

# THE VOICE

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

Pastor Mark's Reflection

August 2022

This past Wednesday evening about 15 of us, in the St. John parking lot enjoyed some food, fellowship and a discussion on what it takes to be happy. We explored the possibility that it is not so much a matter of acquiring new people, places or things but that true happiness might be found deep within us.

Sometimes we need to slow down and simply reflect on the gift of life knowing that we are a part of creation and privileged to be a part of it all. The wonderful part of being in a community of faith like St. John is that we are able and willing to talk about such things. While life can at times feel overwhelming, we learn through each other that God works through us to find a measure of unity and good hope.

As your pastor, I am excited about who and what we are and the privilege I have to serve you! The challenge I have is to sort out a balance between Sunday worship, volunteer action within the congregation and then helping us to understand what it means to be moving into the mission field as we depart the church grounds. I'm glad that I am not alone in trying to sort things out. Our board, leadership team and several other volunteer groups have taught me much about who we are and the opportunity we all have to grow and serve others.

In the end we are invited and encouraged to follow the steps of Jesus. Our dear friend, Ed Kramer, represents a powerful

example of how this might look. Ed was quite active at church. He gave significantly of his time, talent and treasure. In a real way he was a facilitator and valued each of us. I don't recall him sharing a cross word about someone. When people sometimes acted out, he would simply shrug and keep moving forward. He was just as active and dedicated to the Lions Club and gave of himself the same way. He had a deep concern for children who are affected by blindness.

Sometimes the church places too much emphasis on corporate volunteerism while not re-enforcing the need for each of us to branch out into other causes. As we move forward, I invite you to do all that you can to serve the church but also imagine how you might make a difference in other causes as well! I have asked Ashleigh, as our director of mission advancement to pay particular attention to causes outside of the church that you might feel compelled to become involved with.

All that we have and all that there is comes from God. As we become more aware of the potential we have to give and receive within this sacred world, may we come to realize that all we need to become involved we already have.

Peace,

Pastor Mark



Hello everyone,

Pastor Mark wants me to add a message to the Voice Newsletter from time to time. I'm not much of a writer and will try to my best to get you information on what's going on at St. John.

A little information on me. I've been a member at St John for about 24 years. Barbara and I were married here by Pastor Cave. Since coming here I have taken on many positions around the church, and have helped out on many of the church projects and activities. I took the Board President's position to further help out St. John.

One of the things I do and live my life by, is that I like to help others. Volunteering and just being friendly to people was taught to me by my parents (My Mom and Dad "Never met a stranger") and hopefully my kids will be the same. I've volunteered for the Jaycee's, March-of-Dimes, Red Cross, Oakland County Rebuild, The Goodfellows and many other smaller organizations. I still help out in the city of Detroit cutting grass at the city parks so the kids have someplace safe to play.

St. John church has always been a kind place to go and the members here have always been the best. I got turned off by the church for many years and when Barbara and I were dating, she invited me to attend a service with her. Well, old Pastor Cave could not have been nicer and turned me around to coming back to church. When Pastor Cave left, St. John went through a few 'Pastor rentals' and now we have Pastor Mark full time and I think we're going to be good for a while.

Like all places you go to, it's all about the people that are there. When you quit a job or move to a different town, the only thing you will miss are the people you worked with and associated with. St. John has some really nice and caring people and that is why most of us come to this church. Don't get me wrong, the building is really nice, but it's the people inside that make it beautiful.

Anyway, here is some quick information on what's going on at St. John. The Parish house is still being worked on and the asbestos tile in the basement has been cleared. There is still much work to do to get it ready for the next tenant. Dave Elias is spearheading the house project and is the contact person. Dave Stenson, Dave Androvich and I went through the building a few weeks ago and are looking at getting a 'Job List' together so people can sign up for doing small task around the building and grounds. Small jobs like, shrub trimming, weed cutting, kitchen repair, painting small areas, etc. I'll have more information on this next month.

Like I stated before, you can do a large job by yourself, but it takes a lot of time and energy. But if you get a few more people to help it goes a lot faster and smoother.

That's all I have for now. Next month will have more information on what the board is doing and what else is going around St. John.

Thanks for reading this far,  
John Dresden III

## Listening Event at St. John

This is your opportunity to have your input heard on an ELCA social statement.

The ELCA is developing a new Social Statement on church, state, and civic engagement, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

**Synod Vice President Paul Archer** is coming to St. John to offer his expertise as a trained process building facilitator to assist St. John in hosting a Listening Event in which individuals can share their thoughts and ideas on specific topics that should be addressed in the Social Statement.

The event will take place following worship on Sunday August 21 in the MPR during coffee hour.

Here is a link to the social message on Government and Civic Engagement:

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Government and Civic Engagement Social Message.pdf?  
\\_ga=2.29346228.984228844.1658418057-1832861027.1391780659](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Government%20and%20Civic%20Engagement%20Social%20Message.pdf?_ga=2.29346228.984228844.1658418057-1832861027.1391780659)

Thank you,  
Nancy Janik



**Fundamentally Sacred**

When I was in third grade, one of my teachers, Mrs. Christie, taught us about FSAW. Our lives, and the life that surrounds us, depend on FSAW. This understanding made an impact on 8/9 year old me.

The FSAW acronym stands for food, shelter, air, and water.

Throughout my life I have spent a lot of time thinking about FSAW, the truth behind it, how to protect it, wondering how to make sure none go without, and if it is truly comprehensive of our needs. I think there is a strong case to be made for including the letters M/H: medicine/healthcare, E: education, R: rest.

If we believe that life is sacred, then ought not the fundamentals of life be seen as sacred as well?

What would our society look like if we held this belief?

What would be different if we stopped gatekeeping resources save for those we deem “truly deserving?” What if we instead recognized that the living person in front of you fundamentally deserves to be alive and therefore fundamentally deserves the things necessary for life?

What if clean air and water were more important than industry?

What would we do if we believed that safe places to live were more important than the economy? (Though evidence shows that providing housing to those without has positive impacts on the economy).

What can we do right now, in our day to day, to live in keeping with the sacredness of ourselves, of others, and the things we need to live?

**Sacred Water**

On Wednesday, day three of the Create and Care Camp, our theme was water. The day before, in our Web of Life game, we saw how important rain and water are to life as we made connections between different elements of the ecosystem. The tree that gives home to the spider and the squirrel and the bird, needs water to live, as do all the things that live in the tree. The bees need water. The worms need water. The frogs and fish need water. When we removed the water by having the person holding those connections drop their yarn, our whole web fell apart.

The importance of water can be easy to take for granted when we have few barriers to access all the clean and safe water we want or need. It can make water seem like an

ordinary thing. It is not.

We recognize the spiritual significance of water in baptism, but easily forget and ignore that its sacredness is far more than symbolic. There is no life without it.

"We are made up of water, we are born in water, we come from water. Water is an essence of our being. A lot of people don't see it, but we are connected to that water. We are water...That's what water means to us: it means life, it means unity, it means one people, it means all these things because we're all connected, because of water." – Alexander Howland, water protector

Our connection to all people through water extends across municipal lines, state and country borders. It crosses seas and oceans and deserts. The connection even spans time. Centuries ago, the water that flows through our taps might have been flowing through a mountain stream or raining down on freshly planted seeds. That same water will carry on into the future. It will continue our connection far past anything we will ever see or know. Our choices today help determine what it is like when it gets there.

### **Interested to learn what the church or individuals can do to protect life by protecting the water?**

St. John and the rest of Farmington Hills are part of the Rouge River Watershed. The organization, Friends of the Rouge, works to promote restoration and stewardship of the Rouge and its ecosystem. Their website, [www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org), includes information about the watershed and ways to protect it, enjoy it, the flora and fauna of the area, and more. You can also find volunteer and learning opportunities including rain garden installation workdays where volunteers learn all about rain gardens while helping to install one.

The Clinton River Watershed makes up much of Oakland County to the north and east. Like the Friends of the Rouge, the Clinton River Watershed Council, [www.crwcc.org](http://www.crwcc.org), hosts events geared at protecting our waterways with volunteer and learning opportunities, participates in monitoring and other programs, and provides a wealth of resources to help keep our water safe.

Oakland County is divided between 5 different watersheds. Besides the Rouge and the Clinton, the Huron River Watershed encompasses much of the western portion of the county. A portion of the Shiawassee River Watershed sit north of that, and the Flint River Watershed stretches across most of the northern border of the county. The Water Resource Commission of Oakland County, [www.oakgov.com/water](http://www.oakgov.com/water), provides additional resources for residents interested in protecting our water.



## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! UPDATE!

Thanks to a generous check from Thrivent, I was able to purchase enough notebooks for this year! If you have already bought notebooks, you may bring them in anyway. It will be good to have a jump start on next year's kits. Now we need to focus on the remaining items listed plus the remaining items listed for the Personal Care Kits.

### School Kits:

- √ rulers (12" size with centimeters marked)
- √ pencil sharpeners
- √ 2" x 1" pink erasers (not the narrow ones, please)
- √ 24-count boxes of crayons (\$.55 at Meijer)
- √ **round-tip** scissors (we **cannot send** the more **pointed ones**)
- √

### Personal Care Kits:

- √ **bath-size towels** (approx. 52" x 27", lighter weight, dark colors preferred)
- √ **bath-size** bars of soap in original wrapping (**4-5 oz.**); **2** are needed in each kit
- √ wide-tooth combs
- √ ~~nail clippers~~ (already purchased by a generous donor)
- √ adult- size toothbrushes (You can ask your dentist to donate some of these.)

