

# The Messenger

Volume 62, Issue I JANUARY 2024

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# **Come and Worship!**

## Each Sunday at 10 AM

Nursery available 9:30-12:30

Fellowship time following worship

Services are in person and online (YouTube/Facebook & website)
www.facebook.com/StJohnsMpls.org
www.stjohnsmpls.org

January 7 - Grace Place at 11:15

January 14 Following worship:
Packing of Backpacks
Lutheranism 101
Worship Committee at 11:15
Grace Place, 11:15

January 21 - Grace Place at 11:15

January 28 -Congregation Annual Meeting 11:15

Welcoming, Worshiping, Healing, Serving

## Thoughts from Our Pastor



I was really struck by Edith's Word of the Week on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The word Henry removed from JP's pack was 'Resolution.' I have never liked New Year's resolutions because whenever I make them, I set myself up for failure. I can never keep them. But when Edith said it, the word rang in my ears differently and I thought about Resolutions differently.

I am resolved to creatively think aloud with you on how we together can grow our congregation.

I am resolved to find fun and life-giving activities and ministries to foster deeper relationships both within Tangletown AND within our congregation.

I am resolved to continue to have fun in this ministry we share.

And I am feeling resolute about all of this because you are such a fun people to together serve God and neighbor.

I hope that as you flip through these pages you will see the remarkable and wonderful ministry that you are becoming known for beyond these walls. For hosting blood drives, blessing of animals along Nicollet Ave, hosting the *Messiah* concerts, providing the 20 food backpacks monthly, providing towels and winter-wear to shelters. All of this is being accomplished because of you! And I find it inspiring, humbling, and motivating.

All of which is how I heard Edith (re) define the word 'Resolution.'

Thank you for allowing me to be your Pastor.

Pastor Mark



#### **CROSS+GENERATIONAL MINISTRY**

#### **NEW YEAR—NEW DISCOVERIES**

I am writing this on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, two days after our 4PM Christmas Eve Service. This year because of how the services were scheduled, and my part in the services, I was at the church building from 7:40 AM until about 5:30 PM. I was not working the entire time. It was simply easier for me to stay at the building rather than go home for a short time and return. It was in this down time that I made some new discoveries.

As I spent some time with Peder helping to put the discs on the candles for the Christmas Eve service, we were chatting. I recall telling Peder that I never really had time to take in all our sanctuary has, mostly the stained-glass windows. In looking at the sanctuary - REALLY looking at it - I noticed there was so much to discover. I am also a bit ashamed that I had never taken the time before now to really look around the sanctuary. (I think sometimes we can be so focused on what we are doing that we don't notice things that we maybe should.) These are not simply stained-glass windows, they have words, they have symbols and people pictured; these windows to me are beautiful works of art.

After the service I looked at the window behind the altar and commented to Peder how beautiful the window was. I remember commenting on the bright blue color towards the bottom. I then began to think about the person that drew the sketch for the window, the many hours it must have taken them to choose the colors, cut the glass, and create such a beautiful work of art. I wondered if the person who created it ever thought about the thousands of people who would be moved by their art for the many years after the window was installed. I began to think about how blessed we are to have such beauty all around us.

And the beauty doesn't stop with our windows. Sharon Koschak recently brought in a new wall hanging; as you go out the doors by the church office it hangs on the right-hand side of the doors on the wall where I believe some pictures were. It too is a beautiful work of art.

As we begin this New Year, I would like you to try something: As you come to the church building for worship, a meeting, or an activity, pretend you have never been here before. Look with fresh eyes at our spaces. Choose a stained-glass window (we have several to choose from), take a picture of it, and throughout the week really look at it. What do you see? What does the window represent? What do the words mean? Who are the people?

Is the Narthex warm and inviting for visitors? Are we warm and inviting to visitors? We all want to see our church grow not only spiritually but also in membership. As we make these new discoveries throughout our spaces, I am hopeful that we as a community of faith will be welcoming and inviting to all who enter our spaces, not only in our words and actions, but making the necessary changes where needed so that our spaces can be welcoming too.



Edith

#### **Cross+Generational Events**

A thank you....



St. John's Luthern church Community -

> On behalf of all the children whose lives were transformed this year by Camp Noah, we wish you hope, joy and peace.

We thank you for your generous contribution of kir's kits for lamp Mah. We appreciate you. Camp Mah.



# GAME MEET UP JANUARY 18TH Thursday 6PM-8PM

Come to Fellowship Hall with your favorite game and a snack to share (if you are able and would like to)

We will snack and play games from 6PM-8PM. This is for ALL ages and stages! A good time is always had by all. If you do not have a game, the church has SEVERAL you can choose from!



# It's back... with an addition! ST. JOHN'S CHILI & CORNBREAD CONTEST!

Think your chili and/or cornbread has what it takes to win the Golden Ladle and/or Golden Spatula?

Bring in your entry on Sunday, February 4th, 2024. Each entry will receive a number.

At fellowship, people will taste all entries. People will "vote" by placing cash in the basket next to their favorite entries. The winning entries will be the ones with the most money in their basket. One chili and one cornbread will win.

All money goes to charity.

All entries are welcome from mild to super spicy, meat-filled or meatless, red or white.

FEBRUARY 13TH SHROVE (FAT) TUESDAY PARTY at St John's 6:30PM-8:30PM

You are invited to join us for our second annual Shrove (Fat) Tuesday Party!

We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm for Get-to-Know-You Bingo (with prizes), pancakes, and make-your-ownsundae bar!

Come enjoy a great time with one another before we begin our Lenten Journey.

Picture from last year: Oly and Brad in the kitchen.



#### **ADMINISTRATION**

The Annual Meeting of
St. John's Congregation
for the purpose of
adopting a ministry budget for 2024
will be held in person following worship on
Sunday Morning, January 28, 2024

The Proposed 2024 Ministry Budget will be available for review ahead of time.

Pledge update: 36 pledges, \$101,511 (Jan. 3)

[**Note:** St. John's Council will meet on Monday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the church lounge.)

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**

St. John's will be hosting a Hennepin County Fix-it Clinic on Saturday, January 13, 2024 from noon to 4:00 PM

Bring your small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and more to an upcoming Fix-It Clinic and receive free guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot and fix your items! No pre-registration required.





Your Stewardship pledges/estimates of giving are helpful in planning St. John's ministry budget for 2024, and are an expression of our commitment as individuals and as a congregation to the sharing of the gospel, love and service within and beyond our community of faith. Thank you!

## **Moments of Generosity**

This month we want to recognize all those moments of generosity that you have contributed outside of any spotlight to the ministry of this congregation and to its people. Some have sewn new hanging banners, others have shown up to prepare communion, or read the lessons and prayers, or usher. Others volunteered for hours during and in preparation for the *Messiah*. Another made the arrangements to get his trailer all the way to church from northern MN so that we could pick up the 12 foot tall Christmas trees. And there are so many others! Thank you so much for all the ways you have contributed in significant ways that are unknown by most.



Holy Conversations, led Thursday mornings at 10 by Pastor Mark, emerge as discussion centers on and circles around the following Sunday's lectionary texts. Sessions in January will be on the 4th, 11th and 25th. Come and share in the exploration!

#### **COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD**

Community and Neighborhood Ministry Outreach....

**The GIVING TREE 2023** service project outreach summary:

St. John's Child Care Center and Missionary Circle teamed to collect donations for Mary's Place and Harbor Light Shelter. Boxes of children's books, toiletries, socks, hats, gloves and boots were collected.

The CAN ministry teamed with St. John's church members to give to Justice Page Middle School families. Donations included almost \$1000 in Target Gift cards to meet broader needs of food and hygiene items, socks, and 2 dozen pajama sets. Thrivent Financial provided \$250 towards this service project.

Thank YOU for your generous gifts and kindness in our this our 25th year of the GIVING TREE!

(The GIVING TREE project is in ADDITION to our Food Backpack Ministry).





GIVING TREE 2023





#### **COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD**

#### **Food Backpack Ministry**

St. John's provides food-filled backpacks for 20 food-insecure Justice Page Middle School families once a month. Each month we fill 3 sets of backpacks – 10 with food that is culturally-appropriate for Latina families, 5 with food that is culturally-appropriate for Somali families, and 5 that are a regular mix of foods.

#### Ways you can help:

- 1. Be part of a team of 2-3 people that inventory our food stock to determine what items need to be purchased.
- 2. Purchase 1 or more of the following items every month for several months. Foods can be ordered online and delivered to church.

20 - 15 oz. cans diced tomatoes

20 packs of spaghetti

20 - 24 oz. non-glass (plastic or metal) marinara pasta sauce

20 - 1-pound bags brown rice

40 boxes macaroni and cheese

20 cans fruit

20 cans vegetables

5 cans stew/hearty soup

5 cans beef ravioli

20 jars (16-oz) peanut butter

20 boxes of granola bars



3. Lead packing 2 or more times per year. We will train you before you are in charge. Packing happens on these Sundays after worship, during fellowship hour:

Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 17, April 14, May 12, and June 9.

4. Transport backpacks to Justice Page School.

Deliveries are made one Thursday per month between 8:30-9:00AM:

Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 21, April 18, May 16, and June 13.

5. Donate money directed to Backpack Ministry.

Please contact Tamara and Mark Gebhardt (<a href="mailto:gebhardtfamily@msn.com">gebhardtfamily@msn.com</a> or text to 612-275-2317) or Elizabeth Roe (<a href="mailto:willettteroe@yahoo.com">willettteroe@yahoo.com</a> or text to 612-817-9919) if you want to sign up for a role above or if you have questions.

Community and Neighborhood Ministry Team (CAN)

#### Wreath of Love

This is a collection that St John's participates in each year and is organized through the TRUST churches.

#### TRUST INC WREATH OF LOVE INITIATIVE — THANKS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

St John's received this message of thanks from TRUST. St. John's provided eight seniors with two gifts each. Thanks also from the Community and Neighborhood Committee to St John's members who purchased gifts and supported this outreach.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in TRUST Inc's Wreath of Love program this year. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we were able to bring holiday cheer to 175 senior neighbors and clients in our community. For many of them, these gifts will be the only ones they receive this year, and for some, they are essential items that help them live independently. Your kindness and compassion have made a real difference in the lives of those we serve. We cannot express our gratitude enough for your support. Thank you for being our blessing, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with you in the year ahead.

Cindy Tintner & Karen Virnig,
TRUST Inc Wreath of Love Coordinators



#### **MISSIONARY CIRCLE**

# January collection: Towels (new or gently used)

Missionary Circle invites the congregation to help collect towels during the month of January for donation to homeless shelters for use by residents. Donations may be left on the office lobby pew. If you order items to be delivered to the church, please let the office know so that we can watch for the delivery.

In addition, winter wear donations are welcome for use by shelter residents as well—warm hats, mittens/gloves, scarves, sweaters, jackets—whatever you're able to share. These will be picked up at church by the Hasselmann's for distribution.

Missionary Circle provides support for various local and global efforts, including St. John's Food Backpack Program, Salvation Army Harbor Light Center and Mary's Place shelters for the homeless in Minneapolis, and Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry's sponsorship of students in India.















#### **WORSHIP & MUSIC**

#### The Year as a House: A Blessing

Think of the year as a house door flung wide in welcome, threshold swept and waiting, a graced spaciousness opening and offering itself to you.

Let it be blessed in every room.

Let it be hallowed in every corner.

Let every nook be a refuge

and every object set to holy use.

Let it be here that safety will rest.

Let it be here that health will make its home.

Let it be here that peace will show its face.

Let it be here that love will find its way.

Here let the weary come

let the aching come

let the lost come

*let the sorrowing come.* 

Here let them find their rest

and let them find their soothing

and let them find their place

and let them find their delight.

And may it be in this house of a year

that the seasons will spin in beauty,

and may it be in these turning days

that time will spiral with joy.

And may it be that its rooms will fill

with ordinary grace

and light spill from every window

to welcome the stranger home.

Wherever you make your home, may it be blessed, and may you enter this Epiphany and the coming year in peace.

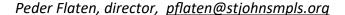
-Jan Richardson

# Sing in the Choir!

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:45—7:30 Jan. 3, 10, & 24 in Fellowship Hall

#### Ring the Bells!

Rehearsal: Wednesday, January 17 6-6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary





## **JANUARY LECTIONARY READINGS**

Jan. 7 - Jeremiah 33:[10-11], 14-18

Promise of the Messiah

(Mark 8:27-29)

Jan. 14 - Mark 4:1-34

Parables of sower and mustard seed (Psalm 126)

Jan. 21 - Mark 5:1-20

Jesus heals the Gerasene demoniac (Psalm 89:1-4)

Jan. 28 - Mark 5:21-43

Jesus heals Jairus' daughter and the woman with the flow of blood. (Psalm 131)

#### **Worship Assistants in December**

# Assisting Ministers, Communion Preparers, Ushers, Acolytes

Edith Bohardt, Anna Carlson, Ellen Dosdall, Deborah Dunham, Larry Fraser, Tamara Gebhardt, Lori Johnson, Sharon Koschak, Brad Nelson, Mark Nervig, Eleanor Nervig, Sam Nervig, Elizabeth Roe, Eric Willette

#### **Musicians**

Edith Bohardt (flute, recorder),
Matt Burdick and Ron Hasselmann
(trumpet), Peder Flaten and Ann Paulson (piano),
Grant Johnson, (guitar) Christian Belz (soloist),
St. John's Choir and St John's Bells

#### **Media Volunteers**

Eleanor Nervig, Sam Nervig, Dylan Noaman

#### **Fellowship Hosts**

Ron & Bonnie Conrad, Steve & Ellen Dosdall, Deborah Dunham, Sharon Koschak, Beth McAllister, Susan Zabel

#### Counters

Bonnie Conrad, Deborah Dunham, Larry Fraser, Elizabeth Roe, Diane Rooney, Jeanne Tuvey



Lighting of the Advent Wreath—4th candle, Christmas Eve morning





Christmas Eve 2023 at St. John's



Photos courtesy Matthew Tiede

# In Our Prayers....

#### Those in need of healing, comfort, encouragement or sustaining care:

† Jeannie C., Kathy Cashin, Brian Conrad, Debra Jacobs, Marge Korzenowski, Karen O., Sandy Rader, Jan Sammelson, Connie Scheevel, Kris Schepers, Susan Tasa, Lana Tiede, Debbie Tuvey, George Tuvey, Nels Tuvey, Bruce Walker, and all whom we hold in our hearts and are known by God.

#### Those who are grieving loss:

- † The family and friends of Gloria Conrad, who died on December 29, 2023. Gloria was a sister-in-law of Ron & Bonnie Conrad and a dear friend of Kari Marsh.
- † The family and friends of Jane McNaughton, who died on December 29, 2023. Jane also was a dear friend and former coworker of Kari Marsh.



#### ST. JOHN'S WELCOME STATEMENT

St John's is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that celebrates and cares for all people. As followers of Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness through baptism, the members of St. John's Lutheran Church welcome all who are seeking God. We affirm that this reconciliation extends to people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. We welcome members of the LGBTQ+ community as well as those who may have been excluded because of other human distinctions. We strive to live as a welcoming people in our life together and our outreach to the community. Our doors are open. Come as you are. You belong.



# Please let the church office know if you would like to share information with the congregation.

You can reach the church office at 612-827-4406 or communications@stjohnsmpls.org
Email Pastor Mark at pastortiede@stjohnsmpls.org

Callers to St. John's have the option to talk with or leave messages for individual staff by choosing one of the following prompts:

- 1. Church Office/Ann Paulson
- 2. Pastor Mark
- 3. Edith Bohardt, Director of Cross+Generational Ministry
- 4. David Roinas, Bookkeeper
- 5. Joseph Sahai
- 6. Tina Shear and Child Care Center

# January Celebrations

# Happy Birthday!

- I Dustin Olson Lesley Spaeth Nicole Dosdall
  - Anna Dosdall Peder Flaten
- 3 Peder FlatenBonnie Anderson
- 4 Mark Gebhardt
- 5 Christian Belz
- 6 Susan Lillevold
- 7 Franklin Anderson
- 9 Abbey Koliha
- 10 Debra Jacobs Rachel Rak
- II Laurel Fricke
- 15 Annika Dosdall
- 20 Erik Belz
- 22 Jon Dosdall Kris Edel
- 24 Mark Nervig
- 27 Emma Hurbanis
- 28 Grace Noaman 29 Tamara Gebhara
- 29 Tamara Gebhardt 30 Marco Hardtke

# Happy Anniversary!

I Ron & Bea Hasselmann

Epiphany January 6

# Martin Luther King Day January 15

If your birthdate or anniversary has been inadvertently omitted or is incorrect, please forgive us, then call the church office at 612-827-4406.

Thank you!

# January 2024

#### January 1-7

Monday, January I—New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 2

9 am SJ Staff (Lounge)

Wednesday, January 3

6:45 pm St John's Choir (FH)

Thursday, January 4

10 am Holy Conversations (Lounge)

6 pm Chi Rho Committee (Zoom)

Saturday, January 6—Epiphany

9 am Minneapolis Brass (Sanctuary)

Sunday, January 7—Epiphany I

10 am Worship w/Holy Communion

in person and online; nursery open

II am Fellowship (FH)

11:15 am Grace Place learning (top floor)

#### January 15-21

Tuesday, January 16

10 am SJ Staff (Lounge)

6 pm FPNP Cohort at LCCR

Wednesday, January 17

6 pm St John's Bells (Sanctuary)

6:30 pm Confirmation at Bethlehem

Thursday, January 18—Backpack Delivery

6 pm Game Meet Up (FH)

Saturday, January 20

9 am Minneapolis Brass (Sanctuary)

Sunday, January 21

10 am Worship w/Holy Communion

in person and online; nursery open

II am Fellowship (FH)

11:15 am Grace Place learning (top floor)

#### January 8-14

Monday, January 8

6:30 pm St John's Council (Lounge)

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 pm Cross+Gen Team (Zoom)

7 pm Tangletown Envir Comm (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 10

6:30 pm Confirmation at Bethlehem

6:45 pm St John's Choir (FH)

Thursday, January 11

**10 am** Holy Conversations (Lounge)

5:30 pm ECFE (Child Care) (FH)

Saturday, January 13

9 am Minneapolis Brass (Sanctuary)

12-4 pm Tangletown/Hennepin County

'Fix-it' Event (FH)

Sunday, January 14—Epiphany 2

10 am Worship w/Holy Communion

in person and online; nursery open

II am Fellowship (FH) &

Packing Backpacks (FH)

II am Lutheranism IOI (Chapel)

11:15 am Grace Place learning (top floor)

11:15 am Worship Committee (Lounge)

#### January 22-31

Wednesday, January 24

6:30 pm Confirmation at Bethlehem

**6:45** pm **SJ Choir** (*FH*)

Thursday, January 25

10 am Holy Conversations (Lounge)

Sunday, January 28

10 am Worship w/Holy Communion

in person and online; nursery open

II am Fellowship (FH)

11:15 am Annual Congregational Meeting

(FH)

Tuesday, January 30—'Messenger' deadline

# St. John's Lutheran Church 4842 Nicollet Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55419



#### THE MESSENGER

# <u>Information</u>

Church Office email:

communications@stjohnsmpls.org Website: www.stjohnsmpls.org Facebook: .www.facebook.com/ StJohnsMpls

#### Parish Staff

#### **PASTOR**

Mark Tiede

**ORGANIST & MINISTER OF MUSIC** 

Peder Flaten

**DIRECTOR OF CROSS+GENERATIONAL** 

**MINISTRY** 

Edith Bohardt

ASSISTANT FOR MINISTRY

Ann Paulson

**BOOKKEEPER** 

David Roinas

**VIDEO/MARKETING SPECIALIST** 

Matthew Tiede

**NURSERY ATTENDANT** 

Diane Harayda

**CUSTODIANS** 

Joseph Sahai (weekdays) Manuela Solorzano (Sundays) Mill City Cleaning (Child Care)

**CHILD CARE DIRECTOR** 

Tina Shear

**CHI RHO CENTER MANAGER** 

David Helm

#### **Church Council**

Jennifer Burdick, President
JoAnn Christoferson, Treasurer
Bonnie Conrad, Secretary
Deborah Dunham
Rick Falcon, Vice President
Sharon Koschak
Anne Nervig
Mark Tiede, Pastor

#### THE MESSENGER

St. John's Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

#### **Our Mission:**

Fueled by Christ's redeeming love, St. John's is called into a joyful life of welcoming hospitality, grace-filled worship, transformational relationships, and Gospel-driven service in the world.

#### **Our Core Values:**

Welcoming

Celebrating and caring for all people. Our doors are open. You belong. Come as you are.

Worshiping

Gathering together to joyfully thank God in prayer and praise for Jesus, who calls us, centers us, and sends us into the world.

Healing

Reflecting God's unconditional grace and love by walking together through the joys and pains of life.

Serving

Gratefully responding to the needs of the world with the abilities God has gifted us.

#### **Our Vision for the Future:**

A vibrant community living faith boldly

In-Person Worship Hour—Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Traditional worship that is joyful and welcoming to all.

St. John's worship on Youtube



St. John's podcasts on Spotify



**ELCA Presiding Bishop:** 

Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop:

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (on leave) Bishop Ann Svennungsen