

THE VOICE

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

February 2022

Sometimes as a Pastor you think about the people you have buried. In doing so it invites you to slow down and see how your life intersects with the deceased and at the same time appreciate those who are still around.

I have already been at St. John long enough to have had several powerful memories to add to those experienced elsewhere. Certainly, the past month has been a season of great loss in our community. While there is a sense of sadness and loss, it is also a very rewarding part of my ministry. I learn so much more about the deceased than I ever knew and about the love that is shared within the family. Often times, the funeral or memorial service provides new information and insights for most of us.

In some way the revelation of new information, reminds me that life goes by pretty fast and begs the question, "how much do we really know, even about our closer friends?"

Several years ago, I facilitated a strategic plan for University Lutheran Church in East Lansing. The most significant development that came out of the process was when I asked members to team up in pairs and take ten minutes each to tell their story up to high school graduation. The result was a burst of energy and excitement that was not intended by the facilitator.

The activity opened countless doors for deeper insight and the establishment of new common ground. Oh, how much we simply don't know. Now to be fair some of us just aren't that forthcoming for any number of reasons and that's okay. But my sense is that the Spirit within St. John is inviting us to grow closer and be fed by the other.

Life goes by rather quickly, and in our community-based faith experience, we are invited to give and receive the love of Christ that in some ways is demonstrated by sharing our life stories. So, as we naturally slow down in the colder months, take time to not only reflect on your own life, but also connect with someone who has been on your mind. Visit, extend the peace and just see where things go from there.

Peace,
Pastor Mark



LENTEN JOURNEY 2022



Dear friends,

As soon as we flip our calendars from February to March, we receive an invitation to journey:

- + to travel with Jesus,
- + to be encouraged and challenged by his ministry and teaching, and
- + to be renewed through his “passover” from death to life.

The forty-day journey toward Easter begins with an evening service on **March 2 at 7 PM.** at which our foreheads will be marked with the dust of ashes as we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. Simultaneously, the ashes trace the life-giving cross marked on our foreheads at our baptism!



Throughout the season of Lent, a unique, intimate weekday devotional time of worship in the Taizé tradition will be offered on **Mondays at 1 PM.** This offering of worship will focus on divine attributes drawn from the Sunday gospel texts for Lent, namely, faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love, and will include devotional readings as well as hymns of the passion and the chants of the Taizé community.

WORSHIP IN THE TAIZÉ TRADITION

For many North Americans, the name Taizé evokes a certain style of singing that has become popular in churches, retreat centers, campus parishes, and seminaries. Some people associate the name with retreats or gatherings focused on young adults. Others may recognize the name as a spiritual community located in the small village of Taizé in eastern France.

Indeed, all of these are correct! Taizé began with one man, Brother Roger, who came to a semi-abandoned village in eastern France in 1940 to offer a welcome to Jews fleeing the Nazi persecution and to work out a call to follow Christ in community, a community that would attempt to live out the Gospel call to reconciliation day by day.

From its beginning, life at Taizé always revolved around three main poles – prayer (worship), work, and hospitality. Its worship is a very meditative form of prayer, in which singing and silence have always played a large part. Over time, chants made up of a few words repeated over and over were composed, thus making possible prayer that was both meditative and accessible to all people visiting the community.

We at St. John look forward to this special time of prayer during Lent and making our Lenten journey together!

Michael Burkhardt
Director of Worship and Music

A Reframe

Much of this past couple years has been defined by a feeling of anxious uncertainty. With so many starts and stops, waves and recoveries, it's hard to trust any signs of a light at the end of the tunnel.

Around a decade ago now I learned in therapy the power of reframing our thinking. Of course, as I mentioned in my article last month there are limits to what rethinking can accomplish. But, as I was driving down to the church on a day where the winter felt especially dreary, it struck me that perhaps a reframe is an order.

