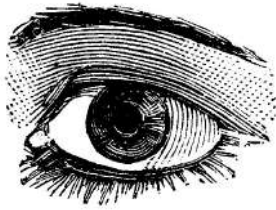




SAINT JOHN EVANGELIST

Newsletter

QUARTERLY / March, April, May, 2026



Inside this issue

- Page 1 The Arts at St. John
- Page 2 Worship Schedule
Church Council Notes
- Page 3 Treasurer Report
Trustees at Work
- Page 4 LWML & NRB
Project Concern
- Page 5 Dorcas Doings
Social Concerns
- Page 6 Child Day Care New
Wis. Family Action
- Page 7 Three Bible Studies
Easter Movie Picks
Easter Prayer

**'Read the Gospels
and the Passion of
Christ, for there is no
better consolation
than that.'**

Martin Luther

Celebrating Our 120th Anniversary Highlighting the Arts at St. John Church

Properly presented, Christian art encourages people to reflect, pray and act. Christian art, in all its forms, takes us out of ourselves and leads us to encounter afresh the Salvation in Jesus attested to in Scripture and celebrated in the liturgy found in the Lutheran Service Book (Hymnal).

Beginning with this issue, the St. John Evangelist Newsletter will highlight paintings, stained-glass windows, artifacts and banners displayed in the Sanctuary, Nave, Narthex and hallways of St. John Church.

An inspiring example of St. John Biblical art is the **Christ Ascending** painting that hangs in the Church Narthex. The painting originally hung above the Altar in the original St. John Lutheran Church built on Squire Avenue in 1906.

The **Founders' Window** that towers above the Altar in the St. John Church on South Lake Drive was installed and dedicated on November 27, 1952. The fourteen foot high Founders' Window is viewed as a part of the Altar. The window is arranged in three panels. The two side panels depict scenes from the life of Christ. The center panel contains a seven foot image of the Lord Jesus, holding a Communion Chalice in His left Hand and imparting a Blessing with His right Hand. Pictured under the figure of Christ is the Crown of Life. The Crown is deliberately placed behind the Altar Cross so the viewer beholds first the Cross and then the Crown.



This placement symbolizes that the crown is received only by faith in the Crucified Christ. The crown contains the Greek letter "A" expressing that Christians seek first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). The Founders' Window was designed to remind us that Christ is the Savior of the world and only through Him alone are we Reconciled with God and receive the Promised Inheritance of His Heavenly Kingdom.

Founders' Window info is an excerpt from the St. John 1956 Anniversary Yearbook.



Worship With Communion

**Saturdays at 3pm
Sundays at 9am**

**Sunday Bible Study
10:30 - 11:30am**

**Monday Bible Study
6:30pm**

**Thursday Bible Study
1:30 - 2:30pm**

**March Lenten Worship Sevices
Wednesdays, March 11, 18 & 25
at 6:30pm**

Lenten Dinners from 5:15 - 6:30pm

**Palm Sunday Worship Services
Saturday, March 28 at 3pm
Sunday, March 29 at 9am**

**Maundy Thursday Worship
Thursday, April 2 at 6:30pm
(No communion)**

**Good Friday Worship
Friday, April 3 at 6:30pm
(No communion)**

**Easter Weekend Worship Services
Saturday 3pm / Sunday 10am
Easter Sunday Breakfast 8:30 - 9:45am**

**Pentecost Worship / May 23 & 24
Sat. - 3pm / Sunday - 9am**



**Sunday, March 8, 2026
Daylight Savings Time begins.
Move clocks forward 1 hour.**

Message From Congregational President

On December 25, 2025, St. John celebrated the Birth of our Lord and Savior. I pray that this celebration was a source of joy as we marvel at the wonderful God we have. The month of March and April will focus on the how Jesus had to Suffer, Die and Rise again on Easter to atone for our sins. I hope upcoming worship services move you to admit your need for Communion and to participate in Bible Study opportunities that this season brings to the St. John family of believers.

As springtime approaches, the Church Council will be reviewing the Church Budget and seeking Church members to fill positions on the various Boards and Church Council. Please consider volunteering in the various ministries that foster outreach to people in the surrounding community.

