

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
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Office Hours: Mon.- Fri., 8:00am-3:00pm

Sunday Worship
 8:15a.m. Traditional
 10:30a.m. Contemporary
 9:30a.m. Education



St. John's Staff

- Dave Nelson, Lead Pastor**
 dnelson@stjohns-annandale.org
- Alex Becker, Pastor**
 abecker@stjohns-annandale.org
- Bonnie Schmidt, Financial Administrator**
 bschmidt@stjohns-annandale.org
- Chrystal Rasmussen, Administrative Assistant**
 chrystalrasmussen@stjohns-annandale.org
- Meggan Caird, Worship Support Specialist**
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- Orma Lou Jacobsma, Organist**
- Ardis Nelson, Contemporary Worship Leader**
 studionelson.ardis@gmail.com
- Georgene Gravdal, Custodian**
- Robin Jacobson, Precious Gifts Director/Teacher**
 robin@jacobsonfarm.com
- Trisha Woods, Precious Gifts Teacher Assistant**
- Mark Nelson, Chancel Choir Director**
 music2Xnelson@gmail.com

Sunday School Directors:

- Laura Eastling
 Michelle Wang



Ministry Chairpersons:

- Children, Youth & Family
- Outreach:
 Marilyn Hallstrom
 Marilyn.Hallstrom@tylertech.com

Worship and Music:

- Support and Stewardship:
 Tina Honsey

ELCA Missionary:

- Terry Jensen

GNM Good News Monthly

November 2017 

From Pastor Dave...

Gatherings for Pastor Alex and Gabbie
 A number of gatherings have been scheduled for the sake of helping Pastor Alex and Gabbie get to know us as a congregation and an opportunity for us to get to know them, as well. I hope that you will make EVERY EFFORT to participate in one of the gatherings. If we run out of slots, we will create other opportunities as needed. Members of the Church Council and the Call Committee are graciously serving as hosts of these gatherings.

All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 5th, we will gather for worship and remember with gratitude those members of St. John's who have died since last year's All Saints celebration. We will also remember our own loved ones who have touched our lives and left their "Faith prints" on us. We will be reminded that by God's grace we are all numbered among the saints of God, eternally loved and fully forgiven! There will be opportunities, as in years past to light a candle that day in remembrance of those who have meant so much in your own life and faith journey. I hope you will be able to join us.

Staff Recognitions

On Sunday, November 19, we will recognize two of our staff members who are this year celebrating 30 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE here at St. John's. Mark Nelson has served as our Chancel Choir Director since 1987, and Bonnie Schmidt started that same year, serving these past 30 years as our Office Administrator. That is pretty amazing! I encourage you to thank them personally with a card, a gift, or a direct thank you for all they have done and continue to do in the service of our Lord and of God's mission through St. John's.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Social

We will gather at 7:00pm for a service of thanksgiving on Wednesday evening, November 22, as we pause to give thanks to God for the abundance of the gifts and blessings that God has poured out upon us. Following our worship our Chancel Choir will once again sponsor and serve a pie potluck. All are welcome!

Nominating Process

Our Nomination Committee will soon begin the process of calling forth the gifts of leadership that will be needed as we move forward into another year of ministry and mission. I hope that you will keep this very important process in your prayers, and that if asked, you will prayerfully take the time needed to consider the call to leadership within our congregation. If you have any questions regarding the process, please

contact one of this year's Nominating Committee members: Penny Hogberg, Nancy Berg, Valerie Nelson, Donna Jacobson, Marilyn Hallstrom, and Carrie Pilgrim.

National Caregivers Month

November is a month set aside to recognize and thank all those who serve as caregivers to parents, spouses, family members, friends, etc. You play an important role, and yet you are often forgotten as the focus seems to fall on those in need. But I want to take this opportunity to thank ALL OF YOU who have been or who are serving as caregivers to someone in need. You are Christ's hands and feet for that person, and what you do makes all the difference in the world. Thanks!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank you!

Thank you for the wonderful celebration of my 10 years of service here at St. John's and of the 35th Anniversary of my Ordination! Thank you to all of you who sucked it up and wore green and gold that day. I know how hard that was, and it was greatly appreciated! Thank you also for all the lovely cards, notes of thanks, and gifts given, as I said that day: "I am blessed!" Also, thanks for the opportunity that you provided me to share some of my original music between services and for the slideshow that my wife Diane put together. It's such a joy to share my music, to hear you sing the songs I've written, and to praise God together! As I said that day, quoting a great man of history: "For all that has been - thanks; and for all that will be - yes!"

Good News to Share

First, if you haven't already heard, Diane and I are going to be grandparents! Kayla and Garrett are expecting their first child. The due date is April 1st, Easter Sunday!!! Secondly, Diane's dad has been chosen to go on an "Honor Flight" and Diane gets to accompany him. Jim is a Korean War veteran and will have the opportunity to fly to Washington, D.C. the first weekend in November. It's an opportunity to honor those who have served our country.

Thanksgiving Blessings

As we quickly approach another holiday season, I want to wish all of you a very blessed Thanksgiving! If you will be traveling, I wish you safe travels! I think, in our world we need Thanksgiving more than ever. We are bombarded daily with negative news so much that it begins to cloud our eyes to the blessings all around us. So this year, make time, either on your own or with your family, to name all the blessings that you enjoy and that you are thankful for. See how long of a list you can come up with. Then, after naming the blessings simply pause and take in the wonder of it all! Then say thanks to the giver of all good gifts, the God of Jesus! You will feel good - I guarantee it!

Inside this issue:

- Coming Up 3
- Thank You 4
- Invest In The Kingdom 5
- CYF News 6
- Council Minutes 7

Grateful!

By now you should have received a note from our Stewardship team. I hope that you will take to heart their sincere “thank you” for your faithful support of this ministry. Because of your faithful giving we were able to extend a call to Pastor Alex to join our staff and to bring leadership, energy, and excitement to our Children, Youth, and Family ministry, to our worship life, and to our congregational life. I am so excited to have him as a colleague, and I see good things in the future for our congregation.

Last year we experienced a 25% increase in the number of people and families who returned an estimate of giving commitment. Receiving those commitments helped us tremendously as a Council to estimate our income for the year, and to build an appropriate budget for 2017. I hope that all those who returned a commitment last year will do it again, and the others of you will join them so that we can increase the number even more.

The Council would appreciate you returning your commitment for 2018 using one of the methods that are outlined on the commitment card, NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, November 26. By doing so, we will be able to estimate our giving for 2018 and use that information as we finalize our proposed budget at our December Council meeting.

Again, the word that keeps coming to my mind is “grateful.” I am grateful to God for the many ways that He continues to bless this community of faith. I am grateful for you and for your faithful and generous support of this ministry. And I am grateful for the opportunity and blessing to serve with and among you as one of your pastors. With gratitude I look forward to good things ahead.

I finished!

Back in April, I shared with you that I had begun a personal project: to learn about the various countries of our world. Each day, I Googled facts about a different country, taking the countries in alphabetical order. Except for a few days when I did not have internet access while on vacation, I learned something new about a different country every day. And a few weeks ago, I finished! It was a wonderful project. I learned so many interesting things and so many interesting customs. I was reminded of how blessed we are as a country. There are many people in our world who live in deep poverty. I was reminded that, while different in many ways, we are all human beings, sharing the same planet, wanting the best for our families, and that every country of our world has gifts to share. I would STRONGLY encourage you to do this project yourself. You will come away with a new appreciation of the rich diversity that God has created within our world.

In Christ,
Pastor Dave

In Need of Prayer?

People at St. John’s are ready to pray for and with you, in times of joy and in times of need. To activate this prayer ministry please contact the church office. Only the information you choose to share will be passed on to the Prayer Ministry participants. Please understand that if you are calling on behalf of another person, in order to respect the right of privacy, and for the sake of confidentiality, you must have that individual’s permission before we can activate the prayer ministry and pray for them by name. Also, please know that our prayer ministry is ALWAYS open to additional participants. If you would like to be included in either the Prayer Chain (where you would receive a telephone contact) or email prayer group, please contact the church office.



Pastoral Visits

Please call the church office to let us know if you desire a pastoral visit, especially if you are going to be hospitalized. If it is an emergency, feel free to call Pastor Dave at home.

Endowment Committee News

Have you included the St. John’s Endowment in your estate plan? There are a variety of options available to you to learn about the many ways to make a planned gift. Please contact the *InFaith Community Foundation* at (800) 365-4175 (where our St. John’s Endowment is held) and they would be happy to explain them to you.

Gifts and memorials given to our Endowment Fund help us to enhance our mission and outreach as a congregation. Please know that we are grateful for every gift given to the St. John’s Endowment no matter the size, whether it’s through your estate or as a gift in memory or in honor of someone. Such gifts allow us to support worthwhile ministries within and beyond our congregation.

