

THE VOICE

St John Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

Spring 2023

Pastor Marks' Reflection

As you know by now, I am pretty focused on understanding how we can share The Peace with ourselves, others and the world. Lately I have been wondering about these matters not as much from a voluntary perspective but rather recognizing we have a responsibility to be God's hands and feet.

Certainly, this adjustment elevates the importance of our role and gets us somewhat closer to "picking up our crosses" to follow Jesus. Part of The Peace it would seem is based on how we relate to humanity as well as the planet. I trust you would agree that both of these aspects are part of God's creation.

Further, I can imagine that you would agree that our faith changes its application as the world changes. Things are a bit different today then they were in Jesus' day and to be present in the evolution of the world we need to become educated, aware and involved.

Is it too presumptuous of me to say that we are co-creators with God in helping make the world better for all? I think not. Any way over the past bit of time we have been building our mission with a focus on compassion to those who are left behind in society. This is and will be core to who and what we will become.

With that said I have been studying a book called "Theology for a Nuclear Age" by Gordon Kaufman. Many years ago, this work was one of the references in my doctoral dissertation. I wandered back into a re-read and find it at least as relevant today. Before I mention some highlighted thoughts from Kaufman, please keep in mind that I believe as did Luther that everything in life is an opportunity to share God's peace. Further, the responsibility for how things unfold is in our hands. God gave us free will to make decisions about everything.

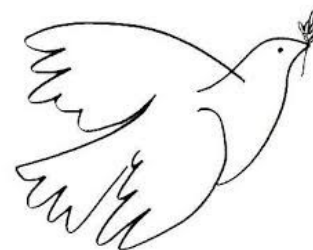
So, in the nuclear age of which we live, according to Kaufman (which I agree) there are three areas of concern that need to be addressed by the church and all people of faith;

- 1) First off, we are in a world that can end through nuclear war. How we establish relationships on all levels will be critical if this result is to be avoided. The principles of shalom (compassion, mercy, justice, forgiveness and grace) can be applied always to the construction and continuation of relationships. To a great extent this issue functionally is in the hands of governments and politicians. Life is well beyond winning economic advantages over the other. We can never be divorced from these issues if we are agents of the great peace.

Pastors reflection continued next page

- 2) Secondly it would seem that our environment is in peril. This is a bit of a political football for all people however, we would be wise to take this issue seriously. I say this coming from the perspective of us being co-creators with God. Rather than fight about particulars hopefully we can resolve to admit there is a problem and think about how we can individually and collectively make a difference.
- 3) Finally, gun violence is at an all time high. Our elected leaders have done a masterful job of kicking this can down the road. I wonder if we can agree that mental health and certain weapons have helped create this position. I know that part of this debate is underscored by American individualism but now more than ever our police force, schools and places of work and play are at greater risk.

Each of these areas of concern within this Nuclear Age create more potential death, destruction, anxiety. So, I bring this up to invite us to think constructively about these developments in our world and assume some responsibility as agents of The Peace to become educated, prayerful and active in helping reduce the perils associated from the above.



Pastor Mark

Mark your calendars for a concert of uplifting and beautiful music at Holy Cross in Livonia on May 21!

The Boychoir of Ann Arbor will present their spring concert, Sing Strong, at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary. Admission is free. An offering will be collected.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
30650 6 Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48152



On Saturday, April 15, 2023, SAI's Detroit Alumnae Chapter hosted Alpha A Province Day. It took place within a superb venue of open spaces, equipped with tuned baby grand piano and sets of hand bells & hand chimes, all within St. John Lutheran Church of Farmington Hills, Michigan.



~written by Dorothy Duensing-Sannar,
Detroit Alumnae Chapter's Vice President, Program, College Chapters' "Liaison" and Co-Chair for Alpha A Province Day
April 15, 2023

Fundamentally Sacred - Food

This morning, I leisurely made my way out of bed, downstairs, and into the kitchen for my second serving of coffee for the day. It is spring break for the homeschool, and I was mildly basking in the luxury of having a less demanding schedule to keep. There, on the cutting board, was my half of the espresso that Evan had made, along with a little surprise. Half of a sweet bun – the last of the treats I had promised Evan for accompanying me to the Justice Summit at St. John over the weekend. I felt like a gleeful child as I took a bite of the now slightly stale pastry before I started to prepare the milk for my coffee.

