629	-836	49.00 %
6510 Church Programs	1,790	1,342	448	133.00 %
6560 Operating/Misc Expenses	9,609	4,673	4,937	206.00 %
6570 Utilities and Maintenance	9,316	11,839	-2,523	79.00 %
7100 School Academic Expenses	1,181	3,136	-1,955	38.00 %
7300 School Bus Service	1,085	950	135	114.00 %
7900 Other School Expenses	1,289	905	384	142.00 %
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$142,998</b>	<b>\$151,335</b>	<b>\$ -8,337</b>	<b>94.00 %</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -24,128</b>	<b>\$ -19,248</b>	<b>\$ -4,881</b>	<b>125.00 %</b>

## Reporting Callouts

- 1) Fund balances do not include the Cemetery, Church Worker Scholarship Funds, Hot Lunch or PTL.
- 2) Year-To-Date and more detailed ins/outs for Gifting/Endowment funds will be reported quarterly
- 3) Full Balance Sheet and Profit/Loss reporting available via request to [sam.kuphal@stjlutheran.org](mailto:sam.kuphal@stjlutheran.org)



## St. John's History Committee

### Did you Know:

- In 1894, M. H. Kasper was installed as teacher and served until 1910. (See school photo, circa 1900, below.)
- In 1944, Mr. Kasper wrote his recollection of his time at St. John's for the church's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary:

*"The room was underneath the church, a partial basement. The benches were rather small for most of the pupils. I had some boards made which were fastened to the wall, these I painted with blackboard paint, and now we had blackboards. There were no other "helps" in the room except an old out-of-date map of the world. I used my violin to teach singing. So, we did our best with what we had and carried on, introducing modern textbooks as time went on. The school year usually ended with a picnic on the fourth of July, a rollicking good time was had by all, the children entertaining and the old ones applauding, and "vice versa".....The enrollment reached sixty pupils. Some of these little "tots" would plod through snow and cold for miles not to miss a day of school. There were no school buses in those days. At this time also a choir was begun. What we lacked in trained voices we made up in gusto."*



# DECEMBER

**2022 MISSION PROGRAMS:** St. John's currently supports the following mission programs: Synod, Soldiers of the Cross, and that of Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram and Rev. P.A. Charles Richard-Wokoma. Please note: Any contributions to missions other than these four options at this time will be divided between these currently supported programs. May God bless you for your generosity!

**POINSETTIAS:** The Altar Guild will be providing an opportunity for members of St. John's to purchase a festive poinsettia for the holiday season. The poinsettias will be used to decorate the Church during the Christmas services, then can be picked up and enjoyed by you at your home. If you wish to place an order, please fill out a Poinsettia order form that is available in the member mailboxes in the narthex. We are also seeking financial donations for the two evergreen trees and would ask that members consider donating towards the Christmas trees as well. Thank you for helping to beautify the church for our celebration of the birth of Jesus.

**ST. JOHN'S GALA:** Thanks to everyone who is planning to attend or attended the 9th annual Gala, "Give Joyfully" on December 2nd! We will post any financial updates as soon as they're available. "Thanks Be To God!"

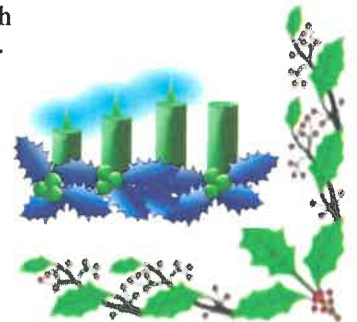
**FESTIVAL CHRISTMAS CHOIR:** You're invited to join the choir as we prepare for the Christmas season! Rehearsals will be on Wednesday, December 7, 14, and 21 from 6:00-6:50pm in the music room. We will sing at the 3:00pm Christmas Eve service and the 10:00am Christmas Day service. Please contact Katie Moss for more information.

**WASHINGTON DC FUNDRAISER:** Online Holiday Décor Shopping opportunity to raise money for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC Trip. Place your order by Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. GiftItForward.com, use the code STJOHNMN006 or scan the QR code. Direct questions to Stephanie Thompson

**YOUTH GROUP:** Holiday Events hosted by the Youth Group are on Sunday December 11th after the late service...  
*Christmas Decorating* in the Sanctuary with the Altar Guild, followed by *Lunch and a Cookie Exchange*, then concluding with our annual *Christmas Caroling* for some of our Homebound Members. All members are invited to join the festivities.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The *Sunday School Christmas Program* is Sunday, December 18th at the 10:30 service...Followed by...  
**Fellowship Committee:** *Sunday School Christmas Party* with cookies and ornaments after the service. Everyone is welcome.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:** St John's is looking for some Part-Time Maintenance help! Are you mechanically inclined or generally handy? We are looking to fill a part-time role (15-25 hours) for the church and school which would include mainly basic maintenance duties (anything from changing light bulbs to switching out furnace filters to replacing light switches). Exact position responsibilities and pay rate will vary depending on the skill level, reach out to our Business Manager ([sam.kuphal@stjlutheran.org](mailto:sam.kuphal@stjlutheran.org)) or the church office for more information.



