

# THE VOICE

## *St. John is called by Christ to be a Sanctuary That Welcomes and Serves All*

Pastor Mark's Reflection

October 2022

When called to St. John a few years ago, I talked about the need for our church to be welcoming. There are a variety of ways to explore the meaning of the term, from facilities, to mission programs, worship service and the like and while all of this is useful what is most important is you. Or how do you/we, I become an open expression of God's love for others?

Without this basic understanding, everything else will fall short and become a distraction to how we fulfill our larger mission. Which in the end, rests on our willingness and ability, to share the love of Christ with ourselves and others. So, what we are invited to do, is to see ourselves as disciples of Christ and let that realization guide our actions. You see, Jesus teaches us how to build community through the power of peace/shalom.

It is in this power that we can receive and share and it is this power that allows us to fulfill the mission of the church. And it is the mission of the church that must come first in all things we do. Currently, our mission statement is, "We are called by Christ to be a sanctuary that welcomes and serves all." Our board and leadership team has had discussions on this statement and may at some point offer a modification.

With that said the value of the statement will be carried forward and currently we/you or I are called to be this sanctuary. To be welcoming and responsive to those we meet inside and outside of the church.

In order to share the peace, we must first and foremost focus on our own spiritual development and growth. Jesus makes it clear in Matthew 7 that we are not to judge others, until we fully examine ourselves and pray for change. Without this very change, our vision will be clouded making it very difficult to build a community.

So, let's look at three dimensions of the peace that we can begin to focus on here at St. John that provides a pathway to the building of community;

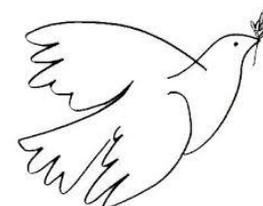
1. Mercy: things will never be perfect within our efforts to become the church. First off, I make mistakes leading worship regularly! Your willingness to not judge too harshly or better yet to laugh it off gives me the ability to keep trying. I pray that you don't focus on those mistakes but rather grow from the Spirit that is in our midst. Sometimes the facilities are not as tidy as we might like. The Spirit of mercy will allow us to pick things up without fanfare. The point in all of this is to not become overwhelmed by imperfections while at the same time seeking improvements. I could go on with many more examples but the way to deal with imperfections must be to first thank God for the community in which we serve and to treat each other with care recognizing that everyone is trying to do their best.

2. Compassion: the reality is that every one of us carries burdens. Much of the time we do not know what those burdens are but how we receive each other can make a major difference in the quality of life for everyone in our midst. In compassion, we attempt to focus on the other and meet them where they are. An active interest and active listening adds to our community. What is most important is that we celebrate who we are versus what we do. Remember, we are beloved and certainly what we do and how we do it can be a wonderful reflection of God's love for us. Know that the love we share should not be with conditions.
3. Forgiveness: Jesus makes it abundantly clear that we are to live a life of forgiveness. This is a matter of the heart. It is our heart that must always

be willing to forgive without judgment. The only person we can control is ourselves. If we hold on to anger and negative thoughts about others it will impact our ability to be community. All of this is easier said than done but it should be what we always strive to do.

Finally, when building community, we should never let our expertise or function override the peace. I have seen times when expertise is not harnessed properly it can create controlling actions that are counter to the building of community. Remember in all things it is God's way not our way that is most important. When we put God, first we can never go wrong!

Peace,  
Pastor Mark



### COFFEE HOUR HOST/ HOSTESS NEEDED

**Coffee Hour** is back, and we would like to have more volunteers to host. If you are interested but don't

want to host alone, perhaps you could ask a friend to help you.

We will show you where the supplies are kept and how to set up and clean up. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry or need more information, Please call Joanne Hagen at 248-474-8521.

### USHERS AND GREETERS

Needed for Sunday Services and any Special Services please contact for greeters [Keven Blaker](mailto:kblaker@att.net) kblaker@att.net

Church Office for ushers om@stjohn-elca.org 248-474-0584

Training will be provided!



# *Pathways in Compassion*

A nursing home  
visitation  
ministry

Through our baptisms we are made  
new to share God's love with others.

Want to be a friend?  
Want to make someone smile?  
Want to hold someone's hands?  
Say "hello" and share a prayer with  
those in our community who rarely  
or never receive visitors.

Volunteer to be a friend today!