Later, for lunch, I'm sitting across from my grandma at the coney place not far from my house, a favorite of many folks for their attention to detail in toasting the hot dog buns. A basket of onion rings and hot dogs drenched in sauce sit between us. It's not good food, but it's good food. Another treat as a sort of consolation for her troubles over the past two days. Yesterday, she had, unknowingly, dropped her phone in the toilet. I had come by for a visit and to drop off the muffins I picked up from Costco for her. Rather than a relaxing visit, I looked in every conceivable nook and cranny for her phone, hopeful that perhaps she was just having difficulty seeing it. When I used her bathroom and the toilet appeared to be clogged, the situation became more clear.

So today, as the maintenance crew worked to free the communication device from its unfortunate locale and get the toilet back into place, I took grandma to the store to get a new phone, then out for a little bit of comfort food.

When I used to do some caretaking for my

grandma, we would have coneys for lunch every couple weeks. Of all the things we ate together, it was the meal that she always seemed most satisfied with. The frozen pizzas we would share varied greatly in quality. The Chinese food often seemed to be a little off the mark for her, with too much celery or too few cashews. Sometimes she would get coupons in the mail and we'd head to some novel fast food joint to see what a burger from Checkers was like, to mixed reviews. But coney day was always a good day. No complaints on coney day.

As we enjoyed our lunch of questionable nutritional value, grandma seemed finally at ease. She paid the bill, her treat for helping her get a new phone. She told me about how she used to pay 10 or 15 cents for a coney. I asked her when that was. She said, "when I was a girl, the 40's." She would walk a block or so from her home, up Pontiac's Saginaw St. to Walt's, before it moved out of the city, and buy coneys by the bag. It sounded like a nice memory.

At its most basic level, food is fuel for our bodies. We need it to live. As a necessity for life, food, along with our other needs, is sacred. Balanced nutrition keeps our bodies healthy. Vitamin A protects our eyes, vitamin C wards off scurvy, vitamin K helps our blood clot and heal wounds. Food is also sacred in the way it connects us. Neither of these meals offered me the best in terms of diet, but I did enjoy a certain nourishment for my soul. Half of a bun, waiting on the cutting board for me with my coffee felt like a little love letter, as Evan, who had since left for work, chose to share the last of his gift with me. The coney with grandma brought me, and her, comfort. It was good to see grandma relax a bit, and it

Turn page

was nice to visit a place my mom would take me to, long before I lived around the corner from it.

In my days of doing grandma's laundry and taking her grocery shopping, the meals we ate together often weren't what I would have chosen as part of my regular diet, but I quickly learned that those meals were more about the time we spent together than the quality of food we were eating.

We all have a relationship with food. We all have likes and dislikes. Food is part of our culture. We often have traditions that revolve around or are tied to food. This relationship changes greatly for those who struggle with food insecurity. Likes and dislikes, culture and tradition take a back seat to the most practical concerns of nourishment. Despite our wealth of resources in this country, there are still many who are living in food insecure households. According to the USDA, roughly 34 million people, or 10% of households in the US faced food insecurity in 2021 (the most recent year with data published). Of that 34 million, 9 million are children.

Globally, 828 million people do not know where their next meal is coming from, and 3.1 billion can not afford a healthy diet. These numbers, from the 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report from the United Nations, show a rise in issues of hunger worldwide.

Many of us know the discomfort we experience when our schedule goes awry and we miss a meal. We feel the pang in our stomach, maybe some lightheadedness. We may have difficulty focusing. The luxury I experienced today wasn't just that I could sleep in a bit later and move a bit slower. Compared to many, I find myself swimming in luxuries. I chose the stale bun over

a number of other, more nutritious, options available to me this morning. When I came home from grandma's and found myself hungry, likely due to the gaps in nutrition of the day's diet, I helped myself to an orange and some broccoli. My hunger is fleeting, my choices are many. Yet down the street, my neighbor struggles.

Thanks to the March 1st cut off of additional SNAP benefits (the modern day equivalent to food stamps), millions in the United States are now dealing with a substantial cut to their food budgets. The Urban Institute found that the increased SNAP benefits helped 4.2 million stay above the poverty line which lowered total poverty by 10% and child poverty specifically by 14%. Michigan, who, along with 31 other states, ended the additional SNAP benefits this past month, can look to those states that ended these benefits much earlier for an indication of the entirely predictable effect of this. States like Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Georgia saw a sharp increase in demand at food banks when they cut benefits.

We have a ways yet to go, when it comes to issues of food security, both in this country and globally. Unfortunately, as the UN says, we are moving in the wrong direction. on the next page are some organizations and opportunities to get involved to address the needs and help move us in the right direction.

Read the UN's report brief for The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World:

<https://www.fao.org/3/cc0640en/cc0640en.pdf>

The Farmington Area CROP Hunger Walk:

The CROP Hunger Walk raises funds to address issues of hunger, poverty, and disaster response both globally and locally. 25% of funds raised stay in the local community. There are three simple ways to support the CROP Walk.

- 1) Donate to the St. John Team. You can do that at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/st-john-lutheran-farmington-hills-mi>
- 2) Talk to your friends, families, acquaintances, whoever might listen. Encourage them to Donate as well.
- 3) Join the St. John team of walkers. Use the same link above. Scroll down to the Team Members section and click the “Join The Team” button.

This year’s Crop walk is Sunday May 6.

Sharing is Caring – The C.A.R.E.S. Shelf

C.A.R.E.S. is a food pantry (and more!) serving the Farmington area. Help support the work they do by adding some additional, non-perishable items to your grocery basket and bringing them in to St. John. You’ll find shelves for the donations on the wall with the coat racks, over by the coffee hour area.

God’s Garden at St. John

The God’s Garden ministry focuses on care for others - by growing produce to share with local organizations addressing food security, care for creation - by utilizing and teaching growing practices that sustain and support life rather than harm, and care for self - by exploring and promoting the therapeutic benefits of gardening. Check out the announcement in this issue of the Voice for how you can help support our home-grown food ministry.

Growing Pontiac – www.growingpontiac.org

Our mission is to empower our neighbors to grow food in and for our community. Our vision is to build a just food system that honors the land and provides abundant access to fresh food for all.

We believe that all people deserve food choices that offer nutrition and delight, joy and good memories.

We work for a food system that integrates food sovereignty and self determination at the neighborhood level, where people who are historically excluded from control over their lives and well-being are empowered to garden. Our strategic focus is supporting home and community gardens materially through essential garden supplies (seeds, transplants, soil, raised bed materials), classes and networks of social support. We believe in the power of gardens to transform our neighborhoods and food values.

The Garden Resource Network (GRN) is a garden support system for its members, providing them with seedlings and seeds, compost and other materials, as well as classes and social opportunities. Members pay a small annual fee of \$15 or can receive a no-questions-asked scholarship.

Other organizations with similar programs serving other parts of the metro Detroit area include Yad Ezra (www.yadezra.org) in Berkley who runs the Giving Gardens program, which provides support for God’s Garden at St. John, and Keep Growing Detroit (www.detroitagriculture.net) that runs the Garden Resource Program, supporting food growers within city limits.

“It starts with attacks on the press,” Irene Miller told the people assembled in the sanctuary of St. John. After attacking the press come the book bans and identification of the group or groups of people to blame for society’s woes. She had come to St. John to share about her life – a life in which she has held many titles. She was Director of Mental Health at Detroit Osteopathic Hospital. She was a public-school teacher in Israel. She is a docent at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and a court mediator. One title she has carried most of her life, though not always publicly, is holocaust survivor. On the last Saturday of April, it was this story that we had gathered to hear.

Irene’s life started in Poland in 1932. At 7 she, and her family, jumped from the second story window to make their way to the safety of a bomb shelter. Germany had invaded Poland. Bombs were falling through roofs. Her family moved from their top floor apartment to the second-floor apartment of some friends, so that night, when the bomb hit their building, they survived.

The book Irene wrote about her experiences, “Into No Man’s Land,” follows her family’s journey east, towards Russia, into Siberia, Uzbekistan, and orphanages. In her presentation, she told us of her cold winter in the field, the frostbite she suffered on her feet, journeys in cattle cars, sickness, and death. Of all the horrors she endured, she told us the worst part was the hunger. She described the way hunger permeated her existence through the years of the holocaust. She shared that her experience has led her to be especially concerned with addressing hunger. She knows what life without adequate food is like, and she does not want others to experience the same.