BY THE WAY...IT’S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN! It’s time to give some money away. Members of St. John’s are encouraged to participate by filling out an Endowment Grant Application. Grant applications are available at the Welcome Desk. What are the Grant applications for? Well, do you know of a ministry, either within or outside our congregation, that could use a little financial boost. A ministry that is consistent with our mission to “experience, live and share the love of Jesus Christ.” The Endowment Team invites you to fill out an application and return it to the church office by Sunday, December 3rd. The Endowment Team will then meet to award grants, so that those grants can be approved by the Church Council at their December meeting.

St. John’s Lutheran Church Council Meeting Date: 10/16/17 Start: 7:00p.m. End: 8:44p.m.

Present: Pastor Dave Nelson, Pastor Alex Becker, Kris Nelson, Bill Berry, Peggy Bodell, Shelly Mikel, Abby Mikel, Mary Iverson, Lonnie Baack, Steve Miller, Diane Barkley, **Absent:** Matt Honsey, David Burd, & Michelle Wang

Topic	Discussion	Action
Faith Talk:	Bill Berry	N/A
Scripture & Prayer	Pastor Dave	N/A
Approval of Agenda	Motion: Approve October Council Agenda	M/S/P Diane/Mary
Secretary’s Report	Motion: Approval of September Council Minutes	M/S/P Peggy/Bill
Treasurer’s Report	Motion: Approval of Treasurer’s Report: September Motion to Approve - Motion Passed	M/S/P Shelly/Lonnie
Executive Committee Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Motion by Exec. Committee: Designate Health Care Plan - Gold Level (up 5%). *Clergy Staff Reviews will be in December conducted by Exec. Committee. *Christmas Council Party - thinking about dates & hosts. *DEEP CONVERSATION: Sabbatical Policy - Discussed “Value in a Sabbatical” as a chance for Pastors to recharge, refresh, continuing education and congregation discovers gifts and opportunities. Policy needs to clarify how many years Pastor needs to serve before taking a sabbatical. Recommended 3 mos. time for a sabbatical leave. Will look at other congregations’ policies and explore 	M/S/P Ex/Peggy
Pastor Dave’s Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Thank you for the congregation’s recognition of Pr Dave’s 35th Anniversary. *Praises of work done by Meggan, Georgene, and Chrystal. *Submit names for potential council member candidates to Pastor Dave. 	
Pastor Alex’s Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Confirmation Sunday; 10 students; meeting with each student. *Church Website - looking at updates. *Upcoming Jr High Youth Gathering in Willmar. *Attended Gatherings Community planning in Houston 10-12-17. 	N/A
Old Business	Welcome Gathering Dates for Pastor Alex & Gabby - sign up to host.	N/A
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Recognition of Bonnie Schmidt & Mark Nelson (30 yrs) employed at St. John’s to be held on 11/19: Treats after service. *Cards to be sent to Becky Unger (20 yrs) & Kris Bauer (15 yrs). *Budget Process - ministries to send in 2018 budgets by end of October. *Send names to Pr Dave for potential Council Candidates. Could have 8. 	
Ministry Updates	Any updates; Property & CYF sent out reports.	N/A
Council Reminders	Faith Talk in November - Mary Offering Duties - SIGN UP PLEASE	N/A
Mark Your Calendar		N/A
Upcoming Agenda Items		N/A
Adjournment	Motion to Adjourn at 8:44p.m.	M/S/P Lonnie/Mary
Announcements & Prayer	Pastor Dave	N/A

Treasurer's Report		Monthly Income	Monthly Expense	General Fund Balance
General Fund (1)	September 2017	\$31,651.77	\$29,213.83	\$39,026.44
	Monthly Average 2016	\$35,808.85	\$34,651.80	
Building Fund (2)			Monthly Mortgage	Building Balance
		\$10,032.70	\$9,587.00	\$15,290.63
Precious Gifts Preschool (3)			PG Expense	PG Balance
		\$4,235.00	\$1,956.27	\$6,061.46
Notes:	<p>1. The General Fund Balance has grown very slightly since December 31, 2016. September had a loss of \$2,437.94. Our year-to-date income and expenses are running behind the (monthly) yearly budget. Let's try and make the remaining three months of the year very STRONG, and end the year (2017) on a positive note. YOUR GENEROUS GIVING CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN!</p> <p>2. We still maintain a positive balance; our next mortgage payment will be \$9,587.00.</p> <p>3. Precious Gifts Preschool balance is positive, and grew by \$2,278.73 during September.</p> <p>Remember our mission at St. John's is supported by your talents and generous gifts. THANK YOU!</p>			