## *Volunteer Training*

Monday, October 24  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
In the MPR at St. John

## Fundamentally Sacred – Shelter

In the second week of the Wilderness Survival class I'm teaching at Renaissance, we learned about the "Rule of 3s." These rules help to prioritize needs, especially in survival situations. The rules state that we can survive 3 minutes without air, 3 hours without shelter, 3 days without water, and 3 weeks without food. Going over these rules with my first class, I realized that the items covered in the Rule of 3's are the same FSAW that I learned about in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Just as I was stumped when my teacher told me that shelter is essential to life, my students were equally stumped, especially about how just a mere three hours without could mean death. Surely most all of us have spent 3 hours outside and survived.

Shelter as essential for life could be viewed in a few different ways. When it comes to matters of life and death, shelter is necessary if we are to survive in extreme heat, or in the cold. It is possible to suffer hypothermia at temperatures in the 60's if we are not properly outfitted (clothes are part of our means of shelter). Heat stroke, heat exhaustion, hypothermia – all are maladies that are a result of improper shelter and can result in death in just a matter of hours. These are some of the more extreme dangers associated with a lack of shelter, but certainly not exhaustive.

In my class, our focus is generally on outdoor adventures gone awry, but there are plenty in our community facing housing issues. These individuals and families struggle in ways that are difficult for many of us to comprehend. A common way I have seen this illustrated is in comments about how people at intersections asking for money should go get a job at McDonald's. Ah yes, if only things were that simple. But how does one get a job when they have nowhere to take a shower? Even so, is that McDonald's paycheck going to afford someone a place to live?

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, "In 2022, a full-time worker needs to earn an hourly wage of \$25.82 on average to afford a modest, two-bedroom rental home in the U.S. This Housing Wage for a two-bedroom home is \$18.57 higher than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. In 11 states and the District of Columbia, the two-bedroom Housing Wage is more than \$25.00 per hour. A full-time worker needs to earn an hourly wage of \$21.25 on average in order to afford a modest one-bedroom rental home in the U.S...In no state can a person working full-time at the prevailing federal, state, or county minimum wage afford a two-bedroom apartment at the [Fair Market Rate,] FMR.

In only 274 counties out of more than 3,000 nationwide can a full-time worker earning the minimum wage afford a one-bedroom rental home at the FMR.

In most areas of the U.S., a family of four with poverty-level income can afford a monthly rent of no more than \$694 and many cannot even afford that. An individual relying on SSI in most parts of the country can only afford a rent of \$252 per month. The national average fair market rent for a one-bedroom home is \$1,105 per month and \$1,342 for a two-bedroom home, far from affordable for a family in poverty or a person relying on federal assistance.”

Besides keeping us safe from the elements, and therefore alive, adequate housing allows us greater opportunities to take part in our society. Adequate housing means we have a place to store things – like a winter coat that isn’t needed in the summer. Stable housing means kids who don’t have to regularly change schools because their address changes when the lease ends or an eviction comes. As of June, 2022, over 60% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. What happens when some disaster, big or small, comes along?

There are many organizations in Oakland County that address housing needs in various ways. Below is a non-exhaustive list, with a few highlighted.

### **Street Democracy**

(<https://www.streetdemocracy.org/>)

I just learned about this organization while researching this piece. Their focus is on legal representation for those facing homelessness – this is a huge need that not many organizations address. They also do advocacy work to help build more just systems.

### **Haven (<https://www.haven-oakland.org/>)**

Haven serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Programs include emergency shelter exclusively for the population they serve and their children.

### **Samaritas (<https://www.samaritas.org/>)**

Since 1934, this organization rooted in the Lutheran faith, has been focused on providing social services to those in need. Today they are a leader in refugee resettlement, offer senior care services, as well as housing solutions for people with developmental disabilities and those facing housing insecurity.

Other organizations include: Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County, Hope Shelter, Alliance for Housing, Lighthouse Oakland County, Community Housing Network.

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## **Pasties Saturday, October 22**

Due to a staffing shortage, the date was changed for pasties baking and sales.



If you placed orders for October 1, **please confirm that you will still want them** for October 22. Contact Donna Bosanko [tbosanko1@hotmail.com](mailto:tbosanko1@hotmail.com)

## Expressly Designed Connections

The connections between different elements in our natural world are so wondrous and phenomenal that the details of some sound like pure science fiction. The orchid, native to Mexico that is pollinated by only one type of bee. This relationship is responsible for providing us with vanilla. All vanilla sourced from places outside this bee's habitat, like Madagascar, are pollinated by human hands. Each of these vanilla beans represents a single vanilla flower, open just a few hours for just one day, sliced apart so that we may do the job of the insect that was expressly designed for this purpose.

