



Reaching Out

St. John's Newsletter

Office Hours

Mon - Thurs 9-3

Friday 9-12

1804 Highland Ave.

Eau Claire, WI

54701

Constitutional Changes 2026

2025 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA®

[WITH RATIONALES]

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
August 2025

Following are amendments to the *Model Constitution for Congregations* that were approved by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. Additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~; all changes are **highlighted**.

Provisions within the *Model Constitution for Congregations* are of two types:

- **Those provisions marked with an asterisk (*) are required when a congregation amends its governing documents.** They must be used without alteration or amendment of the text in any manner (i.e., neither additions nor deletions are permissible). Such provisions go into effect immediately upon approval by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation, provided that they have been presented to the congregation at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
- **Provisions not marked with an asterisk are non-required provisions.** These provisions represent wording recommended by the Churchwide Assembly. If the congregation chooses to incorporate them into the congregation's constitution exactly as presented here, these provisions require a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation, provided that they have been presented to the congregation at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

If the wording of non-required provisions is altered or amended in any way from the text presented here, the provisions must be approved at one congregation meeting by a majority vote and then must be ratified *unchanged* by a two-thirds vote at the next regular meeting of the congregation. (See *Model Constitution for Congregations*, *C16.04. for more detail.)

For convenience, the rationale that was presented to the Churchwide Assembly for each amendment is provided in italics following the amendment. These rationales are *not* part of the amendments with which they are associated, they are *not* part of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, and they are *not* intended to be incorporated into the constitutions of congregations. They are here only to give context for the amendments.

The Office of the Secretary would like to express gratitude for your faithful attention to your congregation's constitution!

Chapter 1.**NAME AND INCORPORATION**

- C1.02.** For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws [and continuing resolutions], the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church shall be designated as "this congregation."

Rationale: Insertion for comprehensiveness.

Chapter 5.**POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

- *C5.04.** This congregation or the Congregation Council shall elect from among its ~~the~~ voting members of the congregation laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by this congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Rationale: This change allows for lay voting members of the Synod Assembly to be elected either by the congregation or by the Congregation Council. Current language requires election by the congregation.

Chapter 7.**PROPERTY OWNERSHIP**

- *C7.03.** If the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to relate transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to relate transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.

Rationale: Consistency with 9.71.d. of the ELCA Constitution.

Chapter 9.**ROSTERED MINISTER**

- *C9.02.** Only This congregation may call as a pastor only:
a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop;
may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

Rationale: Formatting for clarity.

- *C9.03.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
....
8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, proclaiming God's love for the world, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.

Rationale: A number of amendments were made by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to this bylaw and to its parallels throughout the constitutions. In the process, the phrase "proclaiming God's love for the world" was omitted from the list of responsibilities of rostered ministers. This amendment restores the phrase.

- *C9.06. At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor ~~shall~~ may be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.

Rationale: It is not always possible for a synod bishop to appoint an interim pastor for every congregation.

- *C9.15. Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synod bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between this congregation and the pastor in a form proposed by the synod bishop and approved by this congregation.

Rationale: Provision is being changed to “required.” With the increasing use of exchangeability of rostered ministers with full communion partners, it is advisable that all congregations make allowance for that possibility.

- *C9.22. ~~Only This congregation may call as a deacon only:~~
 a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
 b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop;
~~may be called as a deacon of this congregation.~~

Rationale: Editorial reformatting for clarity.

- *C9.23. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:
-
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, proclaiming God’s love for the world, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;

Rationale: A number of amendments were made by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to this bylaw and to its parallels throughout the constitutions. In the process, the phrase “proclaiming God’s love for the world” was omitted from the list of responsibilities of rostered ministers. This amendment restores the phrase.

Chapter 15.

DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

- *C15.01. Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of this congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of this congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15–17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary:
- a) private counsel and admonition by the pastor,
 - b) censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses,
 - c) written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and
 - d) written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod.
- If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by ~~paragraphs~~ a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.

Rationale: Formatting correction and consistency of constitutional language.

- *C15.11.** When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president [vice president] of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in ~~†S14.18~~ ***C9.05**.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

Rationale: It is more logical to cross-reference within the Model Constitution, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.

