

2023 Striving Together

“...with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel...”

~ Phil 1:27



224 Mary Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 • Phone: (507) 723-5397 • www.sjlcmc.org • Office Hours: Tue – Fri 9am – 2pm CST

**Brothers and sisters in Christ,
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Now that 2022 has drawn to a close, we look forward with joy and expectancy to what God has planned for St. Johns in 2023. A short while ago, while studying Paul's writing to the people of Philippi, the following verse spoke to me. I took this to mean that God has something for us here, a direction for us as a church as the Holy Spirit continues the work of our transformation individually. The verse? Philippians 1:27 – *“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.”*

Over the past couple of years, our church body has been attacked and divided by politics, transitions, a pandemic, and the overall bumps of life. We have suffered through nothing short of an attempt from Satan to discourage us, and prohibit us from living the new life we are so gloriously promised in Christ. Which leaves us with the question that I was prayerfully considering while reading this passage, “God, where does St. Johns go from here?” I believe that Philippians 1:27 is God's way of directing us forward while keeping us on the “right track.”

The letter that Paul was writing to the Christians in Philippi was one of thankfulness and joy. A letter of appreciation and encouragement as they continued the work of the gospel amid many trials of their own. It is from this resolve to continue the

work of our Lord that we will see the Holy Spirit lead St. Johns forward, strengthening our faith and bringing more people to the love of Christ.

As we move into 2023, let us do so by “striving together,” not for our own glory or needs, but “for the faith of the gospel.” Let us follow the urging of Paul and the Holy Spirit to see His Word of promise work within and around us for His Kingdom's growth. As part of this plan, we will embark on a journey of transformational discipleship, a way for the Word to continue its work within us together.

The central anchor point of this will be the formation of “NewLife Groups.” Over the next several months, you will see and hear more about how you can be involved in this ministry. I encourage us all to have an open mind and remain faithful to the work that God is doing among us. It is so beautiful to see the Holy Spirit at work!

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Along with the Life Groups, we already have several exciting events to look forward to in 2023.

In Christ's service,

Denton L Bennet Jr.

Denton L. Bennet Jr.
Pastor

Exciting things are happening at St. Johns in 2023!



January 20, 2023: there will be a Youth Lock-In featuring food, friendship, fun and more!



January 26, 2023: The Kitchen Table Ministry kicks off and will be held each Thursday thereafter from 5:30-6:30PM. The idea is for people to have a place to come to during a hectic week and sit and eat with family and friends and even make new friends. No charge. Open to all people.



March 17 - 19, 2023: The 2023 youth and confirmation retreat will be in Minneapolis.



July 15, 2023: Creating a Welcoming Environment for the Holy Spirit – LCMC service director Pastor Mike Bradley will join us as we host a one-day seminar on identifying multiple ways the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives.





July 16-21, 2023: St. Louis Youth Mission Trip – Our Luther League will hit the road for a week-long mission trip to St. Louis, working with local Christians in various ministries.



August 7-10, 2023: Creation Museum and Ark Adventure – Join St. Johns and friends as we take an adventure of biblical proportions! Museum and the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. Walk in a real-life size Ark and see the Bible stories come alive in the Creation Museum.



Creation Museum



September 16, 2023: The Augustana District Women of the Word Fall Gathering will be hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church. Plan to attend!



Are you considering a calling into ministry? St. Johns wants to help you! See Pastor Bennet for information about scholarships currently available to members of St. Johns!

"Here I am! Send me."

– Isaiah 6:8



Thank you to all the people that volunteered or said yes to positions that were open for the 2023 ballot. We appreciate your willingness to serve. The 2022 nominating committee: Lisa Arnoldi, Jane Thram, Kayla Moe

We do need 2 volunteers to be voting delegates at the Augustana District meeting and 2 - 4 for the LCMC Annual Gathering. If you would like to volunteer for one or both of these—please contact the church office or one of the nominating committee members.

COUNCIL UPDATE

Council Meeting SUMMARY from December meeting- (complete minutes are posted on each bulletin board.)

Secretary's report: m/s/c/ to approve.

Guest: Gilbert Anderson attended on behalf of the Mission Endowment Committee. Their minutes were presented along with the updated Mission Endowment Resolution. Both accepted as presented. m/s/c

Treasurer's Report: General Acct. Bal. \$74,691.81
Dedicated Acct. Bal. \$79,881.63.

Board of Ed: 35 students participated in the Sunday School Christmas Program. Jodi Dalsgaard assisted with music and Jason Beyer assisted with the set. Sunday school classes will be on break until Jan. 8.

Trustees: Bathroom remodel completed. Varnishing of doors/windows, started earlier this year, was completed by Vogel Painting. Preliminary 2023 budget reviewed.

Deacons: Membership changes for November: Baptism: Lexi Anderson, Received for membership; Jay & Lisa Anderson, Marian Jensen. December changes—Baptism: Brexten Todd Anderson 12/17/22. Several baptisms planned for January.

