Pathways to Moving Mission Forward 2027

ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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- A Guide to Getting Involved -
St. John Lutheran Church,
Farmington Hills, MI

Printed November, 2026

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The Moving Mission Forward booklet serves as a resource for the many ministries and opportunities to get involved with the community at St. John. It is a guide for those associated with St. John; to show the various pathways available for using our God-given talents and giftedness for the sake of each other and the community around us.

If you have questions about any ministry or suggestions for new ministries, please contact the person identified or speak to the Pastor or a member of the Leadership Team.

Contacts identified in this booklet are listed in the back with their contact information.

May your experience with St. John bless you as you bless others!

Peace,
Pastor Mark

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WHO WE ARE

Our Mission
We are called by Christ to be a Sanctuary that Welcomes and Serves All.

Our Vision
We fulfill our mission through various ministries:

- Worship and Music
- Spiritual Development
- Outreach and Service
- Member Care
- Young Families and Children
- Finance and Facilities
- Communications

What We Believe

- St. John Lutheran Church is a community of faith that believes in a loving God evidenced by Jesus Christ — historical and living.
- We see science and faith as valued partners in helping us understand life's meaning.
- We know that every person is a child of God with unique strengths that can be powerful expressions of God's love.
- In response to God's love for all people, we welcome young and old; families, couples and singles; rich and poor; persons of all races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities. We also welcome those with differing physical and mental abilities as well as believers and seekers. Every person joining our community adds profound value to the mystery of faith!

Through worship, service and fellowship you are invited to come and see who and what we are!

St. John is a Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with over 2.6 million members in nearly 8,400 worshiping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. We welcome you to experience this church right here in Farmington Hills. You can learn more at ELCA.org.

Doing What You Do



Jesus' first disciples were fishermen. We learn that James's and John's father was a fisherman who passed on his trade to his sons. They worked hard, developed their skills, and earned a living doing what they did. Presumably they did it well. It was good and valuable work. Simon, Andrew, James, and John were all being who they were and doing what they did when Jesus called them.

Look at how Jesus frames his call to these fishermen: "I will make you fish for people" *(Mark 1:17)*. Jesus is telling them he can take who they are and what they do and use it for God's kingdom. It might sound like the disciples dropped their nets and left their fishing vocation completely; but throughout the gospel story we hear about Jesus and the disciples getting into boats. Who else but fishermen would have boats? How else did they continue to support their ministry and feed their families? Fishermen fish, but now the disciples do it for a higher purpose.

Rather than imagine that we are called to some life completely different from the one we live now, imagine that we are called to do what we do already in ways that show and enact God's kingdom. You're a fisherman, so fish for people. You're a singer, sing for people. You're a seamstress, sew for people. You're an engineer, engineer for people. You're an investor, invest for people. It's all about being who we are and doing what we do for a higher purpose. A purpose God had in mind when you were wonderfully created.

The kingdom of God is about grace, compassion, justice, forgiveness, and mercy for all people. Through the grace of baptism, God has called us to follow Jesus in the way of the kingdom. How can you do what you do already, be who you are, in ways that help people know God and live life fully? Do what you do for God's sake, for your neighbor, for people.










BE A
DER.
FIGHT
CISM.





With regard to giving of our Finances

One question we are likely to ask ourselves from time to time is "what does life mean or where is my place in all of it". At St. John we bring our personal experiences into a community that values all life. In our search for meaning, we have come to understand that following Jesus can have an important impact in all that we do.

Further, by being in community we begin to see how God works through each of us and enables us to give and receive love. As we grow in our faith, we become able to share the peace of Christ with others. This booklet demonstrates the various ways we work together as a Christian community to make a difference in the world.

Before reading further please know that financial support is important to all that we do. We know that God loves a cheerful giver. And so, we pray that you will make a financial pledge of support that will bring you joy and encourage the mission of St. John. No gift is too big or too small.

Also, God has blessed us all with connections to people or resources that St. John may need or use to carry out our mission. We have many members that use these connections, or in-kind giving, as an additional way to supplement their financial giving. Access to a truck, maintaining the grounds, a relationship with an outside donor looking to fund mission are a few examples.

Please review the pledge/gift options on the enclosed card, and pray asking, "Lord, what would you have me do?" Your pledge of financial support builds the foundation of our ministry which enables us to become the workers in God's mission for our faith community.

Peace,
The Moving Mission Forward Team

Worship and Arts

Greeters
Ushers
Lay Assistant/Lector
Communion Assistants
Children's Sermons
Chancel Choir
Sound/Camera Master
SlideMaster
MuteMaster
Slide Preparation
Altar Guild
Narthex Nursery
Coffee Hour Host
Concerts

WORSHIP and ARTS

Sean Michael Jackman — Team Lead

Worship is at the center of our life together. It takes a large team to put together and present our worship service every Sunday, so there are many opportunities for you to get involved! Training is available for all positions.

Greeters – Greet people and make them feel welcome. Contact Keven Blaker.

Ushers – Seat people at the beginning of the service, direct them during communion. Contact Marie Cook.

Lay Assistant/Lector – Read the scriptures and prayers; assist with communion. Contact Marie Cook.

Communion Assistants — Two people assist in serving communion at each service. Contact Marie Cook.



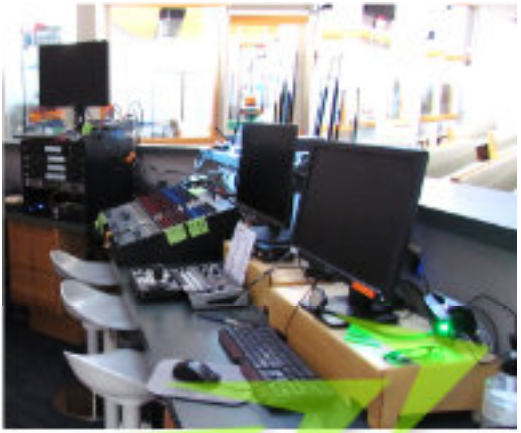
Children's Sermons — Pint-sized messages for pint-sized people, and maybe the adults in the pews too. Help our youngest worshippers grasp the lessons of the week and learn what it means to follow Jesus. Contact Pastor Mark.

Chancel Choir – Even if you've never sung in a choir before, you are welcome to join. If you like to sing alone or with others, you should join us! Contact Sean Michael Jackman.





Sound/Camera Master – Run the soundboard and the camera during the service. Contact Dan Bingham.



SlideMaster – Start the Zoom and Facebook feed. Start/stop recording; advance the slides during the service. Contact Elaine Pearson.

MuteMaster – Join the Zoom. Admit new participants as they come in. Mute and unmute as required. You can do this from home. Contact Kris O'Brien.

Slide Preparation – Prepare the slides for the service. This is a great way to spiff up your PowerPoint skills for use in your professional life! Contact Elaine Pearson.

Altar Guild – Prepare the altar and communion for each service. Altar guild members are scheduled on a rotating basis. Contact Phyllis Ming.

Narthex Nursery — Young children and families can take a break without being disconnected from service. The narthex nursery has toys and books for a range of ages. You can support this ministry by helping to set up the space before service, tidying it after, or by helping to keep the space stocked with appropriate toys, books, and other materials. Contact Ashleigh Altemann.

Coffee Hour Host — Support our post-worship time of fellowship by providing the coffee hour refreshments. Contact Marie Cook.

Concerts — St. John regularly welcomes talented musician to be part of our concert series, offering free performances to the community, followed by beautifully arranged receptions. Help support the concert program by spreading the word, inviting friends and family, or assisting with the reception. Contact Sean Michael Jackman.

Spiritual Development

Bible Study
Men's Breakfast
Women of St. John
The First Thursday Fellowship
Speaking Peace
Find Your Gifts

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Ashleigh Altemann — Team Lead

Bible Study — Pastor Mark leads Bible study on Thursday mornings in the conference room. You are welcome to join! Contact Pastor Mark.

Men's Breakfast — St. John men get together Thursday mornings at L. George's Coney (24250 Sinacola, Farmington) for food, fellowship and Bible study. Contact Dave Elias.

Women of St. John —The second Wednesday and the fourth Monday of each month, all women of the St. John community are invited for brunch and fellowship at Blue Hat Coffee in Downton Farmington. Contact Gilda Bingham or Loraine Stear.

The First Thursday Fellowship — St John gathers in the evening on the first Thursday of the month to share food, fellowship, and faith. Contact Caran Hoffman or Loraine Stear.

Speaking Peace — How can we put our faith into practice? Hear from people working The Peace within our communit in our speaker series. We explore ways to live out the call to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. Support these events by being a meal sponsor, providing set up/ clean up assistance, and spreading the word in the greater community. Contact Ashleigh Altemann.