There will be a box in the Narthex for you to drop off your purchases.

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry. If you have any questions, contact Patty Oates (248-473-0816; email [rpoates@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpoates@sbcglobal.net)).



# Happy August Birthday!



8/1 Zachary Switzer

8/2 Elaine Anderson

8/6 Christopher Blaker

8/11 Gilda Bingham

Landon Roell

Dave Stenson

8/12 Laura Roell

8/15 Judith Merrell

8/21 Carol Sterling

8/23 Graham Pardonnet

8/24 Larry Craig

8/25 John Dilland

8/27 Allie McDowell

8/30 Anna Boczkaja



## COFFEE HOUR HOST/HOSTESS NEEDED

Coffee Hour has resumed and we would like to have more volunteers be a host/hostess. 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 248-474-8521

## AUGUST COFFEE HOUR

**AUGUST 7**

**THE HAGEN'S**

**AUGUST 14**

**THE CAUDLE FAMILY**

**AUGUST 21**

**SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR FOR LISTENING EVENT**

**AUGUST 28**

**MARIA GILLIGAN**

# God's Garden August Schedule

Harvesting, planting, weeding, and more! Help save seeds. Bag up some tea. If the weather is nice, in the garden we'll be!

## Tuesday Afternoons

weather permitting

**3:00 - 5:00**

August 9th

August 16th

August 23rd

**4:00 - 6:00**

August 30th

Additional work days to be scheduled as needed.

Many garden tools available (including quality kid sized tools). Please bring your own gloves and a water bottle. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear sunscreen.



### Other ways to get involved:

A growing ministry of St. John Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills. 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 focusing on and teaching growing practices that sustain and support life rather than harm, and **care of self** - by exploring and promoting the therapeutic benefits of gardening.

#### Spread the word

Tell your friends, neighbors, acquaintances about what's going on at God's Garden. Like and share the God's Garden Facebook page.

#### Sponsor the garden

As little as \$5 can buy hundreds of seeds!  
\$25 can buy some starter plants, like strawberries!  
\$50 can help us enrich the soil with compost!  
\$100 can fund a whole bed for the season!

**Wait. ???  
what? ???**

# **Wednesday Nights Where?**

**Bring  
Your  
Own**

Chairs!  
Food to share!  
Beverages!  
Friends!

August 24 @ 7:00 pm

Join us for Faith and Fellowship. On Wednesday Nights!  
If the weather agrees, we will gather in the back end of the parking lot.  
In poor weather, we will be in the gym.



# CREATE AND CARE CAMP



Volunteer Group: The folks who made it all possible! (Minus a few who couldn't be there for the photo).



ArtShow: The display on Sunday featuring the work of some of our campers, including Parker, Peren, Paige, Aydin, Amrutha, and Akshaya.



**Left:** Volunteers 1: Monday morning plan of action. Our volunteers showed up ready to get to it, and get to it they did!

**Right:** MarshaAndAlan: Serving snacks, manning check in, helping with screen printing, Marsha Grimstad was there to help when needed. Allan Charlton was the second half of the team that made sure we all enjoyed our snack break.



**Left:** Paint: The fun didn't stop when the campers left, most days saw a flurry of activity to set up for the following day. Seen here are the plant based paints made Thursday night for the art station

harvest themed activity on Friday  
**Right:** Batman: Veteran camp leader, Keven Blaker, along with the rest of the Mighty Mint crew leads everyone in the Batman prayer.



**Left:** Printing: Most summer kids camps send the kids home with T-shirts. Being a camp with a focus on creating, CCCampers got to screen print their own shirts.

**Right:** Shirts: Screen printing is a fun and relatively easy activity. Now that St. John has the supplies, perhaps we'll be seeing this activity again!



# PICTURES FROM SUCCOTH, ST JOHN CHILDRENS CAMP June 20–24







**PRAY** Serving in the  
FOR OUR MILITARY Military including  
overseas:

Michael Jamieson (Nader)  
Collin Doolan (Fisher)

**Members:**

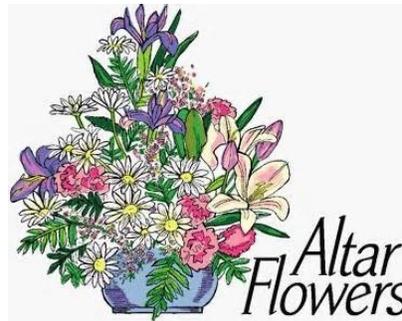
Shirely Niesyto, Ron Fischer, Fran Copp;  
Larry Urevig; Bill Kennedy; Gene Kohli; Toni  
Lewis; Diane Stanton; Lois Makee; Earl  
Hagen; Mary Galloway; Marlou Grudt; Chris  
Janik; Diana Canup; Ward Varns; Dick  
Rudorffer; Audrey Riley; Ellen Zatolokin;  
Delores Winquist; Carol Sterling; Eunice  
Gould; Tammy Kilpatrick; Lillian Niemi; Jodi  
Oulette.

**Friends, and Family:**

Barbara Trager,(Stear); Brent Jr and Brent  
Canup Sr., Ken Monberg (Orrand-Musat),  
Pat Holland, George Austin, Jim Frattini,  
Susan Pearlman (Craig), Mary Buccellato,  
(Gransee); Val Burkhardt (Michael’s mother);  
Bob Niesyto; Piper Ellis, Kristin Stoneback,  
Jane Borsvold, Cindy & Mark Borsvold  
(Sailus); Erin Cameron; Patty & Pete  
Herman, (Brundage); Linda Steusloff, Kyle  
Soderlund, Val Blanchett, Sue Jennings  
(Fisher); Marshall & Jessie Anderson  
(Bosanko); Jaden Henkel, Barry Shiek  
(Henkel); Courtney Dimiceli (Wiessbock);  
Virginia Kincaide (Kincaide); Cheryl  
Cottongin; Mardee Thomas,  
(Galloway); Rosalind McLendan (Dale); Mary  
Rellinger (Switzer); Carol Collins (sister of  
Earl Hagen); Jeffrey Wetzal (Merrell).

*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.*

# AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>10a Quilters</b>	<b>2</b> 8a State Elections 10a RA	<b>3</b> 7p Succoth Church	<b>4</b> <b>8a Men's Breakfast</b> 9a RA <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	<b>5</b> 7p Piano Recital 7p Succoth Church	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>10a Worship</b> <b>11a Coffee Hour</b> 12:30p Succoth Church 2:30pm HHAV 4p AA	<b>8</b> <b>8a HHAV Summer Camp</b>	<b>9</b> <b>8a HHAV Summer Camp</b>  <b>1p Prayer Shawl Ministry</b>  <b>3p Gods Garden</b>  <b>6p Leadership Team Meeting</b>	<b>10</b> <b>8a HHAV Summer Camp</b> 7p Succoth Church	<b>11</b> <b>8a Men's Breakfast</b>  <b>8a HHAV Summer Camp</b>  <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	<b>12</b> 7p Succoth Church	<b>13</b> 7p Cradle Ceremony
<b>14</b> <b>10a Worship</b> <b>11a Coffee Hour</b> 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	<b>15</b> 8a RA <b>10a Quilters</b>	<b>16</b> <b>3p Gods Garden</b> 6:30p RA	<b>17</b> 7p Succoth Church	<b>18</b> <b>8a Men's Breakfast</b> 9a RA <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	<b>19</b> 7p Succoth Church	<b>20</b> 6p Birthday Party
<b>21</b> <b>10a Worship</b> <b>11a Listening Event</b> 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	<b>22</b> 8a RA <b>10a Quilters</b>	<b>23</b> 9a RA <b>1p Prayer Shawl Ministry</b>  <b>3p Gods Garden</b>	<b>24</b> 10a Renaissance Academy <b>7p WNW</b> 7p Succoth Church	<b>25</b> <b>8a Men's Breakfast</b> 9a RA <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	<b>26</b> 7p Succoth Church	<b>27</b> 10a Baptism  6p Birthday Party
<b>28</b> <b>10a Worship</b> <b>11a Coffee Hour</b> 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	<b>29</b> <b>10a Quilters</b>	<b>30</b> 8a RA  <b>4p Gods Garden</b>	<b>31</b> 8a RA 7p Succoth Church	Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30am—3:30pm 248-474-0584		

For most to date calendar information see online calendar at <http://www.stjohn-elca.org/calendar> Calendar key:

RA = Renaissance Academy  
HHAV =Hearts, Hands, and Voices

WNW = Wednesday Nights Wherever  
BAC= Bethlehem Activity Center

Bold Print= St John activities



**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 Worship and Music  
Handbell Choir

**Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher**  
**Marie Cook**  
**Ashleigh Altemann**  
**Dr. Michael Burkhardt**  
**JoAnn Adams**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**John Dresden**  
**Mark Switzer**  
**Gilda Bingham**

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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

**Dr. Michael Burkhardt**  
**Kevin O'Brien**  
**Ashleigh Altemann**  
**Kris O'Brien**  
**Karen Boczkaja**  
**Dave Androvich**  
**Elaine Pearson**

**Tom Bosanko**  
**Nancy Janik**  
**Glen Ming**

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. Please note that starting in September Janet Henkel will be joining the Leadership Team as the Worship and Music chair.

**This issue was mailed on August 2, 2022**

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