Pastor's report: The focus for 2023 will be on "Striving Together" / Philippians 1:27 and we will be offering some small group settings for those interested. Pastor will begin participating in the LCMC Discipleship group and also attending 2 seminars on suicide prevention, youth & adult, in January & February.

Stewardship and Evangelism: Returns on stewardship and pledges was up this year. The Stewardship Committee met and chose the Springfield Fire Department as the 4th quarter World Hunger/noisy offering recipient. Worship and Music: Advent starts 11/27.

Children/ youth and families. Jan. 20th the L.L. will sponsor a lock-in at the church for grades 7-12 to include food, fun and fellowship. Adults needed to assist. Youth will be going to WOW Zone on Dec. 31.

Old Business: Presented for approval—Applicant: Tracee Berg, for secretarial position at starting salary of \$14.25/hr. m/s/c. She will begin duties late December/early January. Revisited; meal ministry presented by Kayla Moe. m/s/c approving "The Kitchen Table" to begin in January. This will be open to all in need of a meal and fellowship. Approved worship/S.S. time changes for January 22, 2023. S.S. 9 a.m. Church 10 a.m. –annual meeting to follow.

New Business:

Discussion :
2023 Ballot - Positions yet to be filled for 2023 ballot: Nursing Home Board member (1) Stewardship Committee (1), Luther League Advisor (1). Comments offered regarding the length of the terms for elected position and the difficulty with getting people to accept positions due to long commitment terms. Suggestion made that the council consider pursuing review of the current Constitution and By-laws which was last revised in 1/2012.

No action at this time.

BAPTISM



We welcome Brexten Todd Anderson into our faith family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Dec. 17th. Brexten is the son of Todd & Ashley Anderson. His sponsors are Tony & Rachel Schumacher and Mitchell & Amber Anderson.



Congratulations to Chris & Laura Scholtz on the birth of their daughter, Mya Leona Scholtz who was born on December 21, 2022. We rejoice with you on her safe arrival.



INCLEMENT WEATHER & CANCELLATIONS



Re: Church activities and office hours.

If Springfield schools are canceled or dismissed early all activities and the church office will be closed.

Church service cancelations will be made as soon as possible then posted on Facebook, and broadcast on KNUJ (AM 860/ 97.3 FM New Ulm) Radio and KLGR (1490 AM Redwood Falls) radio stations.

****When in doubt, or you fear driving because of road conditions— please stay safe at home!**



We thank the following people who have given poinsettias in memory or in honor of loved ones.

In Honor of ...

- ... Jesus' birth by Curt & Lorie Fredericksen
- ... Our family by Cathy & Warren Hauger
- ... Our family by Lynn & Nancy, Josh, Jonathan, Joseph, Jacob & Laura

In Loving Memory of ...

- ... Roy, Kurt & Cindy Moe by Margaret Moe
- ... Robert Christenson by Brian & Linda Meier
- ... Loved ones by Dennis & Sally Anderson
- ... Marv Huisman by Dave & Lori Milbrath and families
- ... Ted & Florence Anderson by their family
- ... Bill & Leola Haseleu by Randy & Rose Haseleu, Sandy Hesse & families
- ... Gary Don Hesse, and Chuck & Elaine Hoffman by Sandy Hesse, Sarah & Adam Wensch, Adam & Samantha Hesse and families
- ... Dick & Norma Anderson by Gil & Linda, Glenn & Brenda, Russ & Kim, Laurie & Merle & families
- ... Our parents Lloyd & Ruth Milbrath, and Leonard & Verna Miller by Ray & Yvonne Milbrath
- ... David Anderson by Lynn & Nancy, Josh, Jonathan, Joseph, Jacob & Laura



God's blessings & best wishes to the following

- January 6 - Jim & Sue Anderson
- January 8 - Delbert & Kay Pingeon
- January 12 - Dillon & Maranda Balbach
- January 17 - Jerry & Becky Peters
- January 20 - John & Heather Holles
- January 25 - Scott & Mary Hesse

Schedule Change

FORWARD IN FAITH will gather on January 8th instead of January 1st.

Come hang out and see what we are up to! We do need adults that could provide a light meal for the youth on January 8th and February 5. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or for more information Contact:

Pastor Bennet at pastordlbennet@gmail.com or Brenda Anderson at b_vangrouw@hotmail.com.



Thank You

Thank you to those who decorated the church during the Thanksgiving and the Christmas seasons. Your gift of time and creative talent is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the Sunday school students, teachers, youth helpers, and Jodi Dalsgaard for sharing the story of Jesus' birth.

Thank you to Jason Beyer for helping with the set and special thanks to the Board of Ed; April Beyer, Jenny Runck, Kari Smith and Brenda Anderson, for your leadership. ~ the St. Johns Congregation

Thank you to the Luther League, Laurie Krueger and the adults helpers/teacher for preparing and sharing the lefse and cookies following the Sunday school program. We hope you had as much fun doing it, as we will have enjoying them. You are such a blessing to us all. ~ the St. Johns Congregation

Thank you Lay Readers for willing to try something new. We still have open slots for the rest of February and March. *(Don't forget to indicate if you want the readings placed in your mailbox at church or emailed to you.)* The sign-up sheet is on the board by the offices.



