

October
2021

ST. JOHN CHURCH SERVANTS

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Matt Côté

Vice President
Jennifer Goehle

Secretary
Lee Dryden

Treasurer
Ellen Pancoe

Financial Secretary & Report
Ginny Hohl

Building & Grounds
Rick Bosch

Christian Education
Don Reidell & Jason Ekberg

Finance
Ginny Hohl

Mutual Ministry
Lee Dryden

Personnel
C.J. Ullrich

Social Ministry
Judy Nitchke

Stewardship
Rev. Marsha Irmer

Welcoming/Fellowship
Judy Nitchke

Worship & Music
Larry King & Lee Dryden

Permanent Endowment
C.J. Ullrich

Cemetery
Jenn Goehle

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SCOTT...

At any given point, on any given day, you're likely to find a car or two in the parking lot at St. John. See, throughout the week there are countless volunteers who share their time and talent with the church in the quietest of ways. The lawn is mowed, weeds pulled out, communion cups filled, boilers checked, batteries replaced, donations taken to their intended organization, checks are written, snow shoveled, technology issues are sorted out, the mail is collected, historical files are preserved, trees are watered, and so much more.

In the same way, at many of our homes at any given point, on any given day, the ministry of our congregation is being fulfilled behind the scenes as members reach out to one another, send cards, offer prayers, and grab coffee or lunch. Like the elves in the old fairytale who make shoes at night, most of the ministry at St. John is carried out quietly and behind the scenes.

In scripture, Jesus praises a faithfulness that is expressed in such a way. Conversely, he cautions his followers not to practice their faith with the hope of impressing others. He says...

Do not practice your faith in order to be seen by others.

When you give, don't sound a trumpet to get other people's attention.

When you pray, don't stand in pulpits or street corners.

When you fast, don't try to impress people.

Jesus emphasizes a faith that is lived out in secret and promises that our God, who sees what is secret, is the only audience we need.

This month we celebrate all of those who work tirelessly behind the scenes at St. John. We give thanks to all those whose ministry is "in secret." While we give thanks to all of you who work so quietly, I also invite all of us at this time to consider the ways that we can live out our faith in secret. There are areas at the church where we need some volunteer help (e.g. altar care), but there are countless other ways you can express your faith from right where you are.

Our prayer list is emailed weekly and available on our website. That list contains not just our members in need, but our members' friends and family members who are in need. Please if you're able, pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are emerging from a pandemic that has kept us apart. If you have time, now is the time to reach out to one another. Send a card, a text, an email, or make a phone call to check in on each other. Over the next few months, there will be ongoing collections for the food pantry and Friends of Night People. As you're shopping throw a few extra items in the cart and quietly drop them off at the church. *con't. page 2.*

Thrivent Choice

Thank you to all of you who designated your Thrivent Choice dollars to St. John last year! The funds were put towards camperships at LCLC. Because of the Covid pause, it was decided to continue to designate money contributed to this youth experience for 2021. Keep up the good work and email me if there are any questions.

Jane D'Agostino



Life Passages

Declan Kruszynski was baptized on 9/12/2021.



There are no elves at St. John making shoes at night.

There are just disciples who make ministry possible – who make worship possible – who make being church today possible – through a quiet yet powerful faith.

I thank God for you.

"your father who sees in secret, will reward you."

To God be the glory.
PSDH

Matthew 6:6

DRIVE THRU TO DRIVE OUT HUNGER



St. John to honor World Food Day on Sunday, October 17

With hunger and poverty on the rise, compounded by the pandemic globally and here at home, St. John will have an opportunity to join with churches and social service agencies around the nation commemorating World Food Day (actually October 16) by giving out of our abundance to the hunger-related ministries our congregation regularly supports: Tiger's Den Food Pantry, Friends of Night People, and ELCA World Hunger.

In this edition of the Eagle, you will find detailed descriptions of needs expressed by these ministries, which will help determine what you will share during our 'drive-thru' collection. As in the past, members of the social ministry team will thankfully receive your donations of food and other items, as well as monetary gifts to support the mission ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response "that all the world may be fed".

Checks may be made out to St. John, with "World Hunger" in the subject line. Donations would also be gratefully received for Friends of Night People to fund the monthly meal our congregation provides. Again, checks should be made out to St. John, with FONP in the subject line.

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness. See you on the 17th!



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A specially called meeting of the congregation has been called on October 31, 2021 at 9:30AM.

The motions before the congregation are:
to obtain a mortgage to build
the outdoor ministry center
& to update the constitution and by-laws.