Find Your Gifts — Everyone is a child of God, wonderfully created! God has created **you** uniquely. You are the only you on Earth, and you were created with certain gifts and talents. We all have the ability to accomplish things with our unique gifts among the people and places where God has placed us — things that only we can accomplish. We were created on purpose, for a purpose, with a purpose. If you're interested in discovering your gifts contact Pastor Mark.

Outreach and Service

God's Garden
Yard to Table
St. John House
CARES of Farmington Hills
CARES Coordinator
CARES Volunteer
Blood Drives
CROP Walk
Pathways in Compassion
Lutheran World Relief Kits
Quilters
Adopt-a-Family Bell Tree

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Ashleigh Altemann—Team Lead

God's Garden — The God's Garden Ministry focuses on Care for others - by growing produce and flowers to share in the community; Care for Creation - by utilizing and teaching growing practices that sustain and support life; and Care for Self - by exploring and promoting the therapeutic benefits of gardening, enrichement and service opportunities, and wondrous learning experiences for children in the community.

Yard to Table — A faith based garden community that supports each other while actively working in service to others. We explore and celebrate God's presence in all creation and empower each other to grow and spread God's love beyond the bounds of God's Garden into our broader neighborhoods and communites. Weekly gatherings through the garden season, therapeutic horticulture programming, and gardening classes are offered. Contact Ashleigh Altemann.





St. John House – Our parsonage serves as a small group home housing three men with developmental disabilities. Community Living Centers provides all of their care, but there are opportunities to help through companionship, assistance with house repairs, and more. Contact Karol Niskanen to get involved with companionship and social outings. Contact Dave Androvich to assist with facilities care.

CARES of Farmington Hills — CARES offers needed support for families in our area that have limited access to everyday necessities due to insufficient financial resources or family instability. You can help by purchasing needed items and bringing them to church. Contact Nancy Janik.

CARES Coordinator — This person schedules the volunteers to deliver the CARES donations to CARES. Contact Nancy Janik.

CARES Volunteer — This person picks up food/donations from St. John and delivers them to CARES. Donations need to be picked up from St. John outside Renaissance Academy school hours. Drop off at CARES can be made Monday—Friday, 8:30-4:00 pm. Contact Nancy Janik.

Blood Drives – St. John has regularly hosted Red Cross Blood Drives since the 1970's. **We are currently looking for a new lead to coordinate these important events and recruit donors.** Cindi Sailus has served as coordinator in the past. Please contact her for guidance on serving in this role.

CROP Walk – Mark your calendars for the first Sunday of May! Join the Farmington Area CROP Walk as a walker or support the walkers by working the water and snack station along the route, just across the street from St. John! Contact Ashleigh Altemann.



Pathways in Compassion – Approximately half of all the people in nursing homes have no visitors and no one to advocate for them. This ministry creates partnerships between St. John and local nursing homes. Volunteers visit residents on a regular basis, developing a relationship with them. Training is available. Contact Pastor Mark.

Lutheran World Relief Kits – Each year we provide about 100 School kits and 100 Personal Care kits to Lutheran World Relief. You can provide items, help assemble and pack kits and/or help deliver the kits to the shipping point. Assembly and packing usually takes place in October. Contact Patty Oates.

Quilters – Help make quilts for Lutheran World Relief! Quilts can be used as a blanket, a shelter or a container for personal possessions. Help sew, assemble and pack quilts. Donate fabric or old sheets for quilt backs. Quilts are made year round and packed and shipped in October. Contact Penny Brugman.

Adopt-a-Family Bell Tree – Take a bell from the tree, buy a gift for someone in need. The Bell Tree goes up right after Thanksgiving. Contact Patty Oates.



Quilts displayed to be blessed during worship before being packed and shipped to Lutheran World Relief.

















Member Care

Outreach Team
Prayer Team
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Eucharistic Ministers
Funeral Luncheons
Funeral Luncheon Coordinator
Kitchen Coordinator

MEMBER CARE

Team Lead — Pastor Mark



Outreach Team — The Outreach Team contacts each member of the congregation on a regular basis (typically about once a month) to keep in touch and make sure they're alright. This is a great opportunity to make a friend and be a friend from the comfort of your own home. Contact Loraine Stear.

Prayer Team — This team prays for people by request. Team members periodically receive a call or text message asking them to pray for a specific person by name. It's a simple but meaningful way to support your St. John family and friends in their time of need. Contact Catherine Federspill.