The fig, on the other hand, is not capable of being pollinated by human hands. Inside every fig is, or was, a fig wasp – the one insect that pollinates this plant. Wilder still, the fig isn't so much a fruit as it is an incredibly remarkable cluster of inverted flowers. Each individual seed in a fig is inside an individual fruit, held together in the bulb that protects them and the flowers. The fig wasp crawls into the fig at the bottom, but the opening is too tight, pulling the wings from the insect. Once inside, there it remains. The wasp moves around the many flowers to pollinate the plant, and eventually dies inside. The plant then consumes its body.

Perhaps my favorite relationship I have learned of is that between the mycelium and the plants that inhabit the earth. This network of fungus connects the trees, grasses, vegetables, and flowers in an underground system that has been dubbed the "wood wide web." This system helps living things communicate and aids in the

distribution of nutrients. Signals can be sent from tree to tree through this network. Scientists have discovered this mycelium can warn of coming dangers, like a disease or pest spreading through a tree population, so that they might shore up nutrients and other defenses.

The list of relationships between different species and kingdoms is extensive. It includes things like the yucca and the yucca moth, black swallowtail butterflies and plants of the apiaceae family, including dill, parsley, carrots, and Queen Anne's lace. God's Garden at St. John, on last observation, has provided habitat to at least 6 black swallowtail butterfly caterpillars (also called parsley worms). In time, we may even have a yucca moth to help with pollination of the yucca plants found in the small beds at the front of the church, flanking the cross.

Recently I discovered another relationship that St. John was able to foster. For various reasons, this season at God's Garden hasn't been our most noteworthy in terms of produce yield. Portions of the garden beds were left to mother nature to fill. The gifts that she gave us include the delightfully bright wood sorrel. It is tasty, sweet, citrusy, with a bit of a pucker, perhaps leading to the name for it that Laverne Pearson shared with me, sour grass. We got sweet little daisies and wild geranium. Growing up among the offerings that others might deem "weeds" was a plant I couldn't place. Initially, I thought perhaps it was goldenrod, but it started to branch out at the top and prepare to flower much earlier than goldenrod does. The same week I identified it as a plant called "horseweed" was the same week

that the monarch butterfly was added to the endangered species list. This timing was notable, as I learned that horseweed is a host plant for the monarch. We let it grow, and since I have personally been graced with at least 4 sightings of the endangered monarch butterflies on the church grounds.

A student in my Wilderness Survival class, during an activity where we were instructed to go outside and observe, asked me if a stand of plants along the back drive were

weeds. I told him that that's a matter of perspective. Are they weeds, or are they part of our biodiversity? Are they weeds, or are they a food source to some insect or bird, some other member of the web of life on which we rely? Sometimes all it takes is the name, and maybe a little bit of information, to shift our perspective and see what we once thought of as undesirable in a new light.

Ashleigh Altemann Dir. Of Mission Advancement



Five caterpillars enjoying the dill in God's Garden.



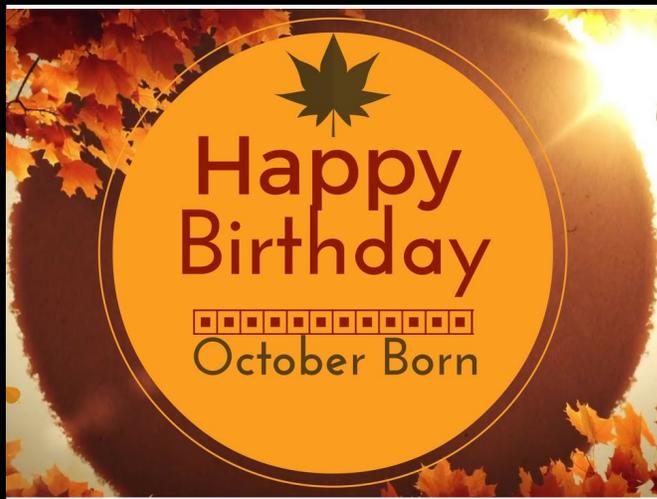
Admittedly, not a great picture. The monarch seems to be more skittish than the swallowtail that does a nice job hanging around for a picture. It stopped for a moment on the marigold before fluttering around the garden some more.



Two caterpillars for the black swallowtail butterfly. They begin life very small. I usually first spot them on my plants a little less than 1/2" long. They grow to be about 2" long.



