

# 2024

# A Look Back



A Journal of St. John's Happenings in 2024



***St. John's Lutheran  
Church  
Mission Statement***

***“Encountering,  
Connecting,  
& Responding  
to Jesus Christ.”***

# Expressions of Worship



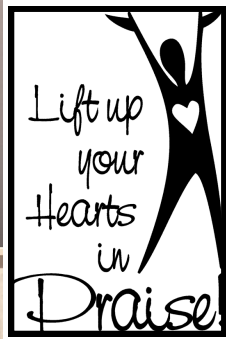
Contemporary Worship  
During Advent



The Gospel Reading



Christmas Eve Joy!



Blue Grass Band Service

After a 3 year hiatus, St. John's offered the experiential service: The Meal in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday.



Palm Sunday



Easter Sunday Joy!



# A Special Sunday



Bishop Egensteiner came to St. John's, presiding at worship & connecting with congregants.

JAM kids did a special presentation in church when the bishop visited, reciting the books of the Old Testament along with info about each book.



A Luncheon with the Bishop followed the service.

# Music

Dillon Streifeneder, continued as the St. John's Lutheran Church Music Director for the first half of 2024, but took a new position at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, VA. The Lord graciously provided an accomplished musician, John Corrie to take over as Music Director for the rest of 2024 and beyond. This congregation has truly been blessed with incredible musical talent over the years!



↑ Goodbye Dillon, Hello John!  
Some of the St. John's musicians saying goodbye to Dillon. ↓



Ice Cream Social to Raise \$ for the Music Programs



Special Offertory Music



The congregation supported the music program by attending concerts and fundraisers. \$18,919 was raised in 2024 (\$3,000 of that was from Matching Thrivent Choice Dollar funds) which allowed for many musical enhancements. It is clear this congregation values the music programs at St. John's and we strive for excellence in our musical offerings.

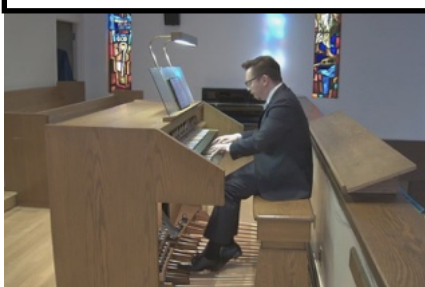


100 people attended the Felix Hell Concert that honored Mary B Heller's 90th birthday!



Bells of St. John's at Bell Fest 2024 →

← Bells of St. John's at Marist College Lessons and Carols, at Bardavon



Adult Choir

John Corrie tried something new this year and began a Children's Chime Choir. The Choir played during a worship service.



# Caring for God's House

## and the Community

### Parking Lot Project

In July, the Property Team arranged to have the St. John's parking lot repaved. This was quite a project, but now the lot is more welcoming for paritioners and people in the community.

We appreciate how well the Property Team takes care of the church and its grounds!



### New Sign

There are many ways we get the word out about happenings at St. John's, but the St. John's lawn sign with moveable letters is one of the most effective communication methods. The sign was getting quite worn, so



Hilon Potter made a new one. His design included a way for it to pivot to keep wind resistance down, increasing its

longevity. It looks great and we got several positive community comments!



We are grateful to all the people who came to help with the annual

Spring Spruce up day and the fall Leaf Raking day at the church. These work days help the Property Team keep the St. John's building and grounds in good shape.

We also appreciate those who take their efforts into the community for

Adopt-A Highway work days, cleaning the roadside in the name of St. John's.



### LEGACY FUND

It takes money to maintain the St. John's building and to do the mission work we are called to do.

Donations are used to such an end, but those who want to make a more lasting impact may want to consider participating in the Legacy Fund.

The Luncheon held this year explained the fund and answered questions. The Legacy Fund carries our stewardship into the future so that we can love our neighbors now and forever!



# Loving Our Neighbors

**1,276**

people were served at the Food Pantry in 2024!



Cornhole for a Cause Tournament



50's & 60's Dinner Dance to benefit the Food Pantry



## Seafarer Project

61 Satchels were assembled to go to seafarers far away at Christmas



Harvest Sunday Food Collection



## Blood Drives

St. John's had 3 Blood Drives in 2024 and was able to collect 77 pints of blood. The Red Cross was thankful to all who gave the "gift of life".



Love INC Cookie Walk  
St. John's bakers donated their finest to the 16th Annual Love INC Cookie Walk, where \$6,000 was raised to help those in need,



# The Younger Gen

Baking Bread for First Communion  
& First Communion Sunday



Confirmation Class of 2024.

The Kid's Trunk or Treat event was very popular!



Third Grade Bibles



Easter Egg Hunt



Christmas Extravaganza—The Reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas



Share, Save, Spend Banks



Scout Sundays



Nemo Swart & his crew beautified the church courtyard with special planters and benches. As a result of Nemo's leadership efforts he received the Eagle Scout Award! Congratulations Nemo and THANKS!



# Some New Ideas This Year

## Christmas Basket Gifts

This year when congregants shopped for Christmas Basket gifts, they were given a paper ornament with a request from the children regarding the gift.



Within 1 week, all 96 gift requests were in the hands of gift donors to guide their shopping.



Gifts came back and were added to the Christmas baskets of food given to families in need. The project was a testimony to the generous hearts in this congregation!