The St. John Child Day Care Advisory Committee selected Angie Perry as Assistant Director of our Child Day Care. Angie is a member of St. John Church and a member of the Child Day Care staff. Our Child Day Care Director, Karen Erickson, noted that this position has been vacant since 2019. Congratulate and encourage Angie in her new role in our Child Day Care.

Thanks to the generosity of a family who were members of our church many years ago, St. John now owns 4 cemetery plots at Forest Hill Cemetery in Oak Creek. If you know of anyone who has a need for a cemetery plot, please have them contact Pastor DeVries or Jim Papala.

At the last Council Meeting, the following names were nominated to appear on the ballot at the next Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Convention. They are: Rev. Matthew Harrison (incumbent) as President of LCMS and Rev. Peter Lang (incumbent) as First Vice President. In addition, the Church Council approved Rev. Phillip DeVries as Pastoral Delegate and Peter Bradstrom as Lay Delegate to represent St. John Church at the LCMS Convention.

Our 120th Anniversary Committee has set October 11, 2026 as the day to celebrate the founding of St. John Church in 1906. Activities include a special celebration service at 10am. There will also be a congregational meal at Pulaski Inn following the worship service with guest speakers and invited guests.

Project Concern was chosen as the local organization St. John Church will support as a part of the celebration. More Church Anniversary information will be published in future Evangelist newsletters and Church bulletins. We look forward to seeing you at this special event.



Yours in Christ, Jim Papala

Families are fragile, handle with prayer.



Treasurer's Report: Church Updates



Thank you for your continued financial support of our church whether it is the General Fund (pays our regular bills and payroll/benefits), the Property Improvement Fund (pays our monthly loan payment of \$2,553.24 and extra principle if possible) or other Designated Funds. Your support is always appreciated.



As the days get longer and the outside temperatures start to rise, we want to emerge from the comfort of our homes more often and attend events that take us out of town. Those thoughts made me realize that it is a great time to remind everyone that the option of no fee "Electronic Giving" is always available. It allows your offerings to be transferred electronically from your checking or savings account every week, or on the 1st and/or 15th of the month. You just fill out and sign one simple and easy-to-use authorization form to begin the process or to make changes along the way. The form can be found on the display credenza near the church office door. Please contact the Church office for more information (414-481-0520) or reach out to me via the church office and I'll be happy to assist.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

God's Blessings,
Donna Munnik

"We give Thee but Thine own . . . A trust, O Lord, from Thee."



Board of Trustees at Work



The Trustees want to thank the congregation for the volunteer hours and financial support in updating the St. John Church, Education wing and parsonage. The Trustees' goal is to reduce maintenance costs by addressing repairs. Here is list of projects and repairs to be done in the months of March, April and May:

- Stained glass window repairs.
- Concrete stairs and sidewalk repairs.
- Tile repair and replacement in entry ways and floors.
- General landscaping to reduce future maintenance.

Trustee members welcome help by those with inside or outside repair skills. With spring approaching, a call for landscape help will be made in future church bulletins.



Pride in your work puts joy in your day.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LWML supports domestic and overseas Lutheran Church Missouri Synod missions with donations from its members and mission minded church members like you. The use of an LWML Mite Box is a reminder that coins add up. The boxes are also available in the church's Narthex area. If you don't see mite boxes in the Narthex, let an LWML member or the church office know you would like one (or more).



Upcoming LWML Rally and Convention dates:

- Zone 1 Spring Rally: Saturday, April 18, 2026.
At Trinity Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI.
- South West District Convention:
Friday, June 19 - Saturday, June 20, 2026.
Held at the Sheraton Hotel in Brookfield, WI.

National Religious Broadcasters (NRB)

Thousands gathered at the NRB International Christian Media Convention in 2025 to be equipped and inspired to proclaim truth to a hostile world culture. The convention crafted the following resolution:

“As we step into a new year and the 250th anniversary of American independence, we do so with clear-eyed. This Nation was founded on Christian principles; that our rights come from God, not government; that truth is fixed, not fluid; and that liberty depends on moral restraint. Communicators have a responsibility to defend and advance these biblical truths in the public square, not retreat from them.”

Traditional Radio and television stations that reflect this resolution in South Wisconsin are: WVCY (107. FM), WVCY TV (Channel 30), WMWK (88.1 FM) and KFUE radio (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod). KFUE radio apps are available at Apple Store and Android at Google Play Store. Note: KFUE is supported by the LWML.