Prayer Shawl Ministry — Prayer shawls are available to anyone, St. John member or not, who needs comfort and a reminder of God's love. Members of this team meet twice monthly to create shawls while sharing fellowship and prayer. Don't know how to knit or crochet but want to learn? Current team members will be happy to teach you. Contact Catherine Federspill.

Eucharistic Ministers — Eucharistic Ministers make monthly visits to homebound members of the congregation to provide Communion and a friendly chat. This is an important ministry that provides both spiritual nourishment and a personal connection to our church family. Contact Pastor Mark.

Funeral Luncheons — Members of this team support bereaved families by helping them to share a meal following a funeral service. Funeral luncheons offer the family and friends of the deceased a time of spiritual and emotional support as well as physical sustenance. Luncheons usually take place in the MPR immediately following the service and are therefore generally scheduled on very short notice. Food is provided by the deceased's family. Team members are needed to set up, serve, and/or clean up after the meal. Contact Nancy Janik.

Funeral Luncheon Coordinator — This person works with the family, the caterer, and volunteers to set up, serve, and clean up a luncheon following funerals. Two people work together, taking turns as the lead so that if one is unavailable, the other can be the lead. The Kitchen Coordinator and the Funeral Luncheon Coordinator can be the same person or, if different, needs to communicate with the Kitchen Coordinator regarding items needed. Contact Nancy Janik.

Kitchen Coordinator — This person helps to keep the kitchen in order, placing orders with Marie to purchase supplies, helping make decisions on equipment purchases, cleaning out old food from the refrigerator. This person will work with another coordinator. Contact Nancy Janik.



Youth and Family

Sunday School
Create and Care Camp
Tutoring Ministry
Trunk or Treat
Hearts, Hands, and Voices

YOUTH and FAMILY

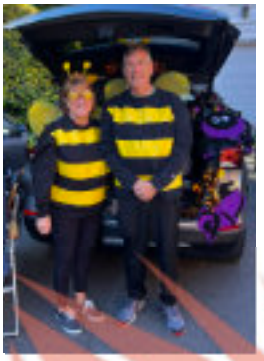
Jesse Barr — Team Lead

Sunday School — Children are excused from service after the Children's Message, returning after the sermon, to continue learning together about God's love and living as Christ taught us. Stories from the Bible, folktales, historical events and figures, and modern-day examples help kids recognize the spirit of God in themselves and active in the world around them. We also do a monthly mini service project. Contact Ashleigh Altemann.



Create and Care Camp — A home-grown garden and arts summer day camp that explores the natural world, our place in it and our call to care. Kids create art, explore life in the garden and learn about God's amazing creation and how to care for it. Many volunteers are needed, with many behind the scenes options. Contact Ashleigh Altemann.

Tutoring Ministry — St. John provides free tutoring and we are always in need of tutors in reading and math. Training is provided. One hour tutoring sessions are held weekly in the evening at the church. Contact Shirley George.

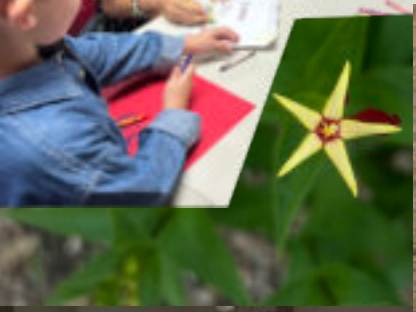


Trunk or Treat — "The best trunk or treat ever!" - Help us maintain this hard earned title. St. John's Halloween enthusiasts transform the garden, back drive, and gym with family friendly spookiness. There are many ways to get involved from help with decorating, to bringing your vehicle for a trunk, to promoting the event and inviting friends and family. Contact Ashleigh Altemann.

Hearts, Hands and Voices — St. John is host to Hearts, Hands, and Voices, a worship and music program led by Dr. Michael Burkhart. Families and children, gardes 2-7, gather on Monday evenings during the school year. The only tution is a meal for everyone once per year. There is also a week-long summer camp. More detail at www.heartshandsvoices.org.

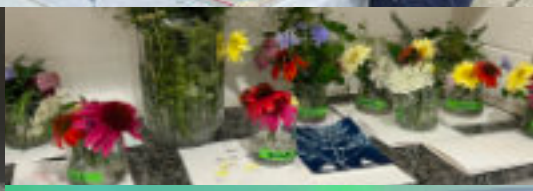













Quinn!



Finance and Facilities

Finance Team
Counters
Audit Committee
Donate to St. John
Facilities Maintenance
The Monday Guys

Finance & Facilities

Dave Androvich — Team Lead

Finance Team — Help keep tabs on spending and plan the coming year's budget. Contact Dave Androvich.

