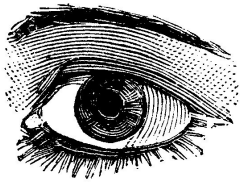


SAINT JOHN EVANGELIST

Newsletter

QUARTERLY / June / July / August 2026



Inside this issue

Page 1 Responsible Freedom /
The Altar Crosses

Page 2 Worship Schedule /
Church Council Notes

Page 3 Trustee Projects /
LWML Missions

Page 4 Dorcas Society Dinner /
Social Activities /
Apostles' Creed

Page 5 Lutherans 4 Life /
Place of Refuge /
LCMS Mission

Page 6 Child Day Care News /
VBS 2026

Page 7 St. John Invites You /
Adult Bible Study

Page 8 Health Tips

**"It is the devil's custom
to hate the works of the
Lord. He is hostile to
what the Lord holds
dear."**

Martin Luther

Freedom & Responsibility

As we prepare to celebrate the 4th of July with fireworks, parades, picnics and family gatherings, it is easy to forget the deeper meaning behind this national holiday. We should remember the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, when a group of courageous men pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to declare that our nation would no longer live under tyranny, but be free and self-governing. For them, freedom was not a license to do whatever they wanted. Rather, it was a responsibility to govern themselves under God's authority.

Liberty without morality becomes licentiousness. Our Founders knew that for freedom to flourish, it must be grounded in faith and lived out in virtue.

True freedom is not merely political. No amount of political freedom will satisfy or sustain an individual or a nation. As individuals and as a country, we must remain rooted in God's truth if we are to remain truly free.

Janet Appling, Wisconsin Family Action



The Altar Cross

The two Altar crosses pictured at the top of this page have profound messages. Prominently featured on the Altar of the St. John Church on Swift Avenue, the brass Cross holds the body of Jesus. It reminded worshipers, then and now, of the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins. The Swift Avenue Altar cross now has a home on the ledge of a stained glass window that faces S. Lake Drive.

The oak Cross that adorns the St. John Altar on Lake Drive has a three step base. The lowest step represents Christian love. The second represents Hope. The third step represents Faith. Faith that is solely a gift of the triune Lord. The oak cross does not include the body of Christ. This is to remind us of His victory over sin, death and Satan.



Worship With Communion

**Saturdays, 3pm
Sundays, 9am**

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

**Monday Bible Study
6:30pm**

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

**Father's Day / Life Worship
Sat., June 20 / Sunday, June 21
(See page 5)**



**Voter's Assembly Meeting
is Sunday, June 7 at 10:30am in
the Fellowship Hall**

**Ministry Fair Displays in
Fellowship Hall**

**Flag Day is Sunday, June 14, 2026
(Fly your flag)**



**Church July 4th Parking:
7:00am - 9:30pm**

Church Council Highlights

I praise God for the many volunteers that help keep our congregation running smoothly. All our Church Boards continue to take their responsibilities very seriously as they strive to meet the needs of our congregation. I want to thank the Board members and Officers who will not be returning to their positions in July. I also want to thank all the members who will continue to serve, and all new members who are feeling the call to serve our Congregation, including the dedicated members who volunteer "day-in and day-out" in their own special ways.

Our Nominating Committee has met, and invitations have been sent out to members who we believe would be great candidates to fill the various openings we have on our Boards and Offices for the 2026-27 term. If you are interested in serving in any capacity in our Church, please reach out to me by phone (414-690-8002) or Pastor DeVries at the Church Office. All Board member terms are for one year.

Voters' Assembly Sunday, June 7, 2026 at 10:30 AM in the Church Fellowship Hall

The Voters' Assembly agenda includes the election of officers and board members as well as approval of the 2026-27 Church Budget. There may also be some other reports presented at that time. Please plan on attending so we have a quorum of members to take actions. Copies of the 2026-27 Budget are available in the Church Office.

Women's Celebration held May 6, 2026

Dorcus Society had a wonderful Women's Celebration on Wednesday, May 6th, which created meaningful memories to all the special women in our lives. Thank you to the men of our congregation who stepped forward to set up, serve, and clean up after this celebration. Over 100 women from our congregation and the community attended. What a wonderful outreach!

Cemetery Plots

Thanks to a generous former member of our Church, St. John Church now owns 4 cemetery plots at Forest Hill Memorial Park, 3301 E. Forst Hill Ave. in Oak Creek. Our Church Council has approved the process to dispose of these lots. The deeds will be transferred to individuals who wish to donate to St. John Church the Fair Market Value of the plots. The plan is to utilize the donated funds to continue the ministries here at St. John. If you know of anyone who has a need for cemetery plots, please have them contact Pastor DeVries or Jim Papala. The four individual plots are located next to each other.

Jim Papala, Church Council President

Trustees Complete Projects

Trustee members hired an installer to replace carpet squares at the church stair landings. The new carpet squares are thicker and safer to walk on.

Temporary repair work on some of the stain glass windows is being done until a professional window glazer does formal repair next year.

The Bible Study Fellowship Hall will be wired for WiFi reception.

Landscape work has started on the west and north side of the church grounds to trim bushes and remove branches for church beautification.

The church's website has been updated to fit the various screen ratios of electronic devices people use to read what St. John Lutheran Church ministry is all about. This includes information about our Child Day Care program, weekly worship bulletins and our quarterly church newsletter. A thank you to Bernie Puerzer for keeping the St. John website up to date for many years. Thank you also to Ethan Van De Hey for continuing the responsibilities of maintaining the church website for members and visitors.



New carpet squares installed in stair landings.

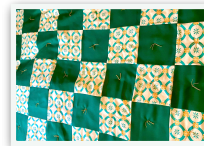
LWML Mission Outreach

Our St. John LWML continues to meet monthly to collect "Mites for Missions." Mites are divided between the National LWML Mission Grants and grants for districts that St. John LWML is a part of.



We also collect pledges that are used to support the Charles Ferry Missionary Family who are now stationed in Romania.

We are excited to announce that both the SELC and the South Wisconsin LWML districts have met their Mission Grant Goals for the 2024-2026 biennium! We thank God that St. John LWML is able to help support so many Missions and missionaries through donated Mites.



St. John LWML members continue quilt mission work by cutting fabric quilt squares from donated materials. We have been able to supply 3 LWML quilting groups. We are also thrilled that St. John LWML member (Jean Belter) has taught herself mission quilt making! Jean uses the squares and donated fabric for fillings and backings to make beautiful quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief to be shared with world Missions. Extra squares and materials are shared with fellow quilting groups. We all feel blessed to be able to serve in this mission work. We have a lot of room and material for helpers. If you have the time and interest, come to a LWML meeting and see if our Mission work appeals to you!

Throughout the summer we will be watching sales and collecting items to make School Kits and Personal Care Kits to send to missions worldwide through Lutheran World Relief. School Kit Needs: 70 sheet 8"x10 1/2" spiral notebooks and 12"-30cm rulers. You may put these listed items in the LWML box located in the church Narthex.

Freedom is not to do as you please, but to do as you ought.

Dorcas Society in Action

The Dorcas Society's Spring Women's Celebration was an evening of fellowship and great food. This year's celebration theme was "Rock 'n Roll Hits of the Golden Fifties". Several guests dressed up in "Poodle skirts" and 50's dance shoes. Music was provided by tenor Dan Becker. Some guests were even observed singing and dancing to his music.

Thank you to the Dorcas members who helped with the many details to make the evening a success. The Dorcas Society also wants to thank Pastor DeVries and the men church volunteers who helped the Dorcas Society set up table groupings, served guests, washed utensils and cleaned up the Fellowship Hall after the event.

A special note of appreciation to Lori Grant, who made the table centerpieces. Many glowing comments were expressed by participants.



Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:00pm. Dorcas officers will provide dinner. Bring your appetite and a personal care product for Project Concern to the meeting. Personal care items could be soap, body wash, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste or socks of any size. NOTE: There is no meeting in July and August. A September meeting will take place on September 2, at 6:00pm. Mark your calendars.

Your Sister in Christ,
Paulette Schmadl, Dorcas President

Social Concerns Summer Trips

On **Sunday, July 19, 2026**, we will embark on a historic narrated **Edelweiss boat tour** which travels through downtown under Milwaukee's bridges. We will see historical landmarks and get incredible views of the Milwaukee skyline including the Milwaukee Art Museum (Calatrava), Discovery World, Summerfest grounds and yacht clubs.

Also join us on **Sunday, August 16, 2026** at Franklin Field for a **Milwaukee Milkmen** game... touted as "Pro Baseball that is Udderly Different!". Your ticket will include your seat, food and a beverage.

Watch for additional information in the bulletin and be sure to sign up in the Narthex. If you would like to go, but prefer not to drive, we are always happy to set up carpooling.



Save the Date! Tickets have been reserved on **Saturday, October 17, 2026**, at the Fireside Theater for "**Come From Away**". "Come From Away" is a Tony Award-winning musical telling the true story of 7,000 stranded airline passengers in Gander, Newfoundland, following the 9/11 attacks. The high-energy, emotional show highlights themes of kindness, unity and community resilience.

Apostle's Creed:

Why does it say, "He descended into hell?"

Christ's decent into hell is described in Peter 3:18-20. While this passage does not provide a great deal of detailed information about this event, it is clear that after Christ died, He was "made alive in the Spirit." In this state of "exaltation", He descended into hell — not to suffer, but to proclaim His victory over hell and the devil.

LCMS.ORG, Worship Library

Lutherans For Life: Step Up 4 Life 2026



Lutherans For Life equips Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices for life! Thanks to the financial support of faithful donors, volunteers and Lutheran congregations, the next generation of youth and young adults are being equipped to clearly articulate God's truth. This is done through conferences, retreats, digital learning tools and training. This leads to young people boldly sharing the hope of Christ and defending life in their schools, churches and communities.

Lutherans For Life participated in the March For Life Wisconsin at the Wisconsin State Capitol Steps on April 25, 2026. It was a joyful and peaceful march. Participants were also encouraged to support local pregnancy centers.

In addition to the **Youth 4 Life** and **Young Adults 4 Life** mission outreach, Lutherans for Life provides spiritual counseling for those contemplating abortion, post-abortion healing and other life struggles through its 24/7 **Word of Hope** hotline.

When Lutheran congregations contribute donations to Lutherans For Life, they are equipping youth, volunteers, congregational members and churches to share a life-affirming mission with others.

To learn more about Lutherans For Life, log on to lutheransforlife.org/step-up-4-life-2026

LifeDate, Spring 2026/LutheransforLife.org

St. John Church Celebrates Life

From May 10 (Mother's Day) through June 21 (Father's Day), The St. John Church congregation and St. John Child Day Care Center will be celebrating God's Gift of Life and honoring Mother's and Father's Day by collecting baby items such as diapers, Baby wipes and corn starch Baby Powder. All collected items will be given to **A Place of Refuge**, (a crises pregnancy advocacy center) which is a ministry of the South Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Look for the Infant Pack-N-Play collection site in the church Narthex beginning Sunday, May 30 - June 21.



The Gospel Leads to Churches

The church trains, calls and sends preachers. That's what Jesus did, and it's what we do today, through our LCMS seminaries. Lutheran mission work leads to Lutheran churches. These churches teach that God is Father, Son and Spirit; That man is a sinner and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, needs a Savior; LCMS churches teach that Christ the God-Man is our Savior, by His sacrifice on a cross and glorious resurrection; That sinners are reckoned righteous through faith in Jesus Christ and that such faith will produce good works.

The Gospel creates a community of believers that gather for preaching, are baptized, are prepared for - and then receive the Sacrament. God grant this mission to flourish among us, at home and abroad.

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison. President LCMS, Lutheran Witness

Summer Activities at St. John Child Day Care

After the cold winter and spring, the children and teachers are looking forward to a warm and fun summer. In June, we welcome back our school-age summer program children and say goodbye to some of our friends too. June will get off to a great start with our annual **Family Fun Night** on June 10. Our theme this year is "Western Night". If you join us, you will be invited to participate in our "rodeo" games. The Thrivent funded Family Fun Night is also about giving back. The children and their families will be collecting items for A Place of Refuge. June is when we also plan our annual trip to the farm.

In July, we look forward to celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States with music, art and activities that showcase pride in our nation. We hope to have a lot of water play and other adventures outside. Some of the classes will go on a field trip to the zoo, plan some picnics and a few trips to the movie theater.

August is the month St. John Child Day Care packs as much outside activities in as possible. We will have **Blizzard Day** in August. On that day, we will do winter related activities in the summer. At the end of the month, we will send some of our friends off to new schools and new adventures. We will hopefully be welcoming new friends too.

Karen Erickson, Child Day Care Director

A loving father is both a teacher and a guide.



