

# THE VOICE

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

July 2022

## Pastor Marks Reflection

The ministry at St. John continues to evolve and as we move out of the latest phase of COVID we are better able to be the church and that is a good thing! We must be able to be the church for all people and for each other. In doing so there will be the fulfilment of Jesus' new commandment to his disciples that "you love one another."

It is a bit of a challenge for this pastor and all pastors to facilitate this commandment but at the same time it is important to embrace the idea of "priesthood of all believers." In doing so, I believe I must minister to all but in a way so should you.

Our Board has taken an important step in adding perspective to this thought by establishing the Pastoral Support Committee. The function of the committee is to keep the pastor advised about the conditions within our congregation and to interpret to the congregation the ministry of the staff (professional ministers). The committee's responsibilities and opportunities are outlined in two general areas or functions.

### Support

Serving as a personal and confidential support group to the pastor.

Serving as an open communication channel regarding conditions and attitudes within the congregation.

Serving as agents of reconciliation in a time of conflict in the congregation.

### Education

Identifying continuing education possibilities and retreats in light of concerns and ministry goals of the pastor, congregation, synod and ELCA.

This ministry will report to the board as appropriate.

The members of the committee are Larry Craig (chair), Keven Blaker, Nancy Janik, Kris O'Brien, Tim Schafer and Loraine Stear.

Please know that this this committee does not replace coming to me directly; my door is always open. (Of course, except when it is not or when I'm not there, haha?) In any event know that you can always come to me! If however you would prefer to reach out to one of our committee members please do not hesitate to do so!!

May the peace of God be with you!





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

- Open to kids entering 1st-6th grade in the fall.
- Cost: \$0 - FREE!
- July 11-15 9 am - 12 pm
- Art show and celebration: July 17th 11am
- Space is limited to 50, so register campers soon.

For more information and to register visit [www.stjohn-elca.org/cccamp](http://www.stjohn-elca.org/cccamp)



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

Highlights include:

**MONDAY**  
Made from Earth - Lasagna gardening  
- Play with clay

**TUESDAY**  
Created for connection - Companion planting  
- Weaving together

**WEDNESDAY**  
Water of life - Rooting in water  
- Watercolor

**THURSDAY**  
Our imprint - Seed saving - Garden paint box

**FRIDAY**  
Harvest time - Easy peasy pickles  
- Plant prints

**SUNDAY**  
Art show celebration and garden party!  
**July 11-15, 9-12**  
**July 17, 11:00**

# JULY

7/1 Kari Varns  
 7/3 Preethi Kommu  
 7/4 Eric Stenson  
 7/7 Logan Rohlfs  
 7/11 Emily Stanek  
 7/13 Janice Locke  
 7/20 Stella Weller

7/22 Rich Kincaide  
 7/27 JoAnn Adams  
 Bill Kennedy  
 7/28 Sally Stauffer  
 7/29 Shirley Niesyto  
 7/30 Erin Pavlovich  
 7/31 David Rowe



July 3 No Coffee Hour  
 July 10 Hagen  
 July 17 Create and Care Camp  
 July 24 Gilligan  
 July 31 Dresden

Overtuned

Note: large gaps are intentional

Most issues of the voice I write an article.  
This time, my words fail me.

This isn't the article I wanted to write. I wanted to write about some nice things - learning in the garden, spending time with friends and building community, the strawberries in my garden that are doing the best they ever have. I have lost those feelings, I have lost those words. I feel filled with fire but incapable of burning.

I'm afraid of what has happened. I'm afraid of what comes next.

There is so much, I don't know where to begin. I ache. I seethe. I mourn.

I am less important than the idea of someone else's existence.

I'm at an age where pregnancy is fundamentally higher risk. Removing access to this health care procedure puts me at even greater risk. This ruling makes that choice even more difficult. I don't feel safe getting pregnant without knowing that abortion is an option if I need it. That it is accessible without hoops, without some form of jury to find me deserving, without the need to travel to another, overburdened state to receive care.

My friend was on birth control. Her birth control failed. She didn't know what she was going to do. She was in grad school. She was weighing her options. She had a miscarriage. She lived in an apartment so she buried the tiny remains in a potted plant. It was a traumatic experience.

Already there are those who are investigated after experiencing a miscarriage, adding trauma onto trauma. Now, there will be more.

When I was raped, I didn't tell a soul for nearly 10 years. I have written long and hard about it, but I have not wanted to share that story yet. I still don't want to share about it now. I can count on my hands the number of people who know about it.

Had it been today, had I gotten pregnant, had I been in one of a number of states in this country, my choices would be few. Some states have allowed for abortions in the case of rape. The future is still very unclear in Michigan, but I am not holding my breath. The Michigan law that is currently blocked by a judge from going into effect does not have an exception in the case of rape.

I imagine, in those places that do, that there is some obligation to prove rape. Historically, that is not easy. Two thirds of rapes are not even reported to police. Per 1000 rapes, only 50 lead to arrest, and of those 50 arrests, only 28 lead to a felony conviction. In the United States, 1 in 6 women have been the victim of a attempted or completed rape in her lifetime. (Statistics from RAINN - Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, where you can find the upsetting statistics relating to children).

For me, this is a thought exercise. For countless others, this is the reality they face. We already don't believe women. I don't doubt that there are those who would not believe me. I was 19 when it happened and I was forever changed. It still haunts me at times. There are those who feel compelled to carry a pregnancy that is the product of rape to term. They can choose to do so, but we have absolutely no business prolonging the rape and forcing that upon someone.

There will be more suffering.  
There will be more deaths - either from lack of care, from desperate and unsafe remedies, or from suicide.

I would have loved to share about the praying mantises, and the asparagus that won't quit. The thought of it, of ignoring the loss of bodily autonomy, makes me feel sick. I'd rather say nothing.

# God's Garden July Schedule

Warmer weather means more to do! We'll be expanding our growing space with new beds, sewing seeds, managing weeds, planting flowers, harvesting. Come experience the benefits of playing in the dirt with friends.

**Tuesday  
Afternoons**  
weather permitting  
3:00 - 5:00

Tuesday, July 5th  
Tuesday, July 12th  
Tuesday, July 19th  
Tuesday, July 26th

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.



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.

## Other ways to get involved:

### 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?**

Join us for faith and fellowship on Wednesday Nights! If the weather agrees, we'll gather in the back end of the parking lot. In poor weather, we'll be in the gym.

**Bring  
Your  
Own**

Chairs!  
Food to share!  
Beverages!  
Friends!

**7/27 @ 7:00  
8/24 @ 7:00**



To our dear St. John friends,  
Many, many thanks for your countless telephone calls, cards and particularly your prayers during Don's long illness and following his passing on April 25.

Rachel, Rob and I have been sustained by your care and concern. We have valued your friendship and fellowship since we joined St. John back in the mid-1980's.

On Don's behalf, may we wish each of you good health, all of life's blessings, and every good thing in all the years to come.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Sally S. Stauffer

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**Members:**

The family and friends of Jim Grudt; 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:**

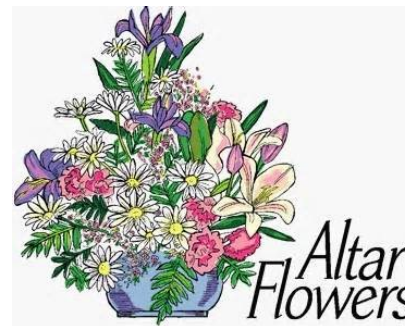
Barbara Trager,(Stear); Brent Jr and Brent Canup Sr., Ken Monberg (Orrand-Musat), Pat Holland, George Austin, Jim Frattini, Susan Pearlman (Craig), Colleen Davis (wife of Bill Davis); Mary Buccellato, (Gransee); Val Burkhardt (Michael’s mother); Bob Niesyto; Piper Ellis, Kristin Stoneback, Jane Borsvold, 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 Wetzel (Merrell).

**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.*



# J U L Y                      2 0 2 2

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30am—3:30pm 248-474-0584					1	2
<b>3</b>  <b>10a Worship</b>  12:30p Succoth Church  4p AA	<b>4</b>  	<b>5</b>  <b>3p Gods Garden</b>	<b>6</b> 9a Renaissance Academy  7p Succoth Church	<b>7</b> <b>8a Men's Breakfast</b>  10a Renaissance Academy	<b>8</b>  7p Succoth Church	<b>9</b>  11p Funeral Service  5p Graduation Party
<b>10</b>  <b>10a Worship</b>  <b>11a Coffee Hour</b>  12:30p Succoth Church  4p AA	<b>11</b> <b>9a Create and Care Camp</b>  <b>10a Quilters</b>  <b>3p Gods Garden</b>	<b>12</b> <b>9a Create and Care Camp</b>  10a Renaissance Academy  <b>1p Prayer Shawl Ministry</b>  <b>3p Gods Garden</b>  <b>6p Leadership Team Meeting</b>	<b>13</b> <b>9a Create and Care Camp</b>  7p Succoth Church	<b>14</b> <b>8a Men's Breakfast</b>  <b>9a Create and Care Camp</b>  <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	<b>15</b> <b>9a Create and Care Camp</b>  7p Succoth Church	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>  <b>10a Worship</b>  <b>11a Create, Care Camp Celebration</b>  12:30p Succoth Church  4p AA	<b>18</b>  <b>10a Quilters</b>	<b>19</b> 10a Renaissance Academy  <b>3p Gods Garden</b>	<b>20</b> 10a Renaissance Academy  7p Succoth Church	<b>21</b> <b>8a Men's Breakfast</b>  <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	<b>22</b>  7p Succoth Church	<b>23</b>  6p MPR Private event
<b>24/31</b> <b>10a Worship</b>  <b>11a Coffee Hour</b> 12:30p Succoth Church  4p AA	<b>25</b> <b>10a Quilters</b>  <b>3p Gods Garden</b>  <b>7p St John Board Meeting</b>	<b>26</b> 10a Renaissance Academy  <b>1p Prayer Shawl Ministry</b>  <b>3p Gods Garden</b>	<b>29</b> 8a Renaissance Academy  7p Succoth Church  <b>7p WNW</b>	<b>28</b> <b>8a Men's Breakfast</b>  <b>10:30a Bible Academy</b>	<b>29</b>  7p Succoth Church	<b>30</b>

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  
 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

**This issue was mailed on July 1 2022**

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