

THE VOICE

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

Pastor Marks' Reflection

February 2023

Next Steps

Since the beginning of my call to St. John I have suggested that the best ways to conduct ministry within the confines of Covid, was to move forward with a series of two-to-three-month plans. That even within those plans we will need to be flexible and adapt to the changing landscape of our mission field.

We are still in, the midst of, what might be seen as a post Covid world that still experiences the constraints of the pandemic. The good news is that we have been able to experience modest growth and have been able to develop sustainable ministries at the same time.

Our "Pathways in Compassion" nursing home visitation ministry, directed to those who have been abandoned, is now launching with 12 members ready to become God's hands and feet in a challenging mission field. With this launch we will also begin an area wide effort to train other churches in this ministry. Before Covid, over 60 churches received training in the Pathways program. Hopefully 60 more churches will be trained before the end of this year. Ultimately, we should be able to re-launch a national effort to the ELCA, that began when I was at Transfiguration in February of 2020.

We are also launching the Compassion Communication Center (CCC) that will attempt to address the needs of hundreds

of families in our region wishing to place their loved ones with mental and physical disabilities in compassionate living arrangements (Group Homes). The challenge is that across the field of care there are not enough individuals expressing interest to do the work of helping for these very special people.

CCC will create a message about the missional opportunity to serve those with disabilities and send it out to the entire community of faith in Southeast Michigan. It is our hope to stimulate interest in this important work that will then create a new flow of compassionate care moving into group homes. Initially, we will work with Community Living Centers in Farmington helping them to increase the number of applicants to their homes. In the meantime, we are also working to hopefully establish our parish house as such a home.

While we continue to build upon the outreach efforts mentioned above, our leadership team is working to develop comprehensive contact with key service providers in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area, to understand the scope of need and to keep you informed of volunteer activities such as the BTW (Buy two Weekly) program collecting items for CARES of Farmington Hills.

To better serve our members, efforts are being made to improve the Zoom experience thanks to a gift from a silent donor. In

Continued next page

Pastor Marks' Reflection continued

addition, our outreach team is staying in contact with everyone in the congregation. My hope is that our worship services feed you as we attempt to feed others. Finally, please know that you may call me at 248-207-1312. I am here for you.

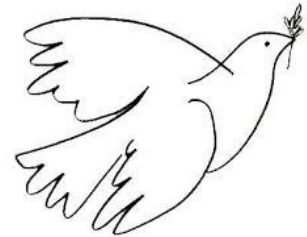
I hope you know that with our limited staff and great volunteer leadership we are attempting to balance all the work as best we can and pray for God's continued blessing.

When I started St. John, people asked me if I was afraid of the \$1,000,000 plus mortgage expense. At the time I said no and trusted that God would put it on the heart of one or two financially capable donors to put it to rest. I still believe that is possible. The elimination of such a debt would allow us to expand

ministries that are already in place or being developed. Ministries that will impact the community and well beyond. Ministries that in a real way create a faith legacy for all of us.

My burden for this work has been inspired by your faith. Let us never fail to dream, and hope and pray God will never leave us and that we will never leave those who need Gods love now more than ever.

Peace,
Pastor Mark



Care, Comfort, and Community - Kris O'Brien Member Care Leader

Caring for one another is one of the defining characteristics of a community. At St. John, we have many opportunities to demonstrate that care! Each of us can participate in ways ranging from simply praying for our fellow members who request it, to bringing Communion to those who are unable to attend worship, and more.

Are you someone who enjoys chatting on the phone? The Phone Call Ministry contacts the members of the congregation every month, letting each know that the St. John community cares about them and offering assistance if needed. Perhaps you are gifted at handiwork. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is very active, knitting or crocheting shawls to provide both spiritual and physical comfort to hurting members. Can you lend a hand setting up tables and chairs or serving food? The Funeral Luncheon Ministry hosts luncheons for bereaved members and their families, enabling them to share a meal and remembrances. Maybe you've even been thinking of another type of care ministry that hasn't yet been formed!

Please consider joining one of our Member Care ministries, or even starting a new one. It's a great way to share God's love!

MARDI GRAS AT ST. JOHN



TUESDAY FEB. 21ST
FELLOWSHIP, FEAST, AND
FESTIVITIES
STARTING AT 5:30PM

RSVP REQUESTED BUT NOT REQUIRED
PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE - 248 - 474 - 0584
OR SEE THE SIGN UP SHEET IN THE COFFEE AREA.

Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, Paczki Day, Fasnacht Day, Día de la Tortilla, Sprengidagur, Laskiainen, Fettisdagen - a day with many names. Come learn about the history and many traditions, while we socialize, play some games, and enjoy our fill of a feast including scratch made pancakes!

For more information or to offer hosting help, contact Ashleigh by text or call at 248-227-2918 or email at ms.fancyfood@gmail.com

THE EVENT IS FREE, BUT WE ARE ASKING GUESTS TO BRING AN ITEM FOR DONATION TO C.A.R.E.S. OF FARMINGTON HILLS. CURRENT NEEDS:

- PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS
- CLEANING SUPPLIES
- PAPER PRODUCTS
- TOILET PAPER, INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED
- DIAPERS

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
23225 GILL RD.
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48335

Get Your Calendars Out and Pencils Ready

As we journey deeper into 2023 and we begin to fill up our calendars, please consider making space for the following things on the horizon here at St. John. While there are dates noted, check the details of each listing as many have ways to get involved that don't require specific time commitments.

Children's Sermons and Sunday School -

Sundays during worship

Every week during our worship service, a children's sermon and/or Sunday school will be available to the younger ones in our community. Be part of nurturing a life in Christ by volunteering to share a lesson. Resources are available to work from, along with necessary materials.

Mardi Gras at St. John - 5:30 pm, Tuesday 2/21

A festival of fun and feasting with ancient roots and many names - Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, Paczki Day. It marks the start of the somber Lenten season with merriment. Traditions vary across the globe, but generally center around clearing the cupboards of indulgent food in a communal manner. Want to join in the fun at St. John? Check out the flier in this issue for more information.

Sharing Soup - 5:30 pm, Wednesdays of Lent, starting 3/1

For the Wednesdays of Lent following Ash Wednesday, all are invited to dig deeper into the community here at St. John. We will share soup, conversation, and Holy Communion as we explore different aspects of the faith that connects us. Soup sponsors and clean up wanted!

God's Garden - 4:00 pm, Tuesdays, starting in the spring

Get involved with a ministry that focuses on care for others, creation, and ourselves by helping support God's Garden. As the weather turns more favorable, work will begin to cultivate our crops - the literal and metaphorical ones. With our table top height beds, some located along paved surfaces, God's Garden makes tasks accessible to those who have more difficulty working at ground level. Anxious to get growing now, or not interested in helping at work days but still want to be involved? Needs change depending on the time of year, but there's usually things to do. Currently, we could use help starting seeds for transplant.

The CROP Walk - Sunday 5/7

A fundraiser for Church World Services, the CROP Walk supports work being done to end hunger and poverty and respond to disaster, whether the need is across the globe or across the street. Each year, 25% of all funds raised as part of the CROP Walk go to organizations in each local community. Planning is in the works for this year's walk, details will be shared as they become available, but a date has already been picked. Watch for information on how to sign up to be a walker. Support is also welcome in the form of soliciting donations and outreach to grow the St. John team of walkers.

Create and Care Camp

Monday-Friday 7/10-7/14

Save the dates! We had so much fun with our home grown garden and arts themed camp that we're bringing it back again this summer. Volunteers will be needed for setup and take down, station leaders and assistants, group leaders and assistants, first aid, registration, and snack, just to name a few. So block off your calendars, then let me know you want to be part of the great team that makes this fun filled week happen.

For all the events listed contact Ashleigh to get involved. You can text or call at 248-227-2918 (please leave a voicemail). email gardenstjohn@gmail.com for anything related to God's Garden or the

Create and Care Camp. For anything else, please use the email address ms.fancyfood@gmail.com.

The Justice Summit - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Saturday 3/25

An event hosted by the Southeast Michigan Synod at St. John, the Justice Summit will be a day of learning and inspiration with workshops from the Diversity Task Force, the Hunger team, BRRICK, the Immigration Task Force, and more. For more information, contact the Synod at 313-821-1055

A Joyful Thanks

When I was 9 years old, I met a girl with boy shoes at my brother's soccer team try outs. When we went back to school at the end of summer, there was a new girl in my class. The new girl had boy shoes. In class, at recess, and along the sidelines of the soccer field, we became close friends. Twenty five years later, we are friends still.