The anxious uncertainty is still most definitely part of our zeitgeist, now too is impatience prevalent. I know that in some ways the normal of the before times may be gone forever but of late the aching for it is stronger than ever. I don't much like a feeling of unease. I can't imagine there's really anyone who does, except perhaps in the controlled thrill of a horror movie or spooky story. As I wonder if there is a way to repackage these feelings - to reframe and shift my perspective and quell some of the tension, to slow the production of adrenaline and mitigate the physical effects of stress on my body and in my life - an image comes to mind.

Beneath the exterior world of whites, and grays, and browns, in the soil where we find our foundation, the seeds are waiting. Little capsules of potential and uncertainty. Full of life and yet not fully alive. Conditions and time dictate when new growth will sprout.

So, what if I'm a seed? Do I stew in my impatience or do I take the time I need?

Sure, bulbs can be forced and we can sow in flats, egg cartons, a hodgepodge of containers from this or that. But then, conditions have to be just right. The care and attention required is far more immense when we try to work against nature.

And forcing when the conditions aren't right will hardly be fruitful.

Even then, when the light is good and the soil is warm and the water is sufficient, it does take time. There is no getting around that.

So, what if I'm a seed, we're all seeds, full of potential and uncertainty?

It is in our nature to grow, failing that, we cease to live. Can we force ourselves - do we have the right conditions? Do we have the time for the increased care and attention? Do we have help and support? Or, should we take a more gentle approach, and let the forces of nature carry us?

In our culture, being guided by nature often comes with some negative connotations. The forces of nature should carry us? Shouldn't we be in control? So many messes of our world are caused by our efforts to control nature. To force growth on our schedules, and to squash it too. We end up having to clean up the messes of our impatience, or indifference, our unknowing, or perhaps our knowing better.

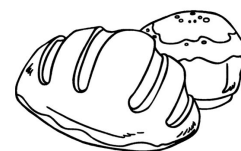
Yet, if we are guided by the forces of life, we find a flow to things. The days lengthen, the soil warms. When the time and conditions are right the seeds sprout, because that's what seeds do.

---Ashleigh Altemann

NISU Making

Saturday February 12

To place your order or for more information. Contact Donna Bosanko @ tbosanko1@hotmail.com



🌱 God's Garden wants you... 🌱

Start Some Seeds, Please

It is perhaps not without a bit of irony, given my article in this issue, that I am putting out the call for volunteers to assist with starting some seeds for God's Garden. Besides being a great way to support this ministry from the comfort of your home, it is also an opportunity to reflect on what we can learn about nurturing and growth as we care for these tender sprouts of life. Plus, we can benefit from the joy that comes from a shelf or window sill of little green babies in this season of gray, brown, and white.

Please fill out this form and return it to the church office, or drop it into the flower pot in the narthex. An electronic version can be found in the St. John eNews or linked to on the God's Garden Facebook page.



If you have questions, please contact gardenstjohn@gmail.com.

Name:

phone:

email:

text/call/either?

I will support God's Garden by starting seeds.

Please help me by providing the following:

Containers Soil Seeds Instructions

Upon receiving your response you will be contacted by Ashleigh or another God's Garden representative to coordinate.

I've never started seeds before.

Now is a great time to try!

What if I am not successful?

Anyone who has started seeds knows, sometimes it just doesn't work out. If we let that stop us, there would be far fewer gardens. Give it a shot! Worst case scenario isn't too bad. Best case scenario is pretty nice.

Seriously, I kill all my plants.

Seriously, it's ok. There are plenty of seeds. Try again!

What if I have questions?

Email gardenstjohn@gmail.com with your question. We'll do our best to steer you in the right direction.

What are these plants for?

We'll use them in God's Garden. If there are enough to share, we'll also host a plant sale for the congregation and the community to support the God's Garden ministry.

Can I keep some of the plants I start?

The ministry of God's Garden believes in supporting gardeners. Please enjoy some of the plants in your own garden, or share them with friends and tell them about the God's Garden ministry.

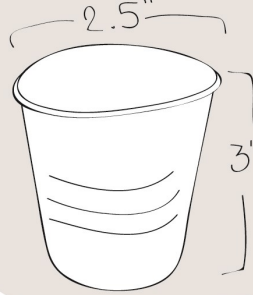
Can I just buy some plants for God's Garden instead?