CYF NEWS

D-Way Schedule

- November 1 ~ Regular D-Way Schedule
5th & 6th - Jacob: The Conniving Survivor
7th -9th - God Speaks to Elijah (1Kings 19:1-18)
- November 8 ~ Regular D-Way Schedule
5th & 6th - Joseph: The Virtuous Dreamer
7th -9th - Amos: Justice Rolls Down (Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24)
- November 15 Regular D-Way Schedule
5th & 6th - Moses: The Frustrated Leader
7th -9th - Isaiah: A Child Is Born (Isaiah 9:1-7)
- November 22 ~ No Class (Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7pm)
- November 29 ~ Regular D-Way Schedule
5th & 6th - Rahab: The Faithful Opportunist
7th -9th - Daniel: The Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3:1, 8-30)

2017 Junior High Youth Gathering

All 7th and 8th graders are invited to head to the SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering in Willmar, MN, November 18-19. This year's theme is "Rooted in Faith," based on Colossians 2:7. Some of the many things that you will experience at the gathering include great music, games, service projects, worship, speakers, and much more! We are also in need of adult leaders to lead our students. Please contact Pastor Alex with any questions.

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

Every three years, over 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of service, workshop, fun, fellowship and more. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. The theme of the 2018 gathering is "This Changes Everything," based on Ephesians 2:8, "By grace you have been saved..." All youth who will be a part of the graduation classes of 2018-2022 are eligible to attend, and there is still time to register and joining in what will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 1 at 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 3rd, marks the beginning of a new Church Year and the beginning of the season of Advent. Since the color of the season is BLUE you are encouraged to wear something blue that Sunday (yes, blue jeans are appropriate)! Once again we will invite members and families of the congregation to sign up to light the candles of the Advent wreath and to lead in the Advent Wreath prayer. Please sign up for a Sunday at the Welcome Desk.



Sunday Scripture Readings

November 5 ~ (All Saints' Sunday): 1 Kings 19:1-18; John 12:27-28 God Speaks to Elijah
November 12 ~ Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24; John 7:37-38 Amos: Justice Rolls Down
November 19 ~ Isaiah 9:1-7; John 8:12 Isaiah: A Child Is Born
November 26 ~ (Christ the King Sunday): Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14; John 14:27 Jeremiah's Letters to Exiles



Share Your Christmas

St. John's will once again be participating in Share Your Christmas for Annandale and South Haven. Please watch for our "giving tree" in the gathering area if you'd like to donate a gift item.



Celebrating Bonnie & Mark

Sunday, November 19 - We recognize Bonnie Schmidt our Office Administrator and Mark Nelson our Chancel Choir Director for their 30 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE! That is pretty amazing! Please thank them personally with a card, a gift, or a direct thank you for all they have done, and continue to do, in service of our Lord, and of God's mission through St. John's!



Holiday Fair

December 2 we will have our annual Holiday Fair. Now is the time to start thinking about items you might like to donate. If you plan on going away for the winter you can call either Patty Behrends at 274-6255 or Sharlyn Daniels at 274-5404. We can store your items for you! Thanks!



Communion Service at Annandale Care Center

Our monthly service of Holy Communion will be November 3 at 1:30pm. While this worship service is intended for all St. John's members who are residents at the Care Center and Centennial Villa apartments, it is open to ALL residents, family, and friends. St. John's will also be leading worship at the Care Center on Sunday, November 5, at 1:30.



Coming Up...

- ~ World AIDS Day - December 1.
- ~ First Sunday in Advent/Healing Prayers - December 3.
- ~ Care Center Sunday Worship - December 3 at 1:30pm
- ~ Dingmans Service of Remembrance here at St. John's - December 10 at 3pm.
- ~ Christmas Fest Worship - December 17.
- ~ Sunday School Christmas Program - December 17.
- ~ Precious Gifts Christmas Program - December 21 at 7:00pm.
- ~ 4th Sunday in Advent - December 24 - One Worship Service at 10:00am
- ~ Christmas Eve Services - 3:00pm, 5:00pm, and 10:00pm.
- ~ Christmas Day Service at 10:00am.
- ~ First Sunday of Christmas - December 31 - Regular Worship Schedule.



JOLT! (Joy of Learning Together)

JOLT topics for the month of November will be listed in the GNW bulletins.



Precious Gifts Preschool - Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, November 5 from 11:30am - 1:30pm. Dinner will include salad with dressing, spaghetti with meat sauce, dessert, coffee and juice. All proceeds go toward upgrades of Precious Gifts Preschool's technology and program. Free will donations are welcomed and appreciated.