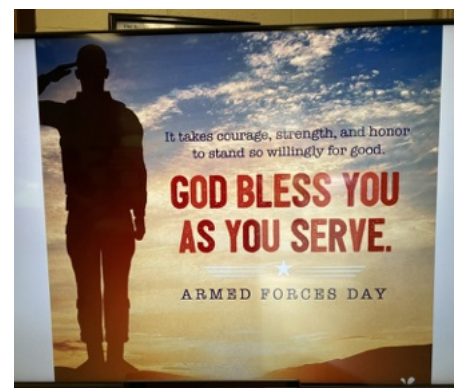
## Honoring Our Military

It is wonderful when paritioners think of a good idea and then work to execute their idea. Chris Cox had a vision of honoring congregants and family members of congregants serving in the military. She worked hard to get information from people and created a slide presentation featuring these people. The slide show was on display during her special "Armed Forces Coffee Hour" on Armed Forces Day, She sent pictures of the congregation (during worship services) waving to the military.



Chris wants to make this an annual event.

Congregants waving during the Contemporary Service





# Learning Opportunities




St. John's hosted a light lunch and presentation on World War II where Jeff Cierniak gave attendees a cursory study of the United States' participation in the war. It was an event near Veteran's Day to remember all they have done for our country.

Miller Funeral Home had a Lunch & Learn event called: "Why Should I Have This Conversation?" The importance of making end of life arrangements ahead of time and options for that process were discussed.



## JAM Walks Through the Bible

 The JAM kids finished walking through the Old Testament and will finish the New Testament in early 2025. They learned a word and motion for each book and a song to help them remember the order of the books.



Some of the younger JAM kids working on a craft to go with the Walk Through the Bible lesson.

## Growing in Faith Throughout the Year

Lenten Devotional: *7th Annual one in 2024!*

Lesson Discussion Group on Sunday Mornings

Christian Men's Groups:

*Wednesday Morning Breakfast*

*Thursday Evening Dinner*

Lenten Bible Study: *Lutheranism 101*

Wednesday Lenten Services: *Scripture Discussion*

Advent Bible Study: *Understanding the Bible*

Confirmation for Youth: *6th-9th Grade*

JAM : *Jesus & Me Program for K-5th Grade*



Men's Thursday Group

# A Few of Our Unsung Heroes

## Christmas Helpers



Christmas trees and decorations at St. John's beautify the church and make it festive. These folks made time to help with that even in the midst of the busy holiday season.

## Altar Guild (Worship Prep Team)

The Altar Guild does a ton of work behind the scenes. These ladies are ironing linens that are used during worship services.



## Communion Bread

Each week, fresh bread for the 9AM service is made by a special group of volunteers to be used during the Holy Eucharist.



Abby Dux is one of the bakers.

## Coffee Hours



Coffee Hour hosts make this important (and popular) fellowship time possible!



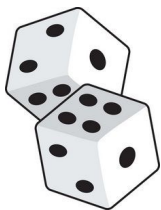
# Events & Groups



**Golf Ministry**  
The Golf Ministry enjoys a weekly round of golf together every Wednesday at Vassar Golf Course.

## Bunco

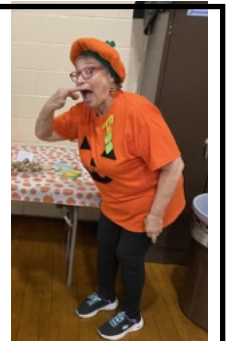
This year we tried something new... a combo Pizza Party/Bunco Game right after worship. 38 people came to participate in this fun, intergenerational event.



**Rally Day**  
Ministry Tables,  
Food,  
Cotton Candy,  
Bouncy House  
FUN!



**Pumpkin Carving Event**



# St. John's Lutheran Church Leaders 2025

Looking forward to the next year in ministry together!

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Jeffrey Koenig	
Art Upright	President
Jonathan Heller	Vice President
	Property
Doug Ohlandt	Secretary
Suzanne McLeod	Treasurer
Dave Hawkinson	Worship & Music
Mike Ignaffo	Ministry
Jonathan Leigh	Discipleship
Shannon Rode	Hospitality
James Swart	Evangelism



## MISSION TEAM CHAIRS

John Dux	Adult Ministry MT
Amy Huber	Children's Ministry MT
Doug Ohlandt	Communications MT
Susan Lamberton	Evangelism MT
Bob Knapp	Finance & Admin. MT
Mark Decker	Financial Secretary
Jackie Boccio	Hospitality MT
Janice Viola	Parish Care MT
<i>(No chair)</i>	Property MT
Abby Dux & Linda Haas Manley	Social Ministry MT
Steve Jones	Stewardship MT
Anne Christmas	Worship & Music MT
<i>(No chair)</i>	Youth Ministry MT

## ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Jeffrey Koenig	revkoenig@stjohnselc.org
Deacon:	Richard Ferolito	
Director of Music:	John Corrie	jcorrie@stjohnselc.org
Office Administrator:	Rosanne Leigh	rleigh@stjohnselec.org
Director of Lay Ministry:	Jeanne Jones	jjones@stjohnselc.org
Contemporary Worship Leader:	Jeanne Jones	
Bookkeeper:	Alison Schlak	aschlak@stjohnselc.org
Video Manager:	Andrew Mark	

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