We welcome plant donations, but do request purchases be coordinated. There is a plant wish list.





Select small paper cups or similar sized vessels. Make drainage holes and fill it with soil, ideally a light potting mix.



Moisten the soil so that it is not soggy and dripping with water, but not dry either.



Depending on how many cups you are starting at once, you may want to moisten all soil at once in a separate, larger container and then fill your cups.

Seed Sowing Depth

Beet → 1/2"
(soak seeds 1-2hrs before planting for better germination)

Brassica → 1/4"-1/2"
(broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, etc.)

Lettuce → 1/4"

Pea → 1"

Radish → 1/4"-1/2"

Sunflower → 1"

Sow your seed, 3 of the same variety per cup, at the proper depth according to the chart to the left or your seed packet.



If this information is not available for your seeds, a good rule of thumb is to plant the seed at twice as deep as the seed is wide. For example, for a 1/16" seed, plant 1/8" deep. For a 1/2" seed, plant 1" deep.

Keep your seeds moist and in a warm location. Most seeds sprout in 7-14 days. Once your seeds have sprouted, move your cup to a sunny location and maintain a moist soil.



Growing Pontiac is a 501(c)(3) with a mission to empower our neighbors to grow food in and for our community.

Get in touch with us at:
growingpontiac@gmail.com
248-860-6594
facebook.com/growingpontiac



Allow plants to grow at least two sets of true leaves (not counting the first leaves from when the seed germinated), before transferring to a larger container. Thin to the strongest and healthiest looking seedling.

February will focus on the parables Jesus used to teach dimensions of shalom: compassion, mercy, justice, and forgiveness.

Feb. 2nd - The Persistent Widow

A reflection on the role of justice in building the kingdom experience here on earth. (Luke 18:1-8)

Feb. 9th - The Publican and the Pharisee

The problem of judgmentalism as a road block to shalom. (Luke 18: 9-14)

Feb. 16th - The Unforgiving Servant

Comprehending the importance of forgiveness. (Matthew 18:21-35)

Feb. 23rd - The Prodigal Son

A story about compassion and mercy in action. (Luke 15:11-32)

Get the link in the eNews or on the St. John webpage.



Join us for discussion and fellowship on Zoom, Wednesday nights at 7:00.



ideas...

1. A pair of mittens to take sledding
2. A knit cap to match your ice skates
3. Some trail mix for your beautiful snowy hike

Your single donation could help save more than one life at a time when we are experiencing a national blood crisis – it's the worst Red Cross shortage in over a decade. Patients really need you right now. Will you come in soon?

It's cold outside in many parts of the country, but we've got a truly sweet treat to warm you up.

Come to give blood Feb. 1-28, and we'll send you a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card* via email, thanks to our partners at Amazon!**

What will you buy with your \$10 Gift Card from Amazon? We've got a few

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE @ ST JOHN

Monday February 28, 2022

1p - 7p in the gym located in the

Bethlehem Activity Center.