After telling her life’s journey, her focus shifted to why she shares her story. She warned us of the way totalitarianism takes hold of a country. Hitler, she reminded us, was democratically elected. “It doesn’t start with concentration camps and gas chambers,” Irene told us. She detailed the steps - attacks on the press, book bans, identification of the problem people – while at least some in the audience saw the parallels to today’s social climate. In the Q&A portion, when asked her thoughts on our current situation, she said that given her position as a public speaker, she wouldn’t comment on politics, but that she was worried. She explained how important efforts to support diversity and inclusion are. She stressed the role we all play in tolerating acts of intolerance or taking a stand against them.

Listening to the story of one of the darkest times in recent history might not sound like the most pleasant way to spend a springtime Saturday afternoon. But if we are to hold true to “never again,” then we need to hear these stories, to learn how it happened, so that we can recognize it and do what we can to stop it.

Special thanks to Loraine Steer for organizing this event, Phyllis and Glenn Ming for help with setup, Elaine Pearson for tech support, and Allan Charlton for filling in as emcee.

“Silence in the face of injustice is complicity with the oppressor.” – Ginetta Sagan



🌱 God's Garden wants you...🌱

Help with Planting!

Monday
May 15th
2:00 pm

Join us God's Garden to plant all the babies we'll be picking up as part of our membership in Yad Ezra's Giving Garden's Club.

The 2023 growing season is gearing up and there are so many ways you can help!

Please fill out this participation survey so we know who to talk to for each step along the way.

It does not matter your age or ability, there are opportunities for you. God's Garden offers a number of table top height raised beds for increased accessibility, with two positioned along paved walkways for more sturdy footing. We also have a number of specialty garden tools to accommodate gardeners of different ages and abilities, including some quality kids tools! And if there's a tool we don't have that would make it easier for you to get involved, let us know! Plus, not all garden help happens in the garden. Volunteers can start seeds, plan plantings, make plant markers, deliver produce, recruit volunteers, and more!

If you have questions or comments please contact Ashleigh Altemann at gardenstjohn@gmail.com, 248-227-2918 (call or text, but please leave a message).

God's Garden Participation Survey

Please drop completed forms in the flower pot in the narthex, or at the church office.

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred method(s) of contact:

___ Email ___ Text ___ Phone call

Options for volunteer involvement:

- ___ Sponsor projects/materials
- ___ Garden planning
- ___ Activity/program planning
- ___ Labor (planting/harvesting/weeding/etc.)
- ___ Seed starting
- ___ Tool lending
- ___ Watering
- ___ Other: _____

Availability: _____

The logo for God's Garden, featuring a stylized green plant icon to the left of the text "God's Garden" in a simple, handwritten-style font.

June 19-23
9 am - 12 noon
Ages 4-16

Free

KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM

Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth

VBS 2023

Grab your trusty steed and get ready to put on the Armor of God and battle for truth at keepers of the kingdom! Huzzah!

Succoth Church



23225 Gill Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48335



(248) 719 4525

Register Here <https://succoth.church/contact-us/keepers-of-the-kingdom-ubs-2023/>



A garden and arts camp that explores the natural world, our place in it, and our call to care.

- Open to kids entering grades 1st - 6th in the fall. (7th grade+ welcome as helpers).
- Cost: \$25 for the first camper from a family. Each additional camper \$5! (Scholarships available)
- July 17-21 9 am - 12:30 pm
- Space is limited to 50 campers, so register soon.

For more information and to register visit www.stjohn-elca.org/cccamp



What is the **CREATE AND CARE** **CAMP**

??????????????

5 days of God, Garden, and Art!

Daily Themes:

Made from Earth

Created for Connection

Water of Life

Our Imprint

Harvest Time

Highlights include:

Lasagna gardening

Companion planting

Weaving

Play with clay

Pickling

Nature's paint

AND MORE!!

Mid-morning snack served.



July

17th - 21st,
9:00am - 12:30pm

←Registration



ANNOUNCING
hearts, hands and voices

**Summer Worship and Fine Arts Camp
Monday-Thursday, August 7-10, 2023**

9 a.m. – 3 p.m., St. John Lutheran Church

This year's camp experience is based on the theme,

Take It to the Lord in Prayer

with singing, ringing, drumming, moving, and playing experiences
focused on
"praying the psalms."