New Vacation Bible School Theme: "An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23"

Vacation Bible School is worth it! We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God. It is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches. We believe that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent and every word spoken will bring God glory as we reach kids for Christ.

St. John is inviting the community to journey with us to *"Emerald Crossing : an Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23."* Our vacation Bible School will be held for one week (**July 20th through July 24th**). Each stop along the path will teach us about the Good Shepherd and how he cares for His sheep. Like David in the Old Testament discovered throughout his life, first as a shepherd boy and later as a King, we will discover important truths such as: (1) I can be a child of God and have the Lord as my shepherd. (2) I need the Lord to lead me on the right path through His Word. (3) I can turn to the Lord for comfort when I'm feeling anxious or afraid. (4) I can have an attitude of gratitude in every situation. (5) I need to be on the lookout for God's goodness and mercy. They are our traveling companions through life.

ST. JOHN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR . . .

WORSHIP SERVICES:

- Saturdays at 3:00pm
- Sundays at 9:00am
- Sundays at 10:00am for coffee and fellowship

BIBLE STUDIES:

- Sunday Mornings 10:30am - St. John
- Monday Evenings 6:30pm - St. John
- Tuesday Mornings 7:00am - Oak Creek Diner
- Thursday Afternoons 1:30pm - St. John

SENIOR LIVING SERVICES:

- Wednesday Mornings 9:30am - Advacare (SF)
- Thursday Mornings 9:00am - Oak Creek Place
- Thursday Mornings 10:15am - Advacare (OC)

Father's Day / Honoring Life:

Baby items for A Place of Refuge (A Lutheran crises pregnancy center) will be collected from May 30th to June 21st (Father's Day).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Ministry Fair Displays from May 17 - June 7.

Promote Vacation Bible School by walking with VBS float in Cudahy's 4th of July Parade.

Volunteer to help at Vacation Bible School. (July 20 through July 24)

Vacation Bible School begins for children in the 4K-5th Grade.

Generations of Blessings Family Event begins on: Sunday, September 13, 2026.

Special worship at 10:00am; Picnic Lunch at 11:30 am; Followed by games, crafts, family group pictures and family fellowship.

120th St. John Anniversary Celebration Sunday, October 11, 2026

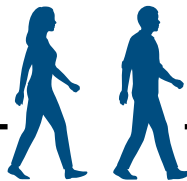
Special Sunday worship service at 10:00am. Pulaski Inn Luncheon is at 1:00pm. Doors open at 12 noon. Luncheon Tickets will be available for purchase. Read Sat./Sun. Bulletin for details.

Summer Bible Study Offerings

JOIN THE TOUR:

KNOW THE BOOK II:

**Thursday Afternoons
From 1:30 - 2:30pm**



This Bible Study tours the Scriptures. However, like any "Tour", this Study will stop longer at some "places" than others.

As we travel, our GPS (*GOD POSITIONING SYSTEM*) will show us the path to connect to the very special sites that reveal the Foundational Truths of Lutheran Christianity: The Trinity; Salvation by Grace through Faith; the Law and the Gospel; the Sacraments; What it Means to be a Christian.

Each person on the Tour must have your own Bible; a pen, pencil, highlighter and 3 ring binder ... or these will be provided.

Handbell Music: A Guide For Beginners



Join St. John Handbell Choir
as a regular or substitute ringer.

Learning to read handbell music can be a rewarding experience. With practice, anyone with a love for music can grasp the art of reading handbell notation.

Some handbell choirs emphasize a structured, rigorous approach, while others, like St. John Lutheran Church - Cudahy, emphasize guided basics, enjoyment and camaraderie.

Handbell music is written on a grand staff, which comprises the treble clef and bass clef, just like piano music. Handbell players familiarize themselves with the treble and bass clefs, as well as the staff and note placements on the music sheets.

Each bell in handbell music represents a specific pitch, and the notation within the music tells the ringer which bell to play, as well as when to play it during the song. Through practice, you learn which bell(s) you are to ring and when you are supposed to ring them in the music. You may put pencil marks on the music sheets to help you follow and play your bell notes.

As you become more proficient in noticing the notes of the bell(s) you play in a song, you will feel more and more confident in ringing your bell(s) with the others bell ringers. You will also notice a greater level of expressiveness in your performance.

The other bell ringers will guide and help you achieve confidence in your participation in the bell choir. Remember, at one time, they were beginners too.