On January 14th, friends and family gathered in the St. John MPR to celebrate the coming birth of my dear friend's daughter and my "niece," Nika.

Melodi and her husband, Greidy, never had any sort of wedding celebration, so her friends and family conspired to throw her a beautiful baby shower celebration, with much success.

Thank you, St. John for sharing the space with us to make this special day possible.



Music News **St. John Lutheran Church**

OUR JOINT CHOIR

As of mid-November 2022, I have been working as St. John's Director of Music while continuing my responsibilities at Antioch Lutheran Church.

I play at each church every second week and rehearse the choirs together. Each choir sings at their own location when I am the organist that week.

The choir has been rehearsing together at alternating locations which is sometimes confusing. Thankfully our office staff at both congregations has helped to make it easier. Currently, both church websites have a button which offers information about music rehearsals and locations.

Almost always, my substitute has been Ann Buland. I am thankful for her experience and talent in the field of church music. She and I regularly discuss how things are going and try to plan for success with our joint choir.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

Christmas is always a busy time for church musicians; most often stressful. I appreciate the grace which has been shown by both singers, staff and especially the pastors at both churches - Pastor Mark at St. John and Pastoral Intern Amy at Antioch.

The joint Lessons and Carols on January 1st held at Antioch holds many beautiful memories for me. I am appreciative of the opportunity to work with both choral groups. The service was enriched by the music of soloist and St. John member, Joanna Percy. Joanna is studying voice at Wheaton College in Chicago. We were happy to have her join us at Christmastime. Fortunately, the service also included the music making of professional trumpeter, Michael Mc Gowan who has played many services with me over the past 5 years.

Everyone has been understanding of the demands of this temporary schedule and I would like to thank each church for this. I have enjoyed getting to know the choir and church membership at St. John while continuing to remain part of the Antioch community. It will be difficult for Antioch as they decide on their future.

EPIPHANY GATHERING

My partner, Robert and I were honored to host an Epiphany Party at our home on Sunday, January 15th (pictures below). Thanks to everyone who attended. We missed those who were absent and hope that they can make it next time.

It was fun to share our home which is still new to us. We have only been in the neighborhood of Grandmont Rosedale in Detroit for 16 months. During the afternoon, we enjoyed some treats and I played some selections by Beethoven, Debussy and Bach on my “new” Estonia 5’4” baby grand.

Thank you for your continued support. The staff of Antioch and St. John have begun to plan Lent and Holy Week so I ask for your prayers as we continue in our combined mission.

Sincerely

Sean Michael Jackman

Director of Music and Organist
Email: seanmjackman@gmail.com
Cell 734.730.7423





January 2023

1/1 Fred Ternes
1/3 Wolfgang Henkel
1/6 Karen Juntunen
Kevin Riley
1/7 Debbie Stanek
1/8 Craig Riley
1/10 Gabriella Weller
1/14 Melanie McDowell
Kevin O'Brien
1/17 Tom Bosanko
Kris O'Brien
Lori Ozar
1/18 William Halvangis
Omolaro Salako
1/20 Catherine Federspill
1/22 Jillian Dresden
Harold Galloway

1/23 Joshua Stenson

1/24 Judith Mahle

Alexa Newhard

David Zatolokin

1/26 Carl Ozar

1/29 George Anderson

1/29 Piper Brannon

1/30 Jackie Craig

February 2023

2/3 Laverne Pearson

2/7 George Caudle

Charles Marshall

2/9 Nancy Leszczynski

2/10 Tammy Kilpatrick

Rebecca Ulinski

2/12 Mark Switzer

2/17 Raymond Cavicchioli

2/20 Lois Makee

2/23 Ashleigh Altemann

Dominic Cianek

2/25 Joanne Hagen

2/27 Cecilija Pavlovich

Carol Sterling has been moved to a care facility closer to her daughter Rene who now lives in Fenton MI. All correspondence for Carol should be sent to her daughter and she will then share with her.

Carol Sterling
8448 Starwood Dr.
Fenton MI 48430

All correspondence to Fran Copp should be sent to her son Hub Copp
1041 Chestnut Lane
South Lyon MI 48178

Lillian Niemi who was transfer from Bethlehem Lutheran church passed away on November 12, 2022. There was and will be no services. Condolences may be sent to her daughter

Lillian Niemi
c/o John Serkaian
24816 Taft Rd.
Novi MI 48375

Robert (Bob) Charles, brother of Julie Ozar passed away suddenly in New Mexico. His sister is going there to settle his affairs and have a memorial service there. There will be a memorial service hopefully at St John but no date has been set yet.

"THANK YOU"



We would like to thank all of the members of St. John who participated in the 2022 Adopt-a-Family project.

We delivered over 60 gifts to Neighborhood House where "our" 2 families picked them up. You also donated \$180 in Kroger gift cards. These will be distributed by Neighborhood House to those who need them as will the \$500 (!) in utility shut-off money which was also donated. Thanks to Patty Oates for coordinating this project, and to Patty and Bob for delivering the gifts to Neighborhood House.

Thanks to all who helped us to make Christmas special for these families who are struggling.



Members:

Karen Brosch	Chris Janik
Denny Mahle	Diana Canup
Bill Davis	Ward Varns
Dave Rowe	Dick Rudorffer
Fran Copp	Ellen Zatolokin
Larry Urevig	Delores Winquist
Gene Kohli	Carol Sterling
Toni Lewis	Eunice Gould
Diane Stanton	Eva Paulson
Lois Makee	Tammy Kilpatrick
Earl Hagen	Jodi Oulette
Mary Galloway	
Marlou Grudt	

Family and Friends

Mary and Bill Burgin	Brent Canup Jr.
Family of Robert Charles (brother of Julie Ozar)	Brent Canup Sr.
Steve Keller	Pat Holland
Robert Oates II	George Austin
Barbara Kaiser	Jim Frattini
Greg Santavy	Susan Pearlman
Max Mccoll	Val Burkhardt
Colleen Davis	Bob Niesyto
Jaden Henkel	Kristin Stoneback
Ole Hagen	Jane Borsvold
Richard Charlton	Erin Cameron
Barbara Camp	Patty & Pete Herman
Leeanne Stenson	Cheryl Cottongin
Ken Sandberg	Mardee Thomas
Karen & Roy Juntunen	Rosalind McLendan
Barbara Trager	Mary Rellinger
	Carol Collins
	Jeffrey Wetzel



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.
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!*

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 3

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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			1 8a Renaissance Academy 6p WAZA Track 7p Joint choir @ Antioch 7p Succoth Church	2 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy 6p WAZA TC	3 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	4 8:45a Silver tree Yoga 9a WAZA TC
5 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 11:30a Confirmation 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	6 10a Quilters 6p WAZA TC 6:30p HHAV	7 8a Renaissance Academy 6p Farmington Soccer	8 8a Renaissance Academy 6p WAZA TC 7p WNW (Zoom) 7p Succoth Church	9 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy 6p WAZA TC 7p Joint choir @ St John	10 8a Renaissance Academy 6:30p RA Dance 7p Succoth Church	11 8:45a Silver tree Yoga 9a WAZA TC
12 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	13 10a Quilters 6p WAZA 6:30p HHAV	14 8a Renaissance Academy 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry 6p Leadership Team Meeting 6p Farmington Soccer	15 8a Renaissance Academy 6p WAZA TC 7p Succoth Church	16 8a Men's Breakfast 8a Renaissance Academy 10:30a Bible Academy 6p WAZA TC 7p Joint Choir @ Antioch	17 8a Renaissance Academy 7p Succoth Church	18 7a NISU 9a WAZA TC
19 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 11a Annual Meeting 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY 10a Quilters 6p WAZA	21 10am RA Open House 5:30p Mardi Gras! 6p Farmington Soccer	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 6p Ash Wednesday Service 6p WAZA TC 7p Succoth Church	23 8a Men's Breakfast 10:30a Bible Academy 6p WAZA TC 7p Joint Choir @ St John	24 7p Succoth Church	25 8:45a Silver tree Yoga 9a WAZA TC 1p Piano Allegro Recital
26 10a Worship 11a Coffee Hour 11:30a Confirmation 12:00p Succoth Church 4p AA	27 10a Quilters 6p WAZA	28 8a Renaissance Academy 6p Farmington Soccer	Calendar key: RA = Renaissance Academy 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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 Farmington Hills, MI 48335
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 www.stjohn-elca.org



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

Mark Switzer

Gilda Bingham

Tom Bosanko

Nancy Janik

Glenn Ming

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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

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

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

This issue was mailed on 2/3/23

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And / or Current resident

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