Chapter 16. AMENDMENTS

- *C16.02.** An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:
- be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting; and
 - be ratified ~~without change~~ **unchanged** at the next regular meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

Rationale: Consistency of constitutional language.

Chapter 20. PARISH AUTHORIZATION

[Required provisions when congregation is part of a parish]*

- *C20.04.** Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with the pastor as provided in ~~†S14.18~~ ***C9.05**.d. ~~of the synod constitution of the synod named in *C6.01.~~ In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.

Rationale: It is more logical to cross-reference within the Model Constitution, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.

- *C20.05.** Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with a minister of Word and Service as provided in ~~†S14.43~~ ***C9.25**.d. ~~of the synod constitution of the synod named in *C6.01.~~ In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.

Rationale: It is more logical to cross-reference within the Model Constitution, rather than to make reference to the synod constitution.

As per our constitution, changes to be voted on also must be provided at least 30 days in writing prior to any congregational annual meeting. These are further recommended changes.

Chapter 13.

CONGREGATION COMMITTEES & MINISTRIES

C.13.02. A **Finance Committee** of the treasurer and at least four (4) voting members of this congregation shall be appointed by the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Finance Committee** and ratified by the Congregation Council to serve for one year...

C.13.03. A **Property Committee** of the vice-president and at least four voting members of this congregation shall be appointed by the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Property Committee** and ratified by...

C.13.04. A **Personnel Committee** of the secretary and at least four voting members of this congregation shall be appointed by the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Personnel Committee** and ratified by...

If you read this whole thing, you get a gold star!
Good Job :)



A Message From Pastor Christine

This October, I hit that milestone of 15 years as pastor here at St. John's. My call here has obviously changed quite a bit, given that I began as Associate and now continue as Solo Pastor. I am deeply grateful to be among such a lovely, energetic faith community, one that sees the mission of the Gospel as a Fountain of Life and River of Compassion. I want to thank each and every one of you for your part in the hospitality of place that St. John's is along with the many and various ways we are called into the future as the people of God. As we enter a new year, I am looking forward to what is in store for 2026!

Last January began with a six-week sabbatical for me. Lydia had just begun as our Communications and Volunteer Engagement Coordinator and now she has reached that first year anniversary. Then later we welcomed Amanda in the late spring! Amanda leapt headfirst into the summer schedule with Vacation Bible School and today our youth and family ministry is beginning to see not only consistency, but also growth. Our worship team, which includes Mark Lundin, Linda Ranney and I are in our third year of working together to enhance our worship. Our musical endeavors are beautiful. How wonderful!

As we finish up a budgetary year here at St. John's, I wish to thank our Stewardship team for the Above and Beyond fundraisers to support both our brick and lighting projects along with our property committee. The building is almost 71 years old now, so the care of our building is important. Along with the auctions by Dick Freitag, the amazing food, including a chili contest, and the carnival games that were a blast outside, those events are not only fun, but they encourage fellowship and community. Thank you to all those who provided their time and energy to create these events.

Here are some other highlights; however, these are only a few examples of the many ways we are church together:

- ♦ **The Season of Creation** – Every September, it's rewarding to see the Caretakers of Creation team bring interesting topics of conversation about our stewardship to God's creation. This year, we heard about Spirit Lutheran's endeavors on recycling and composting and learned about the city's plastic pledge initiative.
- ♦ **The Easter Vigil** – For me, the highlight is always the Fiery Furnace, but this year, the Exodus story came to life in music and song! The Lite Brite prayer station is always a hit and our young families look forward to this worship event every year.
- ♦ **Church of the Wild Worship** – We met almost monthly in the summer and autumn months and ended with a bonfire on the Longest Night of the year (brrr)!
- ♦ **Wild Spirituality Retreat at the Christine Center** – Ann Brand and I led a two-night retreat with 18 people. It was a mindful, refreshing rest in God's creation. It is likely we will plan another for the summer of 2026. Stay tuned!
- ♦ **Children's Time** – I really love the time I spend with children at worship time. Although it's hit and miss some Sundays with children being present, I'm beginning to think we all need this time as adults, too. I believe it is always an important thing to create space for children in our worship.
- ♦ **Preaching** – Now that we have full coverage for our staff, I can concentrate more on the sermon time, which creates more space for me. For that I am grateful. Not only this, but we also have wonderful guest preachers to lend their gifts once a month for a break and variety. That is important for a solo pastorate to have built in.
- ♦ **Adult Confirmation** – My colleagues all were interested in the class I offered to adults to affirm their faith. This was the first time I ever did this with adults. I know that our people enjoyed the process too, because they really wanted to create their own faith stoles and make confirmation day a special time in their faith. But, in 2026, we return to a wonderful group of 7 who will affirm their faith at the end of their 9th grade year. We pray for them as they study the promises of Holy Baptism in their final term this winter/spring.