Please help us get the word out to young people regarding this exciting opportunity. Registration forms are available at www.heartshandsvoices.org.

For further registration information as well as opportunities for volunteering at the camp, contact Ellen Batkie at (248) 497-1451 or info@heartshandsvoices.org.

Thanks so much for your support of this exciting ministry!

Dr. Michael Burkhardt

hearts, hands and voices Founder and Artistic Director



OUR JOINT CHOIR

Joint Choir rehearsals have continued since Fall 2022. We have become more accustomed to our schedule with alternating rehearsals at Antioch and St. John.

I appreciate our office staff at both congregations who have helped to make it easier. Choir information is on the St. John website.

Our last joint rehearsal will be on Thursday, May 25th. The choir's final Sunday for the program year will be Pentecost Sunday (May 28th).

I would like to offer my appreciation to Ann Buland for her continued hard work and dedication. She has continued to work with us to lead worship at both churches. She and I regularly discuss how things are going and plan for success with our joint choir.

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS

Holy Week is one of the most important times in our church calendar. There are extra services that all require careful planning and preparation of music. This year, there was the added challenge of two organists working together in two different parishes.

I appreciate the cooperation which has been shown by both singers, staff and especially Pastor Mark at St. John and Pastoral Leader Amy at Antioch. The coordination of our guest instrumentalists - Daniel Winnick, violin; Timothy Michling, oboe; and Daniel Fendrick, bassoon - added to our scheduling and planning work. Fortunately for us these professional musicians worked efficiently and cooperatively. I am very thankful for the many gifts which their talent brought to our worship services.

I am so sad that Antioch will be closing soon with the final worship being held at Antioch on Sunday, June 4th at 12 noon. I am looking forward with hope and gratitude to my

work at St. John with all of you. I know it will be easier when there is only one choir and I'm only in one parish. I plan to re-start the handbell choir at St John very soon. I appreciate that everyone has been understanding of the demands of this temporary schedule and I would like to thank everyone for this.

RECITAL REFLECTIONS**Joanna Percy - Soprano**

On Sunday, March 5th, Joanna Percy and I offered a varied program of music for soprano, piano and organ. The represented composers included Leonard Bernstein, Florence Price, Clara Schuman and Antonio Vivaldi. Joanna Percy is a member of St. John is currently studying voice at Wheaton College in the Chicago area. She did a wonderful job and I know that we both look forward to working together again soon. Although the recital had been planned to be held at Antioch, we ended up at St. John due to a power outage. This was a last-minute change. Thankfully, people were flexible and our music continued that afternoon. I appreciate your support by attending the program.

Organ Recital - Four Organists at Antioch

Ann Buland, Stephen Warner, Tom Curry and I shared a Farewell Recital to the Skinner Organ at Antioch. With the sale of the building, the fate of the organ is uncertain. It was the last recital with that instrument in Antioch's worship space. The program included hymn singing, and solo organ works by Bach, Buxtehude, Robert Hobby and Fela Sowande.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Antioch final service on June 4th.

The SEMI Synod Justice Summit

March 25th brought the first ever Justice Summit of the SEMI Synod to St. John. Pastors, church leaders, and congregants came with open hearts and minds, ready to learn. The sanctuary was filled with plenty more people than we see on a typical Sunday, as we gathered for opening worship. After worship concluded, we were faced with a challenge – which workshops to attend.

For the first session, I made my way to the music room for a workshop on Ableism in the Church. Of all the topics offered, it was the one I had worked with the least. Purely by virtue of the work, issues of ableism have come up a bit in the horticultural therapy classes I've taken, but not as a specific area of focus.

The time allotted for the workshop was barely enough to scratch the surface, but I did come away with some startling statistics and food for thought.

25% of the US population is living with some sort of disability.

67% of the US population is uncomfortable talking to someone with a disability.

The disabled population in the US is the second largest segment of our overall population, behind baby boomers.

Rates of disability increase with age, so as baby boomers age, the disabled population is likely to be the largest segment of our population in the near future.

We tend to think of being without impairments as the standard, yet, as Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt pointed out, this is merely a temporary condition. It is likely that whether through accident, or illness, or age, some type of disability may befall each of us. Personally, I got a taste of this when I was hit by a car. I have watched as my grandma has lost many of the abilities she once had, most distressing for her is the progression of her glaucoma that has left her just shy of blind. A year or so ago, when I accompanied her to an eye doctor appointment, he told her that she had maybe 10% of her vision left. It has degraded even further since.

Besides the prevalence of disability in our population, I was surprised to learn of a shift in the language we use to talk about people with disabilities. Our presenter had very little interest in the euphemistic terms some use, like “differently abled.” That applies to everyone, she would contend. She also noted that the person first language that I had been taught (Sarah, who uses a wheelchair vs. wheelchair user, Sarah) may be falling out of vogue as people begin to claim their disability as an integral part of their identity. Currently, this seems to be most popular within the deaf and autistic community. The argument with this change is that person first language tries to separate people from their disability, which isn't something that is possible when it impacts how they experience the world. Of course, I should add, that how one prefers to be talked about is a personal choice and should be respected if someone tells you the language they would like you to use for them.

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This discussion led us into an activity looking at Lutheran hymns for questionable, ableist language. This too sparked good discussion as we considered alternative words for some of the well-loved songs, along with a few more obscure options. Phrases, such as “I want to walk with Jesus,” can be adapted to more inclusive language, such as “I want to live with Jesus.” Changes like this can feel inconsequential or silly, but they aren’t without impact, especially for those who aren’t able to literally walk with Jesus or perhaps are unable to see. “Open the Eyes of My Heart,” was another title we touched on. Most of us recognized the metaphor, and felt comfortable with it as eyes of the heart are something we all have, regardless of ability. But, as was pointed out, it may still be a metaphor with little meaning to someone born without sight. As I read through the lyrics, I started to hear the “I want to see you” refrain as a painful plea, thinking of my grandma who is struggling with her loss of sight. I know how desperately she does want to see.

Scratching the surface is what we did again in the second workshop I attended, this time focusing on food justice. Our presenter, Amy Kuras, program manager for the Detroit Food Policy Council, walked us through the many facets of our food systems and left us with many questions to think about as we interact with these systems on a personal level in our everyday life, and as we come together to work for more just systems for all of us. Using a tomato as our focus, we broke into groups and looked at the many steps the tomato takes to get from field to plate, what happens to the waste thereafter, and the many lives that play a role, from the migrant laborer who is only paid once at

the end of a season, giving rise to much opportunity for abuse, to minimum wage employee stocking the highly processed tomato product on the shelves of a local drugstore, to the local grower who has a direct relationship with their consumers. Every point in the chain leads us to questions of choice and access, fair pay, practices, and sustainability. Unfortunately, we didn’t have much time in the workshop to get past a simple introduction to our food systems and some of the food justice issues before we were released to take part in those systems as we broke for lunch, provided by Fed Up, the synod’s food truck ministry.

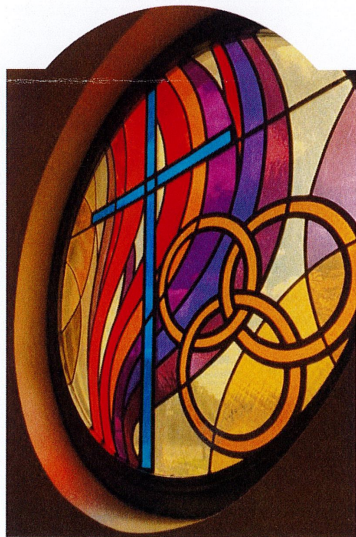
The summit ended with a panel discussion that touched on building relationships and working through fear and discomfort as we strive to bring more justice into our systems and world, followed by closing worship with communion. Pastor Lindsey Anderson led the Words of Institution recognizing the diversity of the body of Christ and welcoming us all, whatever our station, identity, or condition, into communion together. We were dismissed to “go in peace. Serve with love,” and I was warmed by the familiar and enthusiastic response from Pastor Dave (Hendricks), from the row behind me, his shout coaxing some more gumption from the voices of others. “Thanks! Be! To! God!”

A special thank you to the on-the-fly, St. John hospitality team for their support during this event: Dave Androvich, Marie Cook, Beth Fisher, Chris Janik, Kevin O’Brien, Elaine Pearson, and any others I missed.