Potential Constitution Updates

PROPOSED BY-LAWS

(changes in *italics*)

I. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

C10.01.01. The Annual Congregational Meeting shall:

- a. *Be held at the beginning of the Congregational year in the month of December at a time and place determined by the Congregational Council;*
- b. Include the election of members to the Congregational Council;
- c. Receive reports and proposed programs from the officers, committees, and organizations of the Congregation. The reports will be in writing. The Congregational Council may designate reports to be read at the meeting.
- d. *Adopt the budget for the next fiscal year.*

II. THE CHURCH COUNCIL

C12.01.01 *The Congregational Council shall consist of the pastor and nine (9) duly elected voting members.*

C12.01.02 Nominees for the Congregational Council shall be selected by the Nominating Committee.

C12.01.03 Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Congregational Meeting, provided the nominee is a voting member in good standing and is present at the meeting to indicate his or her willingness to serve if elected.

III. CONGREGATIONAL YEAR

C12.02.01 *The Congregational year shall run from December through November of the following year and:*

- a. *The officers shall be elected by the Congregational Council at the first meeting of the new Congregational year.*
- b. *The committees shall be appointed by the Congregational Council in January of the new congregational year.*

C12.02.02 The fiscal year of the Congregation shall be on a calendar year basis.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

A Social Ministry Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 21st to discuss ideas, plans, and possible activities for the coming months. Covid-19 facts and concerns were discussed in relation to what projects we can effectively offer this year. The safety and welfare of all people are our main priority. We have designed a calendar of activities we feel will successfully help us to best serve the congregation and the community at this time.

The following agencies or projects will be our main focus:

- Friends ofNight People Winter Clothing/Blanket Drive
- Lutheran World Hunger Campaign
- Creative Ministries Sewing
- Tigers Den Food Collection
- Veterans Gift Card Drive
- Angel Tree Christmas Gifting
- Advent Christmas Wreath Kits
- Bags of Cheer for Senior Adult Care Centers
- Refugee Resettlement Movement
- Teachers Desk Back Packs



For the most part, these projects will involve family participation outside of the church through individual buying, online purchases, and crafting. Last year we had overwhelming success with Drive-By Drop Off days and would like to continue this year. In the coming days and months, you will receive notice of these projects with suggestions as to how you can participate. We hope you will prayerfully consider each project and get involved in what suits you the most.

If you would like to help with the planning of any of the above, please contact Judy Nitchke, Council Member liaison at judithnitchke@gmail.com or 716-683-5793.

In closing, we would like you to know that we are moving away from having a Social Ministry Committee which usually involved a small group of people doing the bulk of the work over a year's time. Our new approach is to recruit individuals who are interested in a specific cause who will come forward to plan and carry out that project. In other words, you don't have to make a long-time commitment! Anyone within the congregation is welcome to come forward with ideas or suggestions of ways we can provide the best possible Social Ministry outreach to all.

FRIENDS OF NIGHT PEOPLE CLOTHING/BLANKET DRIVE

On October 17th we will be having a Drive By / Drop Off Day in the church parking lot which will include opportunities for you to help the people at Friends of Night. With the cold weather approaching there is a great need for gently used winter coats, jackets, sweatshirts, hoodies, and blankets for the needy and homeless that attend the Friends of Night facility.

Please check your closets to see if you can help with this cause.

Additionally, we would also like to send newly purchased socks and underwear for both adult women and men. All sizes! We hope you will be able to help with this cause.

Thank you in advance for your caring and help.



COUNCIL UPDATE

The September Council meeting was held on the 21st via Zoom at 7:00 PM. The meeting began with prayer followed by the approval of minutes and agenda. Then, Pastor provided a report including pastoral acts (2 baptisms and 2 memorials) and a worship status update. Sunday School and Confirmation have resumed in-person instruction.

Committees offered the following reports...

Social Ministry: We will continue our practice of “drive-thru” drop-offs for collections of goods for Friends of Night People and Tiger’s Den Food Pantry. The Creative Ministries team is gearing up. In the next few months, we will take on a few projects including the Angel Tree, Bags of Cheer, and Veterans Support.

Fellowship: Luncheons in the park have been well received, as have other scheduled events. The Buffalo River Historical Boat Tour and Luncheon provided a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. At the end of September, another group of members will visit “Graycliff” followed by lunch on Lake Erie.

Worship & Music: The committee met and much of the focus was on how the music ministry might function under new leadership and pandemic circumstances. In general, patience is urged as we continue to make our way through this. Additional help is needed with Altar Care.

Christian Education: Sunday School will have three 8-week sessions (fall, winter, spring). Many children have registered. Approximately 30-40% of families have indicated they are not yet ready to return to Sunday School due to the pandemic. Parents and volunteers are asked to consider teaching a lesson.

Youth: Middle School Youth Nights will start on September 28th. They will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month for youth grades 5-8.

Building & Grounds: A new dishwasher has been ordered. The range hood and water heater have been repaired. Fire extinguishers have been serviced. The kitchen passed the health department's inspection. A letter was sent to Brompton Road neighbors requesting they cease driving on the church lawn and parking in the parking lot without authorization. The committee is seeking younger volunteers.

Stewardship: A letter will be sent out in October. A pledge drive will happen in November. In lieu of traditional “temple talks,” we will have digital videos to encourage participation in the life of our congregation.

Cemetery: The sign will be repaired at no cost to the church or cemetery.

Finance: Our second PPP loan has been officially forgiven. Our finances are sound. Weekly giving in August exceeded expectations. A motion was made to send \$1,500 for Hurricane Ida Relief and \$1,500 to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services to support Afghan refugees.

In the business portion of the meeting the council discussed and approved a motion to authorize the Congregation to vote on building the Outdoor Ministry Center and update the constitution. The council recommends taking a loan out to secure funds to begin building. The loan cannot exceed \$250,000.

The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.



TIGERS DEN FOOD PANTRY

We need:

- Bags of rice, brown or white
- Sugar
- Oil
- Flour
- Tomato Paste
- Tomato Sauce

Joni Cote will be checking every Sunday if anyone is interested in donating and needs items picked up.

Contact Joni Cote @
716-909-2880 with any questions.



ELCA World Hunger

A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed

An online benefit for ELCA World Hunger

Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. Central time

Zoom Webinar

Register [Here](#)

This online benefit for ELCA World Hunger will feature interviews hosted by my friend, Rick, with people on the ground who are doing the dynamic work of fighting hunger around the world. Special guests include the Rev. David Beckmann, who is being honored for his lifelong service to end hunger; the Rev. Rebel Hurd; Willie and Anne Langdji; and the Rev.

Rafael Malpica Padilla. There will also be special performances by Rachel Kurtz, Peter Mayer and the St. Olaf Choir. As a vital supporter of the church, we would love for you to join us as we hear compelling stories, listen to wonderful music and gather in fellowship to invest in this life-giving work.

If you have any questions please contact
Pastor Marsha Irmer: marshalynn77@yahoo.com





RECREATION RENEWAL REST

ADULT RETREAT

COST

SINGLE - \$200
DOUBLE - \$140/PERSON

The cost includes all meals from Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast as well as a modest program fee. Each participant is invited to bring snacks and preferred beverages for evening fellowship.

BREATHE. BE AT PEACE.

Rarely do church groups get together without an agenda. However, this retreat aims to provide just that. The plan for the weekend is to create sacred space for refreshment and recreation. Each retreat-goer will have the ability to take time in creation and rest amongst brothers and sisters from our church community. We will laugh, eat, share stories, take hikes, drink coffee (& more), listen, and find time to just be.

REGISTER NOW

WWW.SJLCAMHERST.COM/RETREAT

[CLICK HERE.](#)

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2021

Discover Joy. Share Love. Grow Faith.

SJLC
@
LCLC

CREATIVE MINISTRY

We will be meeting in the Gathering Space for the first time this year on October 20th from 10:00 to about noon. Anyone is welcome to join the group. You do not have to be able to sew. At the first meeting, we will plan some projects and look into ideas for future get-togethers. Kits for individuals to pick up and return will be created as well as working on a project. Plans are to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. All building us guidelines will be followed. Questions?
Contact Pam Figel @ 639-0235 or
Kfigel@aol.com.



NIAGARA FRONTIER CONFERENCE UPDATE

New Dean Elected in Niagara Frontier Conference!

Congratulations to the Rev. Jeremiah Smith who was elected to the office of Dean in the Niagara Frontier Conference on September 22. Pastor Jeremiah is the pastor of Parkside Lutheran Church (and will remain so) and will assume this part-time position as Dean on October 1. His term will be 4 ½ years (Fall 2021 – Spring 2026).

A new Dean will be elected in the fall of 2025 and that person will shadow Dean Jeremiah as the Dean elect until the next synod assembly.

In his nomination form, Dean Jeremiah said, as a pastor “I strive to be a bridge-builder. The first priority is always Jesus, striving to create opportunities for people to explore and encounter faith in Jesus. I work hard to foster connections between people in the congregation as we grow an internal sense of community.”

Please pray for Pastor Jeremiah as he begins his ministry among us. He can be reached at unysdeannf@gmail.com.



YOUTH EVENTS

fall 2021



here's what's happening...



GODLY PLAY

Sundays at 9:30AM | grades pre-k thru 4



YOUTH GROUP

2nd & 4th tuesdays @7PM | grades 5-8



CONFIRMATION

10.24, 11.14, 12.12 @ 11:30AM | grades 7+

let the children come to me;
and do not stop them;
for it is to such as these
that the kingdom of god belongs.
~ jesus

Dear St. John:

Thank you for your gift to Lutheran Disaster Response.

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives.

Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you are sharing this amazing grace with others.