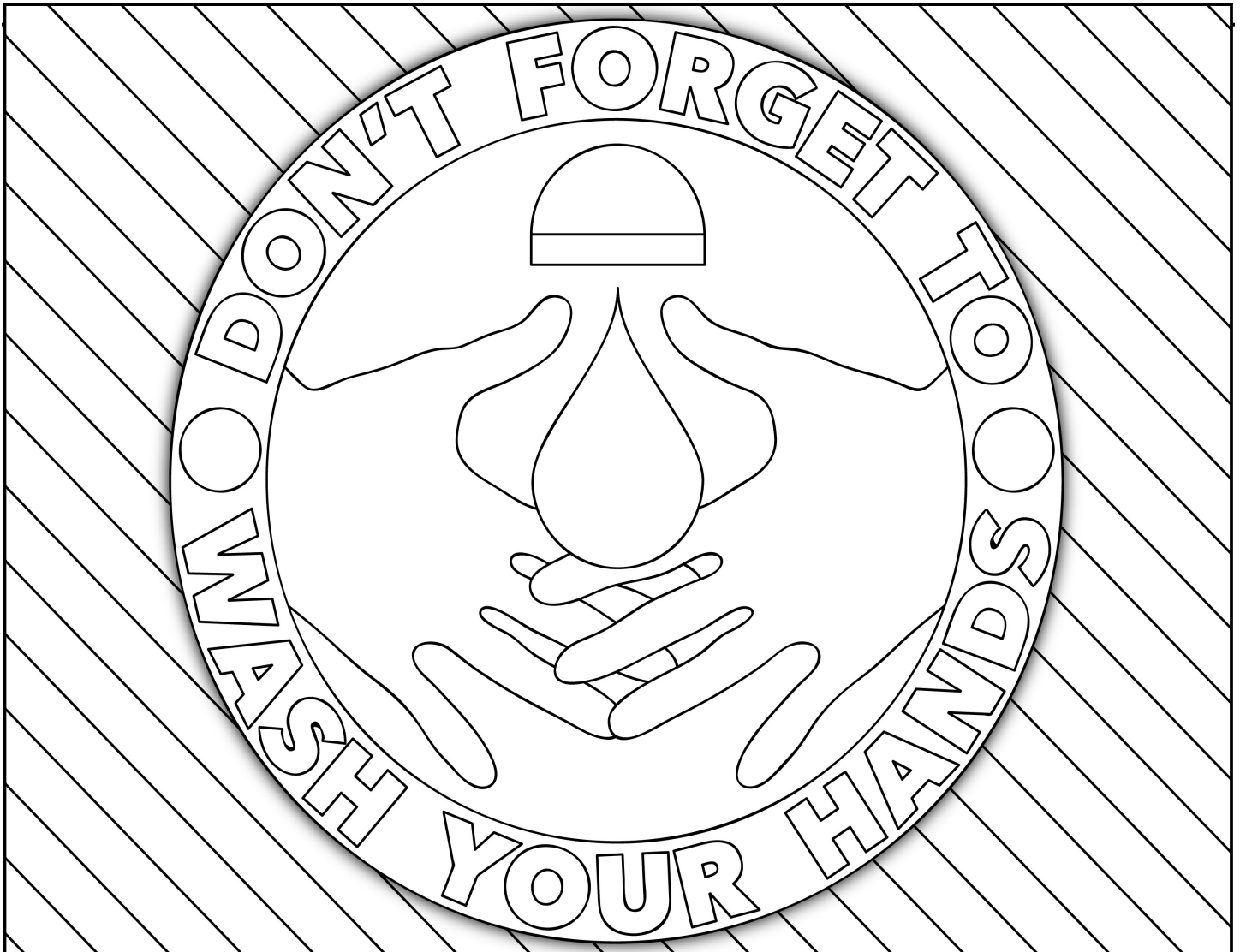
February

2/3 Laverne Pearson
2/7 George Caudle
Charles Marshall
2/10 Tammy Kilpatrick
Rebecca Ulinski
2/12 Mark Switzer
2/17 Raymond Cavicchioli

2/20 Loise MaKee
2/23 Ashleigh Altemann
Dominic Cianek
2/25 Joanne Hagen
2/27 Cecilija Pavlovich



C O L O R I N G P A G E





*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

Members:

Diane Stanton; Janet Caudle; Lillis Raylean; Lois Makee; Earl Hagen; Mary Galloway; Marlou & Jim Grudt; Chris Janik; Diana Canup; Ward Varns; Eva Paulson; Dick Rudorffer; Audrey Riley; Ellen Zatolokin; Delores Winquist; Carol Sterling; Selma Ballach; Eunice Gould; Tammy Kilpatrick; Lillian Niemi; Jodi Oulette.