The Christian Courier

Project Concern

During all the cold weeks this winter, perhaps you've taken time to go through your closets, basements or storage units. And as the weather gets warmer, many will talk about Spring Cleaning.

Some items, however, should not be donated. When unusable items are donated, stores have to spend time and money sorting and disposing of them, which can take away from their mission.

Do Not Donate:

1. Used mattresses and pillow cases.
2. Damaged or incomplete furniture.
3. Old electronics (especially non-working).
4. Worn-out clothing and shoes.
5. Opened or used personal care items.
6. Formal suits or gowns.
7. Used socks and underwear.
8. Pictures/artwork/knickknacks.
9. Lamps, TV's, large furniture.
10. Text books, encyclopedias, very old books.
11. Games and toys missing parts or broken.
12. Sports gear, DVD's, VHS tapes, cell phones.



Quality Matters:

Before donating, ask yourself:

- Is it clean?
- Is it safe?
- Would I buy this in its current condition?



If the answer is no, it's better to recycle, repurpose, or dispose of the item responsibly. Donating thoughtfully helps thrift stores help others—and keeps unnecessary waste out of landfills.

God loves a cheerful giver.



Dorcas Society Highlights

The Dorcas Society is pleased to announce that the annual Dorcas Bake Sale and Craft Fair raised \$4,217.50. Thank you to the many volunteer helpers who worked hard to make it a success.



Dorcas donated \$2,500.00 to help purchase two commercial double convection ovens for the Fellowship Hall Kitchen. The kitchen now has four racks in each oven to bake kolache and other bake goods.

Dorcas also purchased a new large kettle for St. John Child Day Care to replace a kettle that had a scratched Teflon coating on the inside. Scratched Teflon in pots and pans, as you know, is a health hazard.

The Dorcas Society will host an upcoming Wednesday Lenten meal. Dorcas members have used Lenten dinners to display their cooking and baking skills.

On Wednesday, May 6, 2026, Dorcas will host its annual Women's Celebration in the St. John Fellowship Hall. The event is open to all women members of St. John Church and their guests. Ticket prices this year will be \$18.00 per adult and \$6.00 for children aged 6 to 12. Tickets will go on sale in March and April before and after church services.

The Dorcas meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 included writing Easter cards for residents at retirement homes and St. John Church members who are shut in. Jean Belter and Alice Grant hosted the meeting. They presented St. Patrick themed activities and dessert.

See you at Wednesday Lenten dinners and the worship service after the dinner time.

Have a Blessed Easter.

Paulette Schmadl, Dorcas Society President

Small changes make a big difference.

Social Concerns News



On Valentine's Day, Social Concerns hosted the second annual Chili Cook-off and Game Night. Our cooks outdid themselves this year. All the chilies were extremely tasty and the competition was fierce. Thank you to all who entered the contest and kudos to our winners - 1st Place Judy Matthews, 2nd Place Todd Nickel and 3rd Place Lynn Hanke. Game night was the St. John version of the Olympics with the Gold medals going to Team Norway - Bob, Mark Todd, Cheryl, Darwin and Gene.

Great fun was had by all!

Join our church family for dinner at 5:15pm before Midweek Lenten services on March 11, March 18 and March 25. Thanks in advance to our hosts - Trustees, Dorcas Society, Handbell Choir, Social Concerns Board and Lloyd and Chris Buttke. Menus will be posted in the weekly worship bulletin. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring a dessert to the dinners.



Future event plans are being made. New ideas are always welcomed. Contact Lyn Weber.



St. John Child Day Care Shares Spring Activities



In February, the Pre-School class celebrated the Olympics by having their own Olympic events. They included: curling, ice hockey, speed skating, skiing and more. They had so much fun.

All of the classes celebrated Valentine's Day by sharing cards and treats with their friends. Now they look forward to the fun of St. Patrick's Day and Easter. Along with all of the art and other activities, they will also focus on the Christ-centered reasons for these holidays. They will hear about how St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Also, Pastor DeVries will explain the real meaning of Easter during devotions.



In April, teachers look forward to special activities for the **Week of the Young Child** and also our annual **Book Fair**. In conjunction with the book fair, we will have **Family Storybook Night**. The children and family members will have lots of activities centered around the book selected for that night.