You are helping people near and far feel the transformational power of God's love.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Dear St. John:

The 6th Annual Hope Fore a Future Golf Tournament was a beautiful day for golf and a great day to come together to support the A Future with Hope Community Center. Together with your help, we raised nearly \$19,000. Our youth and adults who utilize this space are especially grateful for your support and generosity. We look forward to using this space to further meet the needs of our community- and we give thanks to you for your role in this endeavor.

We cannot thank you enough for your partnership and continued support. Thank you and thanks be to God for you.

Sincerely,

Pastor Shawn Hannon

ENJOY A BEER
AND HELP THE
COMMUNITY!



WNYLUTHERANCHARITIES.ORG
CALL 716-632-2623, OR
EMAIL INFO@WNYLUTHERANCHARITIES.ORG



**I HAVE SET MY
RAINBOW IN THE
CLOUDS, IT IS A
SIGN OF THE
COVENANT
BETWEEN ME AND
EARTH.**

gen. 9:13

pictured above: rainbow at lake chautauqua lutheran center, volunteers at friends of night people, Sunday school fun, & Declan K's baptism.



pictured above: fellowship at graycliff

ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST

Hospitalized and Homebound
Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry

Loss and Bereavement
Hopkins Family, friends of Brenda and Dave Burow

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns
Debbie Amsewicz, Deb Francis, Wayne Yendall, Helen Smith, Gayle Bosch, Merv Moore, Ellen Manthey, Gordon Steinhilber, Jerry Szykowny, Ed Utz, Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Ruth Bertini, Julie Reece, Ethel Semrau,

Ann Harden, friend of Pastor Marsha Irmer
Sandy Williams, sister of Bobby Traina
Jeff, Sarah and Joanne, friends of Laura Kachelmeyer
Dick Mallison, friend of Ray and Ginny Hohl
Ann Giuseppetti, sister in-law of Brenda and Dave Burow
Sharon Donahue, daughter of Pat McCarty
Sandie Dunham, friend of Pam and Ken Figel
Anne Dehn, mother of Kenneth Dehn
Michelle Newman, friend of Susan Hadala
Chris Watkins, co worker of Ken Dehn
Joanna Graser, Niece of Jean Delamere
Carol Traina, Rich and Bobbie Traina's Daughter-in Law
Christie Guadagno, Sister of Bobbie Traina
Vicki Altenoeder, Sister of Bobbie Traina
Karen Sunick, Sister Bobbie Traina
Carol Dixon, sister of Joni Coté
Susan Henckel, cousin of Deb Francis
Kristine Kelly and Suzanne Kelly, relatives of the Dryden family
Richard Schaus and Tom Burkman, friends of Lee Dryden
Traub Family, friends of Pastor Marsha Irmer

For unity, peace, and the healing of our nation.

Healing, comfort, and strength for those seeking refuge from world events and natural disasters.

Parents, children, and educators as schools reopen.

The homeless, hungry, cold, and lonely.

Those victimized by any form of violence, abuse, coercion, and addiction.

Military: Jed Breitsch, Tim Bryk, Jeremy Burgett, Mike Ferguson, Trevor Louth, Hunter Misner, Michael Mommertz, Kurt Mommertz, Brandon Nadasio, Matt Newman, **Drew Steinhilber**, Kurt Wasilewski, **John Wendelin**, Jacob Roy, James Gregory, Nicholas Ford, Ben Hoyt, Zachary Beers

Names will be kept on the prayer list for 4 weeks, if you need your loved one on for longer please let the office know and we will be glad to keep them on.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Shavonne Kruszynski	10/2	Charles Crankshaw	10/18
Evelyn Ullrich	10/3	Mike Manning	10/18
Oaklie Zdrojewski	10/4	Alyssa Hong	10/19
Sean Menzies	10/5	Zachary Mayer	10/19
Merv Moore	10/6	Brian Urbanski	10/20
Connor Merlihan	10/7	Andrea Goubksi	10/21
Brooklyn Gerstung	10/9	James Olson	10/21
Alexa Yard	10/11	Diane McMullen	10/22
Kenneth Reid	10/11	Larry King	10/22
Mary McVee	10/11	Darryl Steinman	10/24
Barb Tiffany	10/13	Jean Delamere	10/24
Sheryl Kutis	10/14	Michael Utz	10/25
Allison Goehle	10/15	Joel May	10/27
Rick Bosch	10/16	Paulette Allen	10/30
Victoria Utz	10/16	Gail Drahms	10/31
Sarah Reid	10/17	Ken Figel	10/31



STAFF

Rev. Dr. Scott D. Hannon, *Pastor* | Rev. Charlie Greene, *Visitation Pastor*
Cindy Lin, *Traditional Music Leader* | Elena Erokhina, *Contemporary Music Leader*
Sara Accardi, *Administrative Assistant* | Jared Bulinski, *Sexton*



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