Counters — Count the offering following service. Serve once every few weeks. Contact Barbara Dresden.

Audit Committee — Once a year the Board appoints a team to do an audit to make sure our bookkeeping and accounting are accurate and properly managed. You can help! Contact Board President Glenn Ming.

Donate to St. John — There are several ways to provide financial support to St. John's ministries:

1. bring your gift to the Sunday service and put it in the basket on the way in
2. mail it to the church office
3. give online using the link in your eNews or the "Donate to St. John" button on our website — www.stjohn-elca.org.

Facilities Maintenance — In a building the size, age and complexity of St. John, there's always something to be maintained or repaired. Sometimes we just need things to be moved around, and of course our landscape needs to be maintained. If you are willing to do any kind of maintenance, contact Dave Androvich and he will put your name on a list to be called as needed.

The Monday Guys — The Monday guys show up every Monday morning to clean the areas of the church not covered by our professional cleaning service and to do light maintenance. Contact Kevin O'Brien.

Communication

The Blog
Email Communications
Website
Church Directory App
Facebook Pages
St. John YouTube
Mailings
Public Relations
Outdoor Signage

COMMUNICATIONS

Elaine Pearson — Team Lead

We communicate with our members and friends in many ways. Learn more about how we stay in touch and how to get in the loop.



The Blog — Published weekly, the blog provides thoughtful reflections as well as information on upcoming activities. Have a story to share? Want to be a guest blogger? Contact Ashleigh Altemann.

Email Communications — Each Friday the eNews goes out with information on what's happening, with "special issues" for late-breaking news or reminders. Not getting these emails? Contact Elaine Pearson at ecp2000@comcast.net. Want to put something in the eNews? Contact Elaine.

Website — Our website is at www.stjohn-elca.org. Check it out! The home page provides detail on what's happening in the near future. There is a special password-protected area for members that has Board Minutes and other information as well as an online directory. When you get to the page that says "Guest Area," the "secret" password is 23225Gill. (Hint: It's our address!) Please let Elaine Pearson know if your directory information is incorrect.

Church Directory App — All members are included in the directory, along with their pictures. To download the app, go to Google Play or the Apple App Store and download Instant Church Directory. Follow the setup instructions and you will have an up-to-date directory at your fingertips! Do we have your picture? If not, please sen to Gilda Bingham.

Facebook Pages — St. John has two facebook pages — one for the church and a special one for Yard to Table. Both can be accessed by clicking the appropriate logo at the top of the St. John home page. You can help make St. John more visible on the internet by Liking and Sharing!

St. John has a YouTube channel! — You can find recordings of our church services, Pastor Mark's sermons, children's messages, and other fun things! Use the YouTube logo at the top of the St. John homepage.

Mailings — Periodically we send letters via snail mail to let you know of specific things going on, especially things you may need to do. Contact Marie Cook to receive these mailings.

Public Relations — When we have an important event happening that may be of interest to the larger community, we send out a press release. You can help spread the word about what is happening at St. John. Word of mouth from friends, families, neighbors, etc. is far and away the most effective means to help us grow. Help us get the word out! Contact Pam Flores.

Outdoor Signage – We regularly use banners out front to announce special events. Can you assit with changing out the banners? Contact Elaine Pearson.

St. John Staff and Leadership

Staff:
Pastor
Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher
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bellfisher@aol.com

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ashalt@stjohn-elca.org

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Public Relations
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pamflores06@gmail.com

Leadership Team:
Worship and Arts
Sean Michael Jackman

Outreach & Service
Ashleigh Altemann

Spiritual Development
Ashleigh Altemann

Member Care
Pastor Mark

Youth and Family
Jesse Barr

Finance & Facilities
David Androvich

Communications
Elaine Pearson

Board:
Glenn Ming - President
Gilda Bingham
John Dresden
Peter Haapaniemi
Carol Pavelich
Kevin O'Brien

CONTACTS

Key contact persons noted throughout the book listed below.

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IN THIS COMMUNITY

We attempt to follow in the footsteps of Jesus with:

Compassion

We reach out to those who are suffering.

Mercy

We extend kindness to those who struggle.

Justice

We endeavor to treat all people fairly and equitably.

Forgiveness

We seek to let go of bitterness toward those who have harmed us.

Generosity

We serve God and our neighbor by sharing what we have with others.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
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