In May we celebrate our staff during **Teacher Appreciation Week** (May 4-8). Many Spring activities will lead us up to June and outdoor warm weather activities.

St. John Child Day Care welcomes our newest employee, Paula Boknevitiz, who is our new lunch cook. St. John Child Day Care also wants to congratulate Angie Perry, for accepting the title of Assistant Director.

St. John Child Day Care Director,
Karen Erickson

Actions speak louder than words. (1 John 3:18)



**WISCONSIN
FAMILY
ACTION**

Wisconsin Family Action believes strong families produce a strong community and state. God puts children in families so parents can nurture, protect and train them to love God and others. Parents, not government, are better at making decisions that best benefit their child, including areas of education and healthcare, and generally, should not be hindered in making those decisions.

The **April 7th Primary and November 3rd General Election** will be opportunities to vote for municipal referendums, state referendums and candidates that uphold the rights of parents and children. WFA believes state laws and candidates for state office should reflect the benefits of human life, marriage as defined by Scripture, classic education, protection of children and laws that insure the voting rights of legal citizens.

To help inform Wisconsin citizens in knowing the candidates and state referendum on the November 3rd ballot, Wisconsin Family Action is assembling Wisconsin Voter Guides for the Primary April 7th Spring Election and November 3rd General Election. Voter Guides will be available in the church Narthex.

What to Do to Vote: At MyVote.wi.gov you are able to:

- Register to vote. (Note: You may also pre-register in person at your city clerk's office.)
- Find your polling place and voting hours.
- Find out who and what is on your ballot.
- Request an absentee by mail ballot or vote absentee in person at your city clerk's office.
- Verify your voter information.





Watch “The Engagement Project” by Del Tackett

Hosted by Roy Lemmer, Del Tackett’s **The Engagement Project** empowers watchers to engage with the Truth of God’s Word. Viewers learn to “engage” with family, friends, co-workers and fellow Christians, to God’s glory and their benefit.

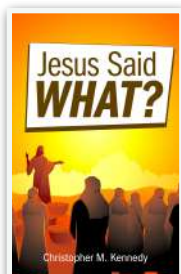
Join us in the lower Bible Study area on Sunday and Monday (March 8 & 9)

Explore The Book of Ruth: Thursdays at 1:30pm

If you like romance stories and ancestry topics, you will love reading the Book of Ruth. In the Book of Ruth, we learn of God’s providence and grace. God used Ruth’s loyalty, faithfulness and selfless love for her mother-in-law Naomi to bring redemption and blessing even in dark, difficult times, ultimately including outsiders (Gentiles) into His covenant people. The events of Ruth’s loyalty to Naomi doesn’t end there. Ruth’s subsequent marriage to Boaz results in their son Obed who becomes the grandfather of King David and the lineage of Jesus of Nazareth. Join us to explore how God cares for the vulnerable and uses ordinary people and events to fulfill His larger purpose.

Lower Bible Study area. Bibles, pens and pencils will be provided.

Hosted by Rev. Krueger.



“New” Bible Study Starting Sunday, March 15th at 10:30am

“Hate my family?” “Cut off my hand?” This new Bible Study, Jesus Said WHAT?, brings clarity to 15 of Jesus’ most confusing and difficult teachings on topics such as money, family, relationships and consequences for sin. The author presents each topic in a relatable and easy to understand format. This study is a wonderful resource when people ask you about some of the things Jesus said. Hosts: Donald Seaman and Roy Lemmer cph.org



Classic Easter Movie Picks



Here is list of four movies that depict Christian themes for Easter: (*Streaming listed below.*)

The Ten Commandments (Paramount Pictures:1956, Technicolor, Charlton Heston / on You Tube)

Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ (MGM:1959, color, Charlton Heston / on Apple TV, Fandango at Home, Tubi, Amazon Video and ROW8)

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Walden Media:2005, color / Disney +, Amazon Prime, Netflix)

Veggie Tales: Celebrate Easter: An Easter Carol (Big Idea Prod., color / You Tube and Pure Flix.

An Easter Table Prayer

Dear Lord, we give thanks for the family (and friends) around this table. As we share this food, we celebrate the new life and hope that Easter brings to us. May this meal remind us of the blessings we share and inspire us to spread Your love in the world. In Jesus’ name, Amen