## **SCHEDULING CHURCH AND SCHOOL EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S**

Please remember to check with the church/school secretary about scheduling any event.  
The Secretary keeps a main calendar and all church and school events need to be coordinated through this main calendar!



# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Phone: 763-420-2426  
 Fax: 763-420-7198

Web Portal:  
[www.stjlutheran.org](http://www.stjlutheran.org)

E-mail:  
[secretary@stjlutheran.org](mailto:secretary@stjlutheran.org)  
[secretary2@stjlutheran.org](mailto:secretary2@stjlutheran.org)

## EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION OF LUTHERANS...

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Listen to what you want when you want at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

**GET CHURCH EMAIL COMMUNICATION:** If you are not already on our church email distribution list for notices such as upcoming church events, funerals, weather closures, etc. and wish to be included, please provide your email address to: [secretary@stjlutheran.org](mailto:secretary@stjlutheran.org)

### ~LIFE NOTES~

*"Christmas is also a time to contemplate the gift of mortal LIFE through the miracle of birth. Christmas is the gift of LOVE that moms and dads shower on their children by saying yes to life—sometimes under very difficult circumstances. Regardless of the challenges, God has a perfect plan for each life that He brings into the world, and His will for them is to out-sparkle and out-shine any ornament." Bradley Mattes, president of Life Issues Institute - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



Merry Christmas



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Katy Briel Toya Fish Judy Stromback	2 Ruby Batcha Jack Wicht	3 Bailey Dorweiler Gunner Dorweiler Faith Kruse Mark Pruhs Samuel Wilson
4 Ruth Droogsma Sam Kulberg Ginny Malikowski	5	6 Adelyn Holovnia Isalah Kliche Joelyn Wicht	7 Sophie Glock Lois Trebesch	8	9	10 Nathan Eversman Amanda Pulju Erika Rossow
11	12 Bridger Swanson	13 Sarah Klein Amy Mazurowski	14 Rick Bymark Amy Dufault	15 Patricia Gardner Ted Schmidt	16 Charlie Bermei	17 Gretchen Dolan Connie Goerke Wes Grambart Tyler Philipp
18 Lisa Carroll Paisley Hamilton Winston Kent Ernest Koehler	19	20 Gina Bussing Tadd Parris	21 Saul Gaffaney	22 Evan Orth	23 Kyle Christopher	24 David Dufault Andrew Heinen
25 Aiden Ashland	26	27 Charles Moss Caroline Schaefer	28 Shannon Dorweiler Sue Erickson Mike Gaffer	29 Ashley Baltas Emma Pulju	30 Larry Anderson	31 Carol Eastbourne





# December 2022

\*Monthly events are subject to change

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 12pm Deacon Reports Due	2 8:10 am Chapel (7/8 gr Handbells) 5:00 pm St. John's 9th Annual Gala at Rush Creek	3
4 8:00 am Divine Svc [indv gls] 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Svc [cm cup] (7/8 gr Handbells)	5 6:30 pm Adult Catechism	6 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	7 5:30 pm Wed Catechism (Public School Students) 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Advent2 Midweek Vespers Service	8 7:00 pm Deacons Council Meeting	9 8:10 am Chapel 4:00 pm ESP Piano Recital	10
11 8:00 am Divine Svc [cm cup] 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Svc [indv gls] 11:30 am Christmas Decorating 12:30 pm Lunch/Cookie Exchg 1:30 pm Christmas Caroling	12 6:30 pm Adult Catechism	13 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm PTL Meeting	14 5:30 pm Wed Catechism (Public School Students) 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Advent3 Midweek Vespers Service	15 JAN NWSLTR DEADLINE	16 8:10 am Chapel 1:30 pm Christmas Concert 7:00 pm Christmas Concert	17
18 8:00 am Divine Svc [indv gls] 9:15 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Svc [cm cup] (Sunday Sch Christmas Prog) 12:00 pm Sunday School Christmas Party	19 6:30 pm Adult Catechism	20 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Board Meetings	21 Winter Solstice: 1st Day of Winter 8:10 am Chapel 5:30 pm Wed Catechism 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Advent4 Midweek Vespers Service	22 No School / No ESP ~ Christmas Break	23 No School / No ESP ~ Christmas Break	24 Christmas Eve 3:00 pm Lessons & Carols 5:00 pm Lessons & Carols 11:00 pm Christmas Midnight Divine Service [Individual glasses]
25 10:00 am Christmas Day Divine Service [common cup] (no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study)	26 No School / No ESP ~ Christmas Break Office Closed	27 No School / No ESP ~ Christmas Break 9:00 am Adult Bible Study	28 No School / No ESP ~ Christmas Break 6:00 pm NO Wed Catechism (Public School Students)	29 No School / No ESP ~ Christmas Break	30 No School / No ESP ~ Christmas Break	31



December 2022



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School  
9141 County Road 101  
Corcoran, MN 55340

**Divine Services Live-Streamed on Sundays at 8:00 am  
Sunday Divine Service 10:30 am**



THE SERVICE OF INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND 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' Name.

"If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us  
from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

**LAST ONE OUT, PLEASE REMEMBER TO LOCK THE DOORS, PICK UP AFTER YOURSELVES.**

**THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!**