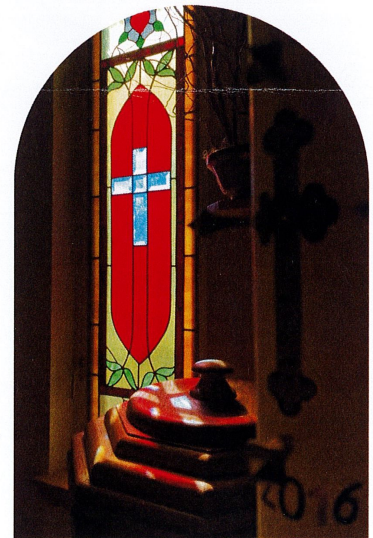
Please join us for a
Farewell Celebration
as Antioch's doors close

Sunday, June 4, 2023
Antioch's Final Service: Twelve Noon
Luncheon to follow



**Antioch Lutheran Church
33360 W 13 Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334**

**Kindly RSVP by May 23
by email to
hollyk0827@netscape.net or
call/text 770-639-1440**



God's work, our hands

Our Unity is in Christ



April

- 4/1 Doni Cavicchioli
- 4/3 Ruthann Atkinson
- 4/4 Jackson Kramer
- 4/6 Abby Budgery
- 4/7 Bill Davis
- 4/11 Lori Savanyu
Marguerite Schoen
- 4/16 Chris Janik
- 4/18 Betty Kohli
- 4/21 Fran Copp
- 4/22 Ryan Savanyu
- 4/23 Mark Fisher

- 4/24 Dianne Brundage
Oliver Vandercook
Jordan Ward
- 4/25 Patty Oates
- 4/26 Gary Monico
Sonja Stenson
- 4/27 Eugene Kohli
Tuyet Nguyen
- 4/29 Makaela Sailus

May

- 5/1 Lori Adkins
- 5/4 Laura Kincaide
- 5/5 Karen Boczkaja
Kristen Cianek
- 5/9 Toni Lewis
Nancy Schafer

- 5/9 Virginia Wiessbock
- 5/11 Barbara Dresden
- 5/12 Anthony Monico
- 5/14 Olivia Weller
- 5/15 Curt Lind Jr.
- 5/17 Hillary Vandercook
- 5/18 Grady Shipman
- 5/23 Diane Dupuis
- 5/24 Rodney Whitbeck
- 5/26 Craig Weller
- 5/30 Shirley George
Roland Johnson
- 5/31 Brian Budgery
Julie Ozar
Joseph Varns



Blood Drive

St. John Lutheran Church

23225 Gill Road
Farmington

**Monday, June 19, 2023
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, log onto RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code: stjohnlc) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Do good this summer! Come give in June for a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of your choice.



Be part of something big. Make an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Members

Karen Brosch

Denny Mahle

Dave Rowe

Fran Copp

Larry Urevig

Gene Kohli

Diane Stanton

Lois Makee

Earl Hagen

Mary Galloway

Marlou Grudt

Chris Janik

Diana Canup

Ward Varns

Ellen Zatolokin

Delores Winquist

Carol Sterling

Eunice Gould

Eva Paulson

Tammy Kilpatrick

Jodi Oulette

Friends and Family

Karen Call (Bosanko)

Bill Horton (Brugman)

Jean Nelson (Niesyto)

Steve Keller (Androvich)

Lisa Rubenstein,

Mary & Bill Burgin (Fisher)

Barbara Kaiser,

Greg Santavy,

Max Mccoll (Hoffman)

Colleen Davis (Henkel)

Jaden Henkel

Ole Hagen

Richard Charlton (Stear)

Barbara Camp (Adams)

Leeanne Stenson

Ken Sandberg (Lunski)

Karen & Roy Juntunen

Barbara Trager, (Stear)

Brent Canup Jr.

Brent Canup Sr.