PRAYER REQUESTS

The prayer group meets at meets weekly in the chapel. All are welcome to join, as your schedule allows.

If you have prayer requests or concerns you would like added to the prayer list, please email the church, drop your request in the blue box by the church mailboxes or contact Pastor Bennet. 701-304-1260

If you or a family member would like a pastoral visitation, please contact Pastor Bennet at (704) 301-1260 or email requests directly to him at: pastordlbennet@gmail.com



We would like to welcome Tracie Berg as the new secretary of St. Johns Church. We are happy to have her with us and look forward to getting acquainted. As the transition continues, here are a few ways that you can help her to become familiar with the job and all of our parishioners.

Be thoughtful— She will not know most of us or what families we belong to. Introduce yourself in person & on the phone. Whenever you leave written notes, please include your FULL name. Remember, she will not know what committees people are on, what kind of job you have or who is responsible for doing certain things.

Be patient —There is a lot to learn and do. She is an efficient person but there are some things that only occur once a year and will take time to get used to. Leave written, concise notes when you have a request, & to help her out. Kayla will do her best to prepare her but it simply takes doing a job to cement it to memory.

Be flexible—A new person means some new ways of doing things. She is competent and eager to learn. Help her to do well. She will set up the office in a way that is comfortable for her. She may move things around so they make sense to her. Some old things may be omitted and new things may be tried as she and Pastor, and council members get to know one another. Things may be missed a time or two. (It still happens regardless of how long we do a job) Offer to help her with jobs as you are able. Be willing to adapt to doing or seeing things differently.

Communicate—In a few weeks, stop in and explain what your committee does, how often it meets. We will do our best to prepare her to work with the committees. Do as much of the committee work yourselves to help ease her load but don't leave her out of the loop.

Pray for her—Remember her in your prayers. We thank God for bringing her to us. We ask God to guide & protect her as she travels to and from work. May she be filled with wisdom, understanding, patience, and joy as she assumes her position at St. Johns.



God's Blessings & Best Wishes To Everyone!

January 1

Mason Fredin

January 2

April Beyer
Maggie Meyer

January 3

Susan Dalsgaard
Elizabeth Kruger
Chris Scholtz
Lillian Sjong

January 4

Phlayne Gill
Val Graff

January 8

Mitchell Fredin

January 10

Roger Schueler

January 11

Bethany Anderson

January 12

Gilbert Anderson
Jessica Moe

January 13

Cindy Schnobrich

January 14

Betty Trudeau

January 15

Brittany Lowinske

January 16

Casey Wahl

January 17

Dillon Imker
Amanda Petersen

January 18

Lois Mattson

January 19

Nora Kieper

January 20

Kemo Anderson
Josh Ellefson

January 22

Bruce Ahlness
Jeanne Krigbaum
Brian Schwarrock
Ragan Walker

January 23

Dana Youngerberg

January 24

Benjamin Luckman

January 27

Phil Gill
Nicholas Mathis
Curt Thram

January 29

Dillon Balbach

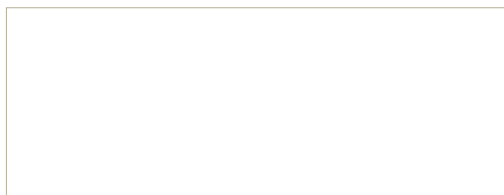
January 30

Dennis Anderson
Nick Anderson
Owen Luckman

January 31

Jerry Jensen
Zach Wells

Thanks! Lori Milbrath for providing our Anniversary & Birthday lists!



place
POSTAGE
Here

Mission Statement

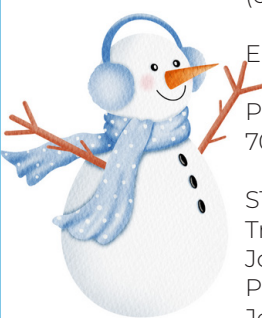
"Our congregation is committed by God's word to
Worship, Teach, Serve, And Reach Out to all through
the Love of Our Lord Jesus Christ"



Whats New at St. Johns?

- ✓ The new website is located at www.sjlcmmc.org - check it out for the latest information, online giving, and our calendar!
- ✓ Want to get involved or learn more about our groups we offer at St. Johns? Visit www.sjlcmmc.org/faith-formation/
- ✓ View the latest church calendar by visiting www.sjlcmmc.org/calendar/
- ✓ Register for the newsletter at the site too!





Church office-507-723-5397
(closed Mondays)

Email: sjlcspringfieldmn@gmail.com

Pastor Denton Bennet
704-301-1260

STAFF
Tracy Berg: Secretary
Jodi Dalsgaard: Organist
Peggy Martius: Organist
Jen Eberhard: Choir Director
Steve Lyle: Custodian

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 AM Sunday Worship-
on-site or by live stream
Holy Communion is 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month.

10:15 AM - Sunday School & Adult Bible study (Sept—May)

Prayer time - Wed. 6:15 PM