Of course, much more happened in 2025 than these events and happenings, as St. John's is always a busy faith community, full of variety! And the heart of this family of faith resides in the wonderful people who give of their time, talent and money to continue the Good News of the Gospel in this place we call home, whether you quilt, volunteer in the office, sit on church council, or fundraise for the mission trip! I give thanks for you in whatever way you serve Christ.

But our mission does not stop there. God has big plans for our ministry together in 2026 and I'm looking forward to seeing where God leads us. Let's proclaim the Gospel another year and give thanks for all the things God has done in our midst.

Blessings, Pastor Christine

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice Dollars allows eligible members to direct Thrivent Financial's charitable dollars to St. John's Lutheran Church. To be a benefit member with Thrivent Financial, you must own one of the following Thrivent products: life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance or annuities. Based on your premium and cash value, your Thrivent Choice dollars will be calculated. Letters or emails are sent annually to these members indicating the amount of charitable dollars available to them. If you believe that you qualify and have not received a letter, please contact your Thrivent Financial representative.

For the period September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026, St. John's is designating the Thrivent Choice contributions to our general operations fund to help support our ministries, programs and maintain our day to day operations.

When you are contacted by Thrivent Financial, please prayerfully consider directing these charitable dollars to St. John's.

The Thrivent Financial member who has directed their "Choice Dollars" to St. John's Lutheran Church for December was Jean Yolitz.

St. John's thanks you for doing this.

Diner's Club

In January we will meet for lunch at 11:30am on Wednesday January 21st at Red Lobster in Eau Claire. Please call or notify Louise Alt by Monday January 19th at:

715-834-1693 or altlk@charter.net

Monthly Readings

January 4 - Sirach 24:1-12, John 1:[1-9] 10-18

January 11 - Psalm 29, Matthew 3:13-17

January 18 - Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42

January 25 - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

January Giving Envelopes

From JONAH

Since 2007, JONAH has been working with people, agencies and organizations to help make our communities healthier, safer and better places for everyone to live and work. Our work is about building community and building capacity to address root causes of poverty and injustice. We come together for this important and public work because when every one person does better, everyone does better.

Donations from St. John's and other JONAH members support this work in our community. You can support JONAH through St. John's or as an individual member. See Ann Brand for more information on how to support JONAH with your time, talents, and financial contributions.

January Sock & Underwear Drive

From Caring Committee

The Caring Committee will again have their sock & underwear drive in January. We are asking for adult socks, long underwear in large & extra large sizes, and also gently used outerwear for men & women. The collection box will be in the Gathering Area.

Caring Ministry's Christmas Giving Project

From Caring Committee

We would like to thank the congregation for making the Christmas Giving Project another huge success this year! We were able to help 14 families from our congregation and preschool. I know their Christmases will be brighter!

Also, we helped Locust Lane stock their food pantry. They were extremely grateful and appreciative! Look for some beautiful homemade Christmas cards created by Locust Lane students.

Thank you again for all the generosity shown for this wonderful project! Let the Christmas spirit live on!

Merry Christmas,
Caring Ministry

Special Offerings This Month

JONAH Justice

GriefShare*Caring Ministry*

Caring Ministry's newest offering to St. John's members, GriefShare, finished its first 13-week session in December. An additional 1-day "Surviving the Holidays" was offered on December 16th. The feedback from the attendees was positive saying that, among other things, it helped them to think about things differently, process grief, and feel they weren't alone.