The black swallowtail butterfly. This is the female butterfly. The male butterflies have more yellow in their wings.



10/3 Karla Halvangis  
 10/4 Al Leszcznski  
 Walter Lunski  
 10/5 David Androvich  
 10/8 Doug McDowell  
 10/9 Matthew Dresden  
 Barbara Fox  
 Marilyn Kurmas  
 Elijah Pavlovich  
 10/10 Julie Rowe  
 10/11 Cheryl Chorazewitz

10/11 Gavin Pardonnet  
 10/12 Josiah Pavlovich  
 10/13 Emma Boczkaja  
 10/13 Wayne Raylean  
 10/14 Donna Switzer  
 10/15 Tiep Nguyen  
 Ryan Stanek  
 10/16 Marisa Sailus  
 10/17 Olivia Stenson  
 10/18 Jacob Christopherson  
 10/20 Karen Brosch  
 10/21 Beverly Gerhard  
 10/24 Jessica Budgery  
 10/25 Penny Brugman  
 10/26 Nathan Pellerito  
 10/27 Evan Budgery  
 10/29 Beverly Androvich  
 10/31 Cindi Sailus



One of the stained glass windows in narthex

Your help is needed!!  
 It has always been the plan to have a fourth stained glass window made to complete the set in the Narthex.

Unfortunately the people that designed and made the windows we have are no longer with us. I have exhausted all the leads I have to find someone to make the last window.

Please if you have any resources that could help with this contact Tom Bosanko.

Thank you  
 Tom B.

## Dear members and friends of St. John Lutheran Church Farmington Hills,

Please be advised that the monthly fellowship 🍷, faith ✝️, and food 🍲 happening, known as Wednesday Night Where, continues. We will be gathering the fourth Wednesday of every month to share food and conversation together as we explore matters of faith and spirituality.

As temperatures chill ❄️ and we see the sun ☀️ for fewer hours of the day, our parking 🚗 lot party moves inside to the MPR.

**Join us this month,  
Wednesday, October 26th at  
7:00 pm.**

Bring a friend 🤝 and some food 🍷 (or not, there's always plenty to go around)! Hope to see you there! 🙏

## But wait, there's more!

**Wednesday Nights Wherever - on Zoom - returns the second week of the month. 😊**

Get to a comfortable place 🏠 with an internet connection 🌐 and hop on Zoom for discussions of faith 🙏 in action. We'll reflect on the needs in our immediate and global 🌍 community and focus on ways we can help 🤝 make a difference.

**Join us this month,  
Wednesday, October 12th at  
7:00 pm.**

Find the Zoom link on the St. John website or in the enews. 📧

## Sunday School

During service!  
no need to arrive early,  
no need to stay late!

Young people will begin service with the congregation. Before the scripture readings, Sunday schoolers will be invited to leave the sanctuary for their own special lesson, returning to the sanctuary before communion.

**Can't join us?  
copies of lessons  
available upon  
request**

**Interested in  
helping with the  
Sunday School  
ministry at St  
John?**

Contact Ashleigh Altermann @  
ms.fancyfood@gmail.com

## FALL SCHEDULE

**October 9**  
Comfort to others

**October 23**  
Practicing Humility

**November 13**  
Who or What is God?

**November 27**  
Experiencing God as Light

**December 11**  
A Teacher of the Way—Who Was Jesus



**Members:**

Keven Blaker	Chris Janik
Shirley Niesyto	Diana Canup
Ron Fischer	Ward Varns
Fran Copp	Dick Rudorffer
Larry Urevig	Ellen Zatokin
Gene Kohli	Delores Winquist
Toni Lewis	Carol Sterling
Diane Stanton	Eunice Gould
Lois Makee	Eva Paulson
Earl Hagen	Tammy Kilpatrick
Mary Galloway	Lillian Niemi
Marlou Grudt	Jodi Oulette

**Family and Friends**

Leeanne Stenson	Linda Steusloff
Greg Santavy (Hoffman)	Kyle Soderlund
Ken Sandberg (Lunski)	Val Blanchett (Fisher)
Karen & Roy Juntunen	Marshall & Jessie Anderson (Bosanko)
Barbara Trager, (Stear)	Jaden Henkel
Brent Canup Jr.	Barry Shiek (Henkel)
Brent Canup Sr.	Courtney Dimiceli (Wiessbock)
Pat Holland	Virginia Kincaide (Kincaide)
George Austin	Cheryl Cottongin
Jim Frattini	Mardee Thomas (Galloway)
Susan Pearlman (Craig)	Rosalind McLendan (Dale)
Val Burkhardt	Mary Rellinger (Switzer)
Bob Niesyto	Carol Collins (Hagen)
Kristin Stoneback	Jeffrey Wetzel (Merrell)
Jane Borsvold (Sailus)	
Erin Cameron	
Patty & Pete Herman (Brundage)	



**PRAY**  
FOR OUR MILITARY

**Serving in the  
Military including  
overseas:**

- Michael Jamieson (Nader)
- Collin Doolan (Fisher)

*Please send prayer list updates to the church office at [om@stjohn-elca.org](mailto:om@stjohn-elca.org).*

*Many Thanks to Pat Gransee for sending out cards to the people on our prayer concerns list. If you have someone on the list to whom you would like a card sent, contact the office. Thank you!*



The Flower Chart is now located in the office area. If you would like to order flowers you may sign in there or you may send an email or call in your request to the office.

The request should show the date and designation (what you would like to say in the bulletin) for flower order. Or you could complete an envelope with all information and turn in with your payment to the office by placing in the offering trays. The cost of the flowers is \$35.00.

# OCTOBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30am—3:30pm 248-474-0584						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>10a Worship</b> <b>11a Coffee Hour</b> 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	<b>10a Quilters</b> 6:30p HHAV	8a Renaissance Academy 6p WAZA TC	8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	<b>8a Men's Breakfast</b> 8a Renaissance Academy <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>10a Worship &amp; Sunday School</b> <b>11a Coffee Hour</b> 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	<b>10a LWR kits assemble and pack</b> 6:30p HHAV	8a Renaissance Academy <b>1p Prayer Shawl Ministry</b> <b>6p Leadership Team</b> 6p WAZA TC	8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church 7p WNW (Zoom)	<b>8a Men's Breakfast</b> 8a Renaissance Academy <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	MPR Event
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>10a Worship and Baptism</b> <b>11a Coffee Hour</b> 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	<b>10a Quilters</b> <b>5p First Communion Class</b> 6:30p HHAV	8a Renaissance Academy 6p WAZA TC	8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	<b>8a Men's Breakfast</b> 8a Renaissance Academy <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	7a Pasty Making 7p MPR Event
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>10a Worship &amp; Sunday School</b> <b>11a Coffee Hour</b> 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	<b>10a Quilters</b> <b>10:30a Pathways to Compassion</b> 6:30p HHAV	8a Renaissance Academy <b>1p Prayer Shawl Ministry</b> <b>7p Pastoral Support Committee meeting</b>	8a Renaissance Academy <b>7p Wednesday Nights Wherever</b> 7p Succoth Church	<b>8a Men's Breakfast</b> 8a Renaissance Academy <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	11a RA Fall Festival 5p RA Fall Dance
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	For most to date calendar information see online calendar at <a href="http://www.stjohn-elca.org/calendar">http://www.stjohn-elca.org/calendar</a> Calendar key: RA = Renaissance Academy      WNW = Wednesday Nights Wherever HHAV =Hearts, Hands, and Voices      BAC= Bethlehem Activity Center Bold Print= St John activities				
<b>10a Worship</b> <b>11a Coffee Hour</b> 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	<b>10a Quilters</b> 6:30p HHAV					



**ST. JOHN**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



23225 Gill Road  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
248-474-0584 om@stjohn-elca.org  
www.stjohn-elca.org



**STAFF**

Pastor  
Office Manager  
Director of Mission Advancement  
Director of Music

**Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher**  
**Marie Cook**  
**Ashleigh Altemann**  
**Open**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**John Dresden**

**Mark Switzer**

**Gilda Bingham**

**Tom Bosanko**

**Nancy Janik**

**Glenn Ming**

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Worship and Music  
Spiritual Development and Outreach  
Mission Advancement  
Member Care  
Young Families and Children  
Stewardship Of Resources  
Communications

**Janet Henkel**  
**Kevin O'Brien**  
**Ashleigh Altemann**  
**Kris O'Brien**  
**Karen Boczkaja**  
**Dave Androvich**  
**Elaine Pearson**

The Staff at St. John is here to serve you. If you have questions or concerns, please give us a call; we will be happy to talk to you.

**This issue was mailed on 10-6-2022**

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And / or Current resident

Non-Profit Org.  
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