Friends, and Family:

Erin Cameron; Zach Taylor; Patty & Pete Herman, (Brundage); Kyle Soderlund, (Fisher); Loretta Zahn (Oates); Marshall & Jessie Anderson (Bosanko); Steve Kramer; Barry Shiek (Henkel); Judy Wiessbock, Courtney Dimiceli (Wiessbock); Val Blanchett (Fisher); Jaden Henkel; Mark

Copp (Fisher); Pr. Lauren Kirsh-Carr; Virginia Kincaide (Kincaide); Sue Jennings (Fisher); Jean Nelson (Nieysto); Terry Atkinson, Evelyn Tenbusch, Mardee Thomas; Rosalind McLendan (Dale); Kristin Stoneback, Jane Borsvold, Cindy & Mark Borsvold (Sailus); Mary Rellinger (Switzer); Nancy Kowalski (Niesyto); Carol Collins (sister of Earl Hagen); Jeffrey Wetzel (Merrell).



**Serving in the Military
including overseas:**

Jacob Stanton

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!

REGISTRATION OPEN

hearts, hands and voices
Worship and Fine Arts
SUMMER CAMP
August 8-11, 2022
9 a. m. – 3 p.m.



St. John Lutheran Church
23225 Gill Rd
Farmington Hills, MI

info@heartshandsvoices.org
www.heartshandsvoices.org

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 8a RA Hybrid 6p Farmington Soccer	2 8a RHG 10:30p SJ Staff Meeting 6p WAZA Track 7p WNW 7p Succoth Church	3 8a Men's Breakfast 8a RA Hybrid 10:30a Bible Academy 6p Chancel Choir 7p Chancel Bells	4 8a RHG 6p WAZA Track 7p Succoth Church	5 9a WAZA Track 9a Music Work Days
6 10a Worship 12p Succoth Church 4p AA	7 9a Music Work Days 4:30p HHAV 6p WAZA Track	8 8a RA Hybrid 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry 6p Leadership Team mtg 6p Farmington Soccer	9 8a RHG 10:30p SJ Staff Meeting 6p WAZA Track 7p WNW 7p Succoth Church	10 8a Men's Breakfast 8a RA Hybrid 10:30a Bible Academy 6p Chancel Choir 7p Chancel Bells	11 8a RHG 4p NISU setup 6p WAZA Track 7p Succoth Church	12 7a NISU Baking 9a WAZA Track
13 10a Worship 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	14 4:30p HHAV 6p WAZA Track	15 8a RA Hybrid 6p Farmington Soccer 7p St John Board	16 8a RHG 10:30p SJ Staff Meeting 6p WAZA Track 7p WNW 7p Succoth Church	17 8a Men's Breakfast 8a RA Hybrid 10:30a Bible Academy 6p Chancel Choir 7p Chancel Bells	18 8a RHG 6p WAZA Track 7p Succoth Church	19 9a WAZA Track 9a Music Work Days
20 10a Worship 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	21 9a Music Work Days 4:30p HHAV 6p WAZA Track	22 8a RA Hybrid 1p Prayer Shawl Ministry 6p Farmington Soccer	23 8a RHG 10:30p SJ Staff Meeting 6p WAZA Track 7p WNW 7p Succoth Church	24 8a Men's Breakfast 8a RA Hybrid 10:30a Bible Academy 6p Chancel Choir 7p Chancel Bells	25 Voice Articles due! 8a RHG 6p WAZA Track 7p Succoth Church	26 9a WAZA Track 9a Music Work Days 12p Party decorating 6p Birthday Party
27 10a Worship 12:30p Succoth Church 4p AA	28 9a Music Work Days 1p Blood Drive 4:30p HHAV 6p WAZA Track	<p>Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9:30am—3:30pm</p> <p>For most to date calendar information see online calendar at http://www.stjohn-elca.org/calendar</p> <p>Calendar key: WNW = Wednesday Nights Wherever' RA = Renaissance Academy; RHG = Renaissance Homeschool Group; HHAV =Hearts, Hands, and Voices; BAC= Bethlehem Activity Center Bold Print= St John activities</p>				



ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.stjohn-elca.org

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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

Diane Stanton
Mark Switzer
John Dresden

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Spiritual Development and Outreach
Mission Advancement
Member Care
Young Families and Children
Stewardship Of Resources
Facility Needs
Communications

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

Nancy Janik
Glen Ming
Larry Urevig

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 February 3, 2022

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Farmington Hills, MI
Permit No. 220

And / or Current resident