Pat Holland

George Austin

Jim Frattini

Susan Pearlman (Craig)

Val Burkhardt

Bob Niesyto

Leilani Sibinovski

Julie Chambers

Kristin Stoneback

Lloyd Borsvold,

Jane Borsvold (Sailus)

Erin Cameron

Patty & Pete Herman
(Brundage)

Cheryl Cottogin

Mardee Thomas
(Galloway)

Rosalind McLendan (Dale)

Mary Rellinger (Switzer)

Carol Collins (Hagen)

Jeffrey Wetzel (Merrell)



Serving in the Armed Forces:

Jacob Bush (Hoffman)

Collin Doolan (Fisher)

Michael Jamieson (Nader)

Tommy Waller (Rowe)

*Please send prayer list
updates to the church office
at 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!*



On Saturday, May 13th, we are having a St John outside spring clean up day. From 9am until 2pm.
 I have rented a wood chipper to grind up all the tree branches that fell during the snow/ice storm in March.
 We will also look at removing some of the bad shrubs from around the property.
 We will also try to get some of the leaves and such that have fallen during the winter. If you have rakes, shovels, saws, etc. please bring them.
 Please see John Dresden for any questions.

A big thankyou from Grandparents Raising Grandchildren for your generosity in our recent gathering of food items for this group. Together with Thrivent we were able to provide Easter dinners for fifty families who otherwise would not have had the blessing of a meal together that many of us take for granted. These meals included a ham, vegetables, potatoes, some fruit and a cake mix with icing for dessert. The responses during the distribution and in the days following Easter were very appreciative and thankful. Thank you once again for keeping the needs of others in mind and making a difference in their lives. –Tim Schafer





May 7	Toni Lewis	June 4	The Dresden Family
May 14	The Ternes Family	June 11	Toni Lewis
May 21	The Caudle Family	June 18	The Dresden Family
May 28	Hoffman and Stear	June 25	Maria Gilligan

Coffee Hour after service will be discontinued for the months of July and August. Coffee Hour will start up again the first Sunday in September. Hopefully by that time we will have a schedule that will allow for each host to only have to do coffee hour once every two or three months. We have recently had two more families sign up to host but more are still needed to accomplish our goal of two to three months. Call the office if you would like to serve as host one Sunday.

Current hosts and new hosts are: Caran Hoffman and Loraine Stear, Maria Gilligan, The Dresden Family, The Ternes Family, The Marshall Family, The Caudle Family, Toni Lewis, The Mikkola Family & The Behrendsen Family.

Thank you all for your continued willingness to serve.

M A Y 2 0 2 3

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10a Quilters	2 8a Renaissance Academy	3 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	4 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy 2p Bible Study @ Medilodge 7p Joint Choir @ Antioch	5 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	6 8:45a Silver tree Yoga 4p HHAV Sprint Program
7 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 11:30a Confirmation 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	8 10a Quilters 5:30p HHAV	9 8a Renaissance Academy 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry 6p Leadership Team Meeting	10 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	11 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy 2p Bible Study @ Medilodge 7p Joint choir @ St John	12 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church 7p Piano Recital	13 8:45a Silver tree Yoga 9a Spring Clean Up 9a WAZA TC
14 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	15 10a Quilters 2:00 p God's Garden	16 8a Renaissance Academy	17 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	18 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy 2p Bible Study @ Medilodge 7p Joint Choir @ Antioch	19 8a Renaissance Academy 4:30 Pasties set up 7p Succoth Church	20 7a Pasties 8:45a Silver tree Yoga 12p Piano Allegro Recital
21 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	22 10a Quilters 6p St John Board and Leadership Team Meeting	23 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry	24 7p Succoth Church	25 8a Men's Breakfast 10:30a Bible Academy 2p Bible Study @ Medilodge 7p Joint Choir @ St John	26 7p Succoth Church	27 8:45a Silver tree Yoga 9a WAZA TC
28 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 11:30a Confirmation 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	29 10a Quilters	30	31 7p Succoth Church	For most to date calendar information see online calendar at http://www.stjohn-elca.org/calendar Calendar key: WNW = Wednesday Nights Wherever HHAV =Hearts, Hands, and Voices BAC= Bethlehem Activity Center PiC = Pathways in Compassion Bold Print= St John activities		



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STAFF

Pastor
 Office Manager
 Director of Mission Advancement
 Director of Music

Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher
Marie Cook
Ashleigh Altemann
Sean Michael Jackman

BOARD MEMBERS

John Dresden

Chris Janik

Gilda Bingham

Tom Bosanko

Loraine Stear

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 5/4/2023

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