55+ Pot-luck and Bingo on November 14 at 11:30am

Wow! Great prizes include coupons from area restaurants, groceries, and more. There will be a special music between Bingo cards. Come for the food, the fellowship, and the Bingo fun. We have engaged an extremely talented and nationally renowned Bingo caller. You don't want to miss this.



Snow Blowing Teams

While we hate to admit it, winter will be here before we know it. The Property Team will be organizing snow blowing teams to clear sidewalks at the church, beginning with the month of November. If you haven't been on a team in the past and you would like to lend a hand, please contact the church office. We are grateful for all who serve.



Fall Back

Please remember to "fall back" one hour the evening of November 4 as we go off Daylight Savings time. Enjoy the one hour of extra rest and we'll see you in worship!



- ~ To all who assisted with the "Common Prayer" Service with St. Ignatius, especially Ardis and Mark Nelson, Vicki Greene, Val Nelson, Becky Unger, and Opal Fisher; and to all who attended.
- ~ To all who helped plan and serve Pastor Dave's Recognition/Anniversary Sunday.
- ~ To our ninth grade D-Way class and guides under the leadership of Nathan Woodford and Erin Lappen in serving this year's Confirmation banquet for our 10th graders.
- ~ To our tenth graders for sharing their Faith Statements.
- ~ To our fifth-eighth D-Way youth and guides for collecting food for our local food shelf, and to all the adults who served as drivers.
- ~ To the Nominating Team as they begin the process of calling forth the gifts of leadership within our congregation.
- ~ To all who submitted "Marty On A Stick" pictures...what a hoot!
- ~ To all who live out their "baptismal callings" in the education field, especially as we observe American Education Week in November.
- ~ To our Support and Stewardship Team for all their work in planning this year's Stewardship emphasis.

From Pastor Alex...

Do you play an instrument? Do you like to sing? We are looking to add members to the Contemporary Worship team. If you sing or play an instrument - guitar, bass, drums, violin, cello, mandolin, banjo, or any other instruments, please let Pastor Alex know. We are also looking for more people to run our sound system and worship slides. No prior experience is needed as you will be trained how to operate them.

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering: There is still time to sign up for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. Every three years, over 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of service, worship, fun, fellowship, and so much more. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. The theme of the 2018 gathering is "This Changes Everything," based on Ephesians 2:8, "By grace you have been saved..." If you would like to register for the trip, or if you have any questions please contact Pastor Alex. Our first trip meeting will be on November 1 at 7:30pm.

Junior High Youth Gathering: Currently we have 11 students and 2 adults heading to the SW MN Synod Junior High Youth Gathering in Willmar, MN November 18-19. This year's theme is "Rooted in Faith," based on Colossians 2:7. Some of the many things that they will experience at the gathering are great music, games, service projects, worship, speakers, and much more.

In Christ,
Pastor Alex

Invest in the Kingdom: *Gathered In Christ...Scattered to Serve*

The end of October completes the first 6 months of our three year capital campaign, "Gathered in Christ...Scattered to Serve." The campaign committee would like to thank you again for your generous gifts. Your gifts to this campaign allow St. John's to meet its monthly mortgage obligation. Please remember that this fund is separate from your general offering, but also very important for each of us to help out as we are able.

To recap the giving from May 2017 thru October 22, 2017 the building fund has received:

Pledges:	\$53,356.50
Non Pledged:	\$11,666.50
Total:	\$65,023.00

Our monthly mortgage is \$9,587 and to date (May-Sept) our average monthly income has been \$10,878.00.

Total needed:	\$345,132.00
Total Pledged:	\$278,834.00
Difference still needed:	\$66,298.00
Mortgage May-Sept.	\$47,935.00
Rec'd May-Sept.	\$55,280.00

So far so good, but we must remain diligent in our journey. The cash flow is critical and there are many variables. We have received some pledges in full, we have some members that wait, maybe until the end of the year, or until they receive a tax return or anticipate a bonus that may or may not happen, members may move or employment status changes. It is a sensitive moving target.

If it is helpful for your personal cash flow, the church office is able to set you up on Simply Giving. If you have not made a pledge, but would still like to do so, please contact Bonnie in the church office.

Again, we thank you for your generous gifts. It is because of you that we can GATHER in this wonderful space and be equipped and refreshed to be SCATTERED to SERVE.

God's Peace,

Linda Dircks, Mary Holmgren, Dave Holmgren, Diane Barkley, Sandy Niklaus, Trish Townsend, and Sue Hadler