The next 13-week session will be offered at the beginning of February. It will be held on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 P.M. Look for details on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the gathering area. To sign up online go to Griefshare.org, then Find a Group, then enter Eau Claire, WI These sessions were offered through the generosity of the Helen Brougham Fund and St. John's Fountain of Life Fund. For more information, call the church office, 715-834-9571.

Lenten Adult Education

Pastor Christine will be offering a study on the popular show "The Chosen" for Adult Education. Tentative dates are as follows:

- February 15th, 22nd
- March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Annual Reports

Please begin working on your Annual Reports! They are due on **January 16th**. If you have any questions or concerns about your report, please reach out to Lydia. Thank you!

Mutually Encouraged in our Shared Faith*A Bible Study in Romans*

By request! Pastor Christine has added two more Bible Studies on the book of Romans - January 25th and February 1st! The class begins at the usual Adult Education time at 10:30AM.

Caretakers of Creation*Trees and Shrubs*

*DO YOU EAT?
DO YOU BREATHE?
DO YOU DRINK WATER?
Then this is for you!!!!*

You are invited to join a fun but serious, knowledgeable but teachable group of your fellow members working to educate and inspire better care of our resources.

- Caretakers of Creation -

We meet monthly after church to discuss new ideas, current happenings, and helpful programs that support and advocate care for God's Creation. Working with the council and committees and staff the following have been accomplished:

-Lighting fixtures have been upgraded to LED (thank you Dramus and Property)

-Furnace heating improved (thank you Dave and Property)

-Recycling information available

-Reduction of Plastic Pledge introduced

-Introduction and use of Compostable disposable products (thank you Stewardship)

-Movies and Events highlighting native plants, care for bugs, birds, dirt and the natural life cycle

-Brochures relaying places to get more information on issues.

*This is important to all of us who **EAT, BREATHE,** and **DRINK**, don't you think?*

We need your ideas and input! Please join us! Contact Jim Boulter or John Price.

End of Year Contributions

Contributions to St. John's received or postmarked by December 31st will be credited to 2025 contributions. However, because of the difficulty of processing these late contributions, the staff encourages contributions for 2025 to be in as soon as possible.

Upcoming JONAH Events

January Meetings

- 1/2 @ 10:00am Reentry Task Force Meeting
- 1/6 @ 1:00pm Fundraising Team Meeting
- 1/8 @ 5:30pm Affordable Housing Task Force Meeting
- 1/12 @ 5:00pm Executive Committee Meeting
- 1/13 @ 12:30pm Religious Leaders Luncheon
@ 4:30pm Environmental Task Force Meeting
- 1/15 @ 4:00pm Mental Health Task Force Meeting
@ 6:15pm Book Club
- 1/19 @ 6:00pm JONAH Board Meeting
- 1/21 @ 10:00am Interfaith Green Teams Meeting
- 1/28 Prayers for Peace and Unity for All People

Blue Christmas Thank You!

Blue Christmas, on December 6th, was a beautiful and contemplative service provided by St. John's Caring Ministry. Over 60 attendees were able to listen to beautiful music, scripture, poetry, and a poignant homily from Pastor Christine. Placing a lighted candle in the sand cross in memory of loved ones, communion, and a healing station were especially meaningful moments.

A special thanks to the musicians: Mark Lundin, Michele Jarvis, Eric Nielsen, Carole Veness, and Linda Ranney. We could not have provided this service without many volunteers: lector, acolytes, communion servers, altar care, media and screen operators, servers, ushers, and greeters. Also, many thanks to the Caring Ministry members who provided refreshments in the gathering area after the service, beautifully decorated by Vicki Wolter. A special thanks to Nancy Putnam and her Blue Christmas planners who made this year's Blue Christmas an exceptional service.

If you weren't able to join us in person on the 6th, you can watch the service on St. John's YouTube channel, listed as: St. John's Lutheran Church Eau Claire Saturday, Dec. 6 – Blue Christmas Service

"Together in God" Broadcast Schedule

WQOW Broadcast @ 10:30 AM

January - 4, 18	ABC Network
February - 1, 15	Channel 18
March - 1, 15, 29	Cable 9
	HD 618

St. John's Apartments

Thank you to the members of St. John's who recently donated food for the food pantry at St. John's Apartments.

Every Monday, more than 50 residents at the apartments visit the food pantry. The gratitude these individuals express for this food is truly heartfelt and resonates with everyone involved. Just yesterday, a few volunteers shared an elevator ride with a resident who said, "This makes such a difference in my life. Thank you!" This simple but powerful statement highlights the impact the pantry has on the lives of those it serves.

This is possible in part through the generosity of the St. John's congregation. Thank you for partnering with us through food drives, volunteers, and overall support. We look forward to continuing to make a difference together in the lives of our neighbors!

— The Volunteers at St. John's Apartments Food Pantry

Trivia Corner

By whom were the children of Israel carried captive into Assyria?

- A. Nebuchadnezzar
- B. Tiglath Pileser
- C. Darius
- D. Ahaz

This one is tricky, so you'll get multiple choice.
This time....

st. john's christian PRESCHOOL

From the Classroom... We are ready to start the new year and the new semester at SJCP. Teachers and children are excited for some winter activities in the classrooms and in the snow! We also look forward to sharing Epiphany and reading about the magi's gifts. It is fun to imagine what we might also share with Jesus.

Preschool Openings!

We have openings for the current year. Please invite families who might be interested to call or email us at St John's for more information. We would love to welcome some new friends!

Save the Date!

February 17th is the date of our annual Shrove Tuesday Fundraiser. This is our biggest fundraiser of the school year. We will have a Pancake Dinner, Carnival and Silent Auction. The event is from 4:30-6:30pm. See you there!

Registration for the 2026-27 School Year

We are also making plans for the 2026-27 school year and will be enrolling children on February 2nd. With registration beginning next month, we invite you to visit our classrooms, meet our teachers, and request information to learn about the preschool experience. Classes are limited to ten students and are filled on a first-come first-serve basis. We encourage families to register early. We learn a lot, have some fun, and share God's love!

Director: Nancy Hanson

<https://stjohns-ec.org/grow/preschool>
(715)-834-9571.

February 2nd - 9:00AM: Priority Registration
(*St. John's Members and Previously Enrolled Families*)

February 9th - 9:00AM: Open Registration

Memorials & Honorariums

Christmas

IMO of our parents, Ernie & Verna Vorlob, and Adolph & Dolores Huebscher by Don & Sandy Huebscher

IHO my great grandsons Wyatt, Lucas & Hunter Hedlund by Janet Dahl

IMO my husband Roger & son Alan by Janet Dahl

Caring Ministry

IMO my brother John on his birthday January 18 by Genny Gorton

TV Ministry

IMO my sister Shirley Bengtson by Ray & Sharon Gizewski

General Operations

IHO my daughter-in-law Pastor Christine by Penny Lorenz

IMO Jim Kiser by Steve Newman

IMO Bill Newman by Steve Newman

Mission Trip

IMO David Brimmer by Julie & Gary Kersten

IMO David Brimmer by Dawn & Tom Walker

Quilters

IMO Burt & Marcie Tulkki by Jan Kosower

Feed My People

IMO Don's Uncle Jim Clark by Don & Sandy Huebscher



Children, Youth, & Family

Luther Park Registration

Summer Camp Registration is now OPEN!

It's that time of year again. It's time to dream of warm days on Prairie Lake, belly laughs with cabinmates, s'mores under the stars, and the kind of faith & vocation formation only found at camp. We're thrilled to share that registration for Summer 2026 at Luther Park is open!

Why Register Early?

Luther Park is a sacred place for so many—last summer, over 80% of parents told us their child grew in their faith during their time at camp, and many campers called it their favorite week of the year. But spots go fast—and we want your child to be part of it.

When you register before April 1 with a deposit, you'll lock in our best-value rate: just \$460. That's the lowest price of the season, and a great way to secure your camper's week without stress.

How to Register

Visit lutherpark.org/summer-camps. Explore session dates, themes, and what's new for 2026 in our 2026 Brochure. Whether your camper loves arts and crafts, canoeing, campfire songs, or jumping into the pool, there's a place for them here.

Questions?

We're here to help! Call us at 715-859-2215 or email our office at info@lutherpark.org. Let's make Summer 2026 unforgettable.

2026 Summer Theme: Wear Love

Based on Colossians 3:12

Love isn't just something we feel, it's something we live into every day. This summer at Luther Park, our theme Wear Love invites campers to imagine love like clothing we put on daily: compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and forgiveness. Rooted in God's love, campers will explore how these virtues shape our relationships; in the cabin, on the trail, and around the campfire. Through daily bible study and shared experiences, we'll discover what it means to be wrapped in God's grace and sent into the world clothed in love.



COFFEE & CHAT

Join us during Sunday School!
While the kids are learning, the parents will be chatting together!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH
10:15AM-11:15AM
MEET IN THE PRAYER ROOM UPSTAIRS

Parenting is TOUGH
and so are you!



Wall of Giving

Coming soon

1. Decide the amount you would like to donate toward the Workcamp Youth Mission Trip
2. Find the envelope whose number corresponds with the monetary amount you choose. You can pick one or more, as long as they add up to your donation amount.
3. Place your donation in the envelope in exchange for the note inside. Checks can be made out to St. John's with "Wall of Giving" as the memo.
4. Give the envelope to an usher or place it in the church office.
5. If you would like, include your name for your Annual Giving Statement. Your support is greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH TRAVELING TO BELLE, WV IN JUNE FOR THEIR WORK CAMP MISSION TRIP

Church Council**At-Large:** Jeff Putnam**At-Large:** Greg Johnson**Secretary:** Karla Spies**Treasurer:** Norb Kirk**Caring Ministry:** Mary Spryer**Community & World:** Louise Alt**Education Ministry:** Stacy Kelly**Faith Family:** OPEN**President:** Richard Freitag**Seniors & Home Visitation:** Larry Schaefer**Vice President:** Dramus Peuse**Worship & Music:** Richard Spryer**Youth Ministry:** Becky Cater**Your Church Staff****Administrative Assistant:** Genny Gorton**Bookkeeper:** Marlee Agner**Communications Coordinator:** Lydia Elko**Custodian:** Tyeanna Segura**CYF Director:** Amanda Burkart**Facility & Grounds Manager:** David LaRose**Ministers:** All the Congregation**Music Director:** Mark Lundin**Organist:** Linda Ranney**Pastor:** Pr. Christine Emerson**St. John's Christian Preschool:**

Nancy Hanson, Amanda Schroeder,

Amanda Downing, Bria Lindstrom



**Annual Reports are
due on January 16th.**



**Scheduling issues
can be hashed out
with Lydia.**

**Trivia Corner****A:** Tiglath-Pileser III (2 Kgs 15:29)

What a name!

January Calendar

Weekend Events

Friday, January 23rd - No Preschool

				1 No Preschool Office Closed Happy New Year!
4 9:00 Worship	5 6:30 JuBellation	6 1:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 STEP Group	7 9:00 Quilting 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Choir 6:00 6-8th Grade Confirmation	8 9:30 Rostered Leaders @Our Savior's Menomonie 1:30 St. J's Apt. Services 6:00 Youth 7:00 Property
11 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Parent Coffee Chat 10:30 Caretakers of Creation	12 5:15 Education 6:30 JuBellation	13 9:30 Staff Meeting 1:00 Worship & Music 6:30 Preschool Board 7:00 STEP Group	14 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Choir 6:00 6-8 ^h Grade Confirmation	15 9:00 Volunteer @ The Community Table 6:00 Council
18 9:00 Worship 10:15 Faith Family 10:15 Sunday School	19 No Preschool 9:30 Winter Theological Event 3:00 Bible Study @ The Classics 5:30 Faith Family 6:30 JuBellation	23 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:30 Diner's Club @ Red Lobster 7:00 STEP Group	21 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Cards & Games 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Choir 6:00 6-8th Gr. Confirmation	22 10:30 Oakwood Health Services
25 9:00 Worship 10:30 Romans Bible Study	26 No Preschool 4:00 Finance 6:30 JuBellation	27 9:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 STEP Group	28 9:00 Quilting 3:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Choir 6:00 8th Gr. Confirmation	29 1:00 Caring Ministry

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” - Isaiah 43:18-19