

Connections in Christ

"Saved by Grace - Led by the Spirit -
Called to Serve"

A monthly publication from St. John's Lutheran Church
July 2021



A MESSAGE FROM JEN

To everything there is a season and my next season of life is calling me. This fall, I will be moving to St. Paul, MN, to concentrate on the remaining pieces of my seminary journey toward ordination in the ELCA. Therefore, I have submitted my resignation to Pastor Naomi and Congregational Council President, Kevin Oppermann. My last day in the office will be Thursday, July 8; 5 years (almost to the day) after I began at St. John's.

Leaving now will allow time for St. John's to discern children, youth, and family programming for the upcoming school year. I will use the remainder of July to purge the belongings the boys and I have accumulated and pack up the necessities for storage. In August, the boys, my mother, and I are heading to Europe. The impetus for our trip is a seminary class I will be attending in Berlin, Germany, about Dietrich Bonhoeffer. (If you are not familiar with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, I commend his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, to you. Not a big reader? A glance at his page on Wikipedia will give you some general information about his faith and how his adherence to it cost him his life.) We will then travel to Italy (no class to attend there – it's Arthur's choice of destination as a graduation celebration) before returning to the states when Theo, Arthur, and I will each be moving into our own new chapters. Your prayers for these transitions are appreciated.

I am thankful for my season at St. John's. You have loved my family and sat with us in times of uncertainty with the health of my boys and through a divorce. You have journeyed alongside me in my ministry to children, youth, and families at St. John's. You have experimented with me as I brought new ideas back from conferences and classes.

You have traveled with me to Houston and supported our youth to take that trip. You have been confirmation guides and mentors. You have taught Sunday School. You've driven us to camps, and retreats, and so very many Synod RiseUp Nights. You've attended meetings and shared your thoughts, hopes, ideas, and concerns. You have provided constructive feedback when I've preached. And you've prayed. Thank you.

The next season is also calling you, my beloved St. John's family. With Pastor Naomi's experience as an interim pastor and Kevin's hard work and devotion to the process, you will be making decisions about the direction that St. John's will head in the upcoming years.

Continued ...

I celebrate the amazing work the Transition Team has accomplished. I pray that the Call Committee will achieve its goal with similar dedication, energy, and Spirit-led discernment. As individuals, I hope you will take time to listen to how God is calling you to use your gifts and engage in the process and in the ministries of St. John's.

Change can be difficult, but it can also bring growth and excitement. I feel that excitement within the people of St. John's. May the future of St. John's be filled with growth and excitement, joy and wonder as you celebrate all that God calls you to be!

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In peace. With hope.

Jen

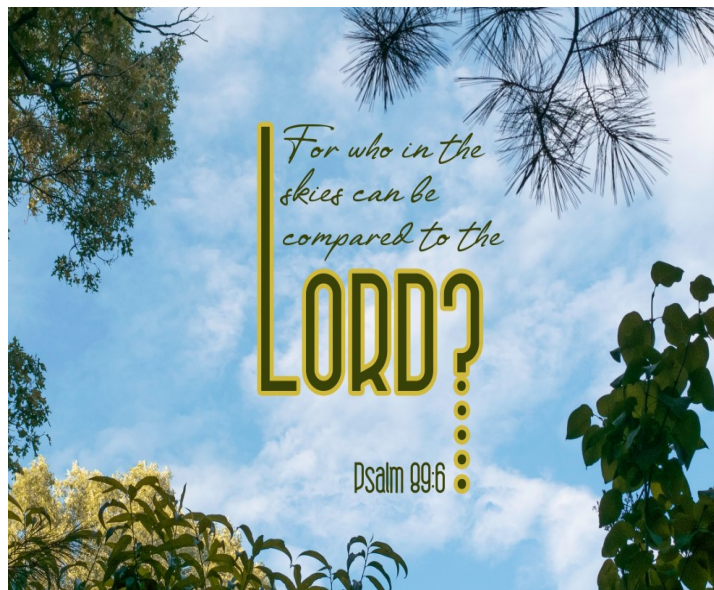
(prayer from p.317 of Evangelical Lutheran Worship – our cranberry hymnals)



Come celebrate Jen's ministry here at St. John's as we wish her God Speed on her new adventures

Fellowship after the 9:00 service Sunday, July 11.

If you'd like to thank her, say good bye or congratulate her with a card there will be a box available for cards.





FAMILY FUN NIGHT

**St. John's Lutheran Church
625 E NETHERWOOD ST. OREGON, WI**

JUNE 30

JULY 28

AUGUST 25

**LIVE MUSIC, FAMILY
ACTIVITIES, FOOD**

Join us at our outdoor worship area on the north side of the church building. Games and food available starting at 6PM. Music starting around 6:15PM ending at 8PM. Please bring your lawn chairs and a refillable water bottle. In case of inclement weather, event will be moved indoors.

July 28th – Community Open Mic Night – Arrive by 6PM to sign up for your slot. Microphone and keyboard provided.

August 25th – This night will also feature a Craft Fair.

July 2021 Calendar

Please see <http://stjohnsoregonwi.org/event-calendar> for most current calendar.

Friday, July 2	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Oregon Area Food Pantry 5:00 PM In-Person Worship
Saturday, July 3	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Oregon Area Food Pantry 5:00 PM In-Person Worship
Sunday, July 4	9:00 AM In-Person Worship - Outdoor Worship Center 9:00 AM Online Worship 9:45 AM Fellowship Following Worship (Outside)
Monday, July 5	Church Office is closed 6:00 PM Personnel Meeting 6:30 PM Property Team Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 168 (Outside) 7:30 PM Family Ministry Team Meeting
Tuesday, July 6	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry
Wednesday, July 7	1:00 PM Staff Meeting (Gathering Area)
Thursday, July 8	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Oregon Area Food Pantry
Friday, July 9	Church Office is Closed 5:00 AM Basketball in Friendship Room
Saturday, July 10	Gaarder Family Reunion (Audrey Appel) - Friendship Room 5:00 PM In-Person Worship
Sunday, July 11	9:00 AM In-Person Worship 9:00 AM Online Worship Fellowship Following Worship-Celebration of Jen's Ministry at St..John's Gaarder Family Reunion (Audrey Appel) - Friendship Room
Monday, July 12	1:30 PM Ruth Circle (Fireside) 6:30 PM Communications Team Meeting 6:30 PM Worship Team Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 168 (Outside)
Tuesday, July 13	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry 5:00 PM Church Chow & How
Wednesday, July 14	1:00 PM Staff Meeting (Gathering Area)
Friday, July 16	Church Office is Closed 5:00 AM Basketball in Friendship Room (Chris Staveness)
Saturday, July 17	5:00 PM In-Person Worship
Sunday, July 18	Communion Milestone 9:00 AM In-Person Worship - Outdoor Worship Center 9:00 AM Online Worship
Monday, July 19	6:30 PM Finance Team Meeting (Fireside) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 168 (Outside) 7:30 PM Executive Team Meeting (Gathering Area)
Tuesday, July 20	Newsletter Articles due by end of day 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry 1:00 PM Altar Guild
Wednesday, July 21	1:00 PM Staff Meeting (Gathering Area)
Thursday, July 22	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Oregon Area Food Pantry

Friday, July 23	Church Office is Closed 5:00 AM Basketball in Friendship Room
Saturday, July 24	5:00 PM In-Person Worship
Sunday, July 25	9:00 AM In-Person Worship 9:00 AM Online Worship
Monday, July 26	7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 168 (Outside) 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Council Meeting (Fireside Room)
Tuesday, July 27	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry
Wednesday, July 28	1:00 PM Staff Meeting (Gathering Area) 6:00 PM Family, Fun, Food & Music Night
Friday, July 30	Church Office is Closed 5:00 AM Basketball in Friendship Room
Saturday, July 31	5:00 PM In-Person Worship

Save the date



Community Dinner

The Women of St John's are planning a drive -through Fall Harvest Dinner on Saturday, October 2, 2021. This will replace our yearly Smorgasbord.

We changed the date to a Saturday, so the working members of our congregation could be involved. We have heard from many that Thursday's do not work for them, because they are working. Hopefully this will accommodate you better. We encourage

families to volunteer together.

We will be serving a meal from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and again from 4:30 PM to 7:00PM. We will plan to serve 700 to 800 people. Please consider volunteering for this event. All proceeds go to support some type of mission, either our missionaries (Lori Lehnher and Ed Swanson) or local charities.

We will be recruiting volunteers to make lefsa, make meatballs (dates to follow), package salads on Friday, October 1, or work either shift on Saturday, October 2.

God has so richly blessed us in many ways and this is a way we can give back to help those in need.

More details to follow in the upcoming months.

Bonnie Gilbertson, WELCA dinner chair

MAY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

Summary	May	2021	2021	2021	2021	2019*
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Church:						<u>Actual</u>
Operating Income	\$ 43,637.70	\$ 214,049.93	\$607,303.34	35.25%	\$ (393,253.41)	\$243,151.23
Operating Expenses	\$ 46,461.85	\$ 250,959.20	\$607,303.34	41.32%	\$ (356,344.14)	\$244,828.87
Net Income (Net Loss)	\$ (2,824.15)	\$ (36,909.27)	\$ -		\$ (36,909.27)	(\$1,677.64)
Capital Campaign:						
					Bal 12/31/20	\$5,244.27
CC-Income	\$ 14,907.19	\$ 174,535.37			Income	\$ 174,535.37
CC-Loan	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -
CC-Expenses	\$ 30,610.39	\$ 175,962.31			Expense	\$175,962.31
Net Income (Net Loss)	\$ (15,703.20)	\$ (1,426.94)			Bal 4/30/21	\$3,817.33

*Comparison figures are for 2019, not 2020

May had 2 payrolls and 4 weekends of income. May expenses are greater than income by **(\$2,824.15)**;

YTD expenses are greater than income by **(\$36,909.27)**.

OFFERINGS REMINDER: Your continued financial giving is important to the health of our congregation, our synod, and the church at large – especially now. Your generosity is appreciated as we work together to continue to support our mission. There are several easy ways for you to get your offerings to St. John's:

- 1) Mail your offerings to the office.
- 2) Automatic Giving - call the church office and leave a message for Shirley Schiffner. She will return your call and assist you in signing up for auto giving.
- 3) Venmo: www.venmo.com/StJohnsOregonWI
- 4) It's also easy to give online at our website, <http://stjohnsoregonwi.org>

JULY READINGS

Sunday, July 4
6th Sunday after Pentecost
 Ezekiel 2:1-5
 Psalm 123
 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
 Mark 6: 1-13

Sunday, July 18
8th Sunday after Pentecost
 Jeremiah 23:1-6
 Psalm 23
 Ephesians 2:11-22
 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday, July 11
7th Sunday after Pentecost
 Isaiah 55: 6-13
 Psalm 121
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 Luke 5:17-26

Sunday, July 25
9th Sunday after Pentecost
 2 Kings 4:42-44
 Psalm 145:10-18
 Ephesians 3:14-21
 John 6:1-21

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Donations

Each fall Lutheran churches in southern Wisconsin join together to load railroad boxcars with supplies for LWR. St. John's quilters have been busy making over 100 quilts to be shipped in September. Now we are asking the congregation for help making School and Personal Care kits. We have a collection basket and supply lists in the Gathering Area. We will be collecting items until the end of August.

LWR School Kits

Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. LWR School Kits are sent to places where even a few school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future.

When you are out shopping for school supplies (watch for sales in late July) pick up a few items for the LWR School Kits.



- 70-sheet notebooks of ruled paper, wide or college ruled
- blunt scissors
- 30-centimeter rulers (or centimeters on one side & inches on the other)
- pencil sharpeners
- unsharpened pencils
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 2 ½ inch erasers
- boxes of 16 or 24 crayons



LWR Personal Care Kits

LWR Personal Care Kits are shared with people who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence. Give hope through a bar of soap.

- light-weight bath towel (Maximum 52 x 27 inches), dark color preferred
- bath-size bars of soap, 4-5 oz. (in original wrapping)
- adult size toothbrush (in original wrapping or multi pack)
- sturdy combs (no picks or fine toothed)
- metal nail clippers

LWR Quilting Materials

As you clean out closets and cupboards, keep St. John's Quilters in mind. Donations of large pieces of fabric, sheets, mattress pads, blankets and thread are always welcome. Just place them in the quilters basket in the Gathering Area.



QUILTING GROUP

Thank you for collecting supplies and hope for needy people around the world.

Happy Birthday!

*May God go with you shining your way
with blessings of wisdom and
understanding.*

7/1 Ryan McGinnis, Cailyn Schmidt, Julia Schmidt, Santiago Tibbits-Villa	Sue Johnson, Carson Keisling, Alida Weidensee
7/2 Inga Baldus, Gage Klarich, Xavier U'Ren	7/19 Britta Baldus, William Cody, Erin Jenkins, Blayne Outhouse
7/3 Adeline Seitz, Meghan Lisowski, Sandra Ziegler	7/20 Gary Schulz
7/5 Jeffrey Fischer, Karen Hill, Finn Hayes, Mikey Wagner	7/21 Jameson Kronser, Alan Lukazewski, Joyce Nedlose, Trent Thiede, Chase Bertelson
7/6 Allan Ness,	7/23 Colton Hinkle, Karli Paltz,
7/8 Nick Brown, Ruben Kaiser, George McElroy, Pamela Parsons	7/24 Tracy Massey, Ardys Outhouse, Keegan Murphy
7/9 Matthew Reisdorf	7/25 Karen Landrud, Anna Larson
7/10 Julia Lederer, Brent Warner, Drew Randl	7/26 Brady Bacon, Nathan Newton, Hadley Hunkins
7/11 Allison Knight, Jon Fishwild, Lisa Hessler	7/27 Samuel Bergemann, Richard Olson
7/12 Ruth Jeschke	7/28 Alexander Seitz, Jerry Zogg
7/13 Emily Staveness, Jessica Theisen	7/29 Lisa Christensen, Brecken Christensen, Michael Nott, Krista Olbinski, Aidan Swiggum
7/14 Joseph Jenkins, Keira Hubert	7/30 Zachery Schultz
7/15 Pat Knipfer	7/31 Eleanor Finhert, Julie Sinz, Jim Torpy
7/16 Jim Hagstrom, Betty Peterson	
7/18 Ryan Anderson, Tyler Fischer, Jackie Hendrickson, Caelen Earle, Olivia Parish,	

Baptismal Anniversaries

*Marked and sealed with the cross
of Christ forever!*

7/1 Naomi Rockwell,
Katie Borden

7/7 David Hagemann,
Blake Anderson

7/9 Sally Bertelson,
Phoebe Pierce

7/10 Luke Brown,
Gage Klarich

7/12 Penny Pierce

7/13 Lolita Coughlin

7/15 Carson Gehrke

7/17 Miller Stang,
Sabrina Dammen

7/18 Zander Olmsted

7/21 Susanne Cannon,
William Cody,

7/22 Peter Hagstrom,
Jacek Adler

7/25 Renee Gehrke

7/30 Jasper Staveness





Altar Flowers:

July 4: Martha McGregor to celebrate family, friends and Independence Day

July 11: Stoneman Family in memory of Bill & Muriel Stoneman

July 18: Rick Andersen in memory of son Nicholas

July 25: George & Kathryn Jolivette in memory of son Bradley Alan Jolivette

Welcome Lamp: Bonnie Haugen in memory of Don Haugen

Serving in July

Altar Care: Brenda Outhouse, Marla Byerly, Martha McGregor, Pat Wiczorek

Organist/Pianist: Ondra Williams

Spirit Singer (Saturday 5:00 PM): Dennis Josi, Pastor Naomi, Ondra Williams

Soulvation Members: Doug Kohls, Shane Dammen, Aaron Johnson, Sheryl Lindmeier, Laura Nott, Scott Bourie, Michael Berens-VanHeest, Ondra Williams, Corrie Smith

Audio Visual Operators: David Klarich, Carson Nott, Gage Klarich and Odessa Klarich

Chancel Choir Members: Rachel Berens-VanHeest, Kay Bliefernicht, Jean Brown, Dan Cobb, Sherryl Cobb, John Cuta, Sara Fishwild, Sarah Johnson, Pierre LaPlante, Doug Schuette, Allen Siedschlag, Ann Starr, Jessica Theisen

Chime Choir: Fern Binger, Maureen Braatz, Jean Brown, Sara Fishwild, Kathy Hansen, Kathy Larson, Brenda Outhouse, Pam Parsons, Coralie Smith, Ann Starr, Laura Berg

Pew Straightener: Barb Hanna

July Ushers:

July 4: Outdoor Worship

July 11: Jim Immenschuh, Linda Immenschuh, Carol Wichmann

July 18: Outdoor Worship

July 25: Phil Johnson, Sue Johnson, Chris Hubert

St. John's Prayer Chain

Did you know that when you have a prayer request you can call or email the prayer chain? Then the prayers will be sent on their way with many praying for you!

Prayers are not made public in the newsletter or during Worship unless permission is received.

To let the prayer chain know of your prayer, contact:

- Rose Lehnher at 835-5300, rlehnher6@gmail.com
- Fern Binger at 455-8021, lfbinger@frontier.com
- Laura McGoveran in the church office at 291-4311 or lauraM@sjlserve.net

Active Duty Military Personnel

Army Captain Eric Christensen, (grandson of Roger and Barb Christensen, in officer training)

CM2 Jacob Gothard (grandson of Sandra Linstroth)

Staff Sergeant Curtis Hanna (grandson of Carol Hanna)

Airman Kean Paltz (son of Ron and Teri Paltz)

Homebound

Norma Jenkins, Myrtle Lundey, Beverly Reindahl, Ruth Yaun, Sheila Andersen, Audrey Appel

Other Facilities: Shirley Miller (Kettle Park Senior Living) Fred & Gladys Sage (Skaalen Heights Senior Home), Darlene Dorn

(Skaalen Home), Beatrice Larsen (Oakwood Village, Madison), Alice Nason (Elmcroft, Madison), Roger Lawry (Bee Hive, Oregon), Hazel Gaard (Bee Hive, Oregon), Allen Riese (Main Street Corners), Virginia Riese (Oregon Manor),



Prayers for a safe trip home are requested for Paul Dreher on military leave. Prayers for the

hospitalized who cannot be at their church to pray with their friends and family. John Benedict, recovering from June 8 surgery at Four Winds in Verona. Scott Bourie who has been diagnosed with tinnitus



SCRAMBLED SCRIPTURES

FAMILY FUN FROM CREATION MOMENTS

Hebrews 11:6

G M Z E D O K J W T Z O K N G R H P T S
V I P N X B I Y Z I N F Y O L B E W N Y
P M O C D V T K M O T I R E D R A W E R
R P B P R M I W K G U H U J H T I A F S
N O A F F S T T A H T T O Z O Z L D X W
N S Y J E E H T S I D H F U X M F I O N
Z S M I J A I U I G U A A U T E A L P F
H I Z O Z Z M B R O U T A A H L I I J Q
R B M B E L I E V E I R N K T G J G T A
E L T X T U K F O R O D A I E O D E H L
H E D T C K E L S T N P L G M D C N H H
M F G V N Z H Q E H E X Z T O D T T I N
U C D S K S Q N R S U N H O C X B L M S
S R I V C K B W I P A F T S E E K Y R C
T N P U P B R T O G L E A D H C Q I T A
A M H T C Z Z L I Q N U L E Q X T H Q V
S D F S J N W Z O Z H X N P R P E I C S
J R O Q V H N F Q F E I L G C M T A H T
T A H T G J E Q B H A M A Z D Y G S B Y
A D J L J L H E O E Z O C P D K A K D B

BUT	PLEASE	GOD	THAT	THAT
WITHOUT	HIM	MUST	HE	DILIGENTLY
FAITH	FOR	BELIEVE	IS	SEEK
IT	HE	THAT	A	HIM
IS	THAT	HE	REWARDER	
IMPOSSIBLE	COMETH	IS	OF	
TO	TO	AND	THEM	



Update from Ed and Melissa Swanson:

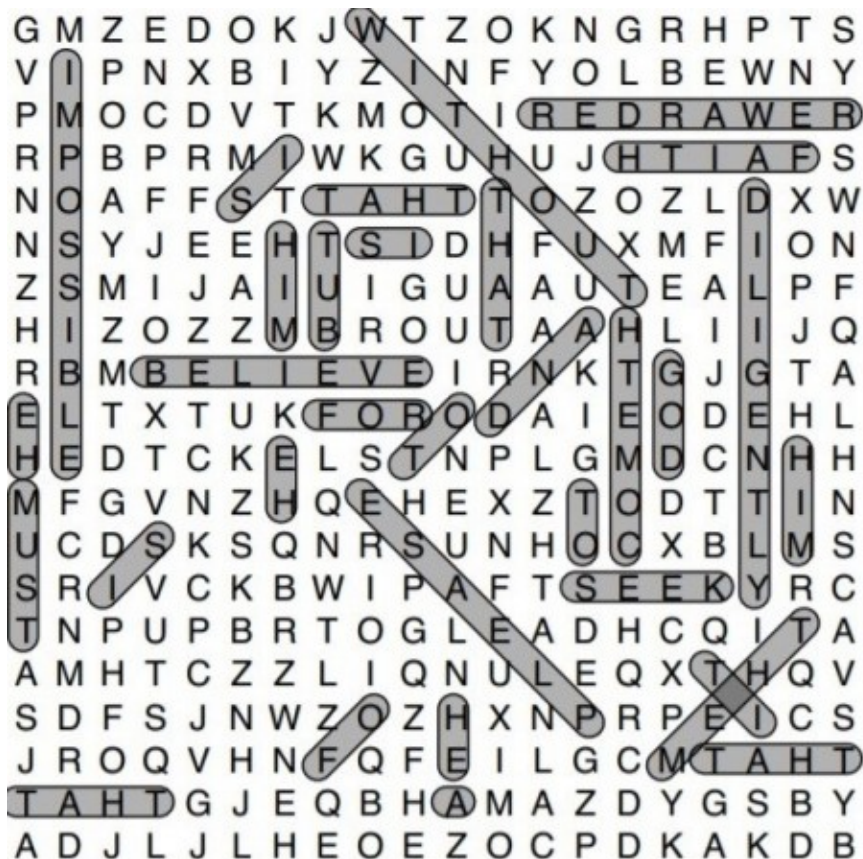
Our house roof is now complete and so is the dome roof over the auditorium in Mexico! We expect our garage roof to be done sometime next week. We just returned from a trip to see supporters, family and friends located in northern Wisconsin and the Minneapolis area. We were fed well and had places to stay without charge throughout the journey. It was an encouraging time that also included fishing with a friend for Ed!

As promised, here are photos from Megan's wedding. The Lord blessed us with a perfect, warm, dry weekend in early May just as mask restrictions were lifting. Just about 50 were in attendance at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden in Rockford, Illinois.



Our home roofing project is now complete. Again, we were blessed with 3 dry days in a row as storms bypassed us. Now the rains are so abundant that our front yard is flooded. So far it is staying low enough not to flood the crawl space!

Our support continues to increase. Woohoo! Please keep us informed if you intend to join our financial partnership team or increase your giving. We don't know your intentions unless you tell us. We then report that to Wycliffe so they can see that things are progressing.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

ST. JOHN'S PHONE: (608) 291-4311

Emergency Contact:

Pastor Naomi Garber

Cell Phone: 701.388.4788

E-MAIL:

Pastor Naomi@sjlserve.net

JenK@sjlserve.net

OndraW@sjlserve.net

LauraM@sjlserve.net

ShirleyS@sjlserve.net

BarbD@sjlserve.net

cstaveness@gmail.com

"Saved by Grace - Led by the Spirit - Called to Serve"

We are St. John's!

St. John's has the best of both worlds. Established and time-honored traditions that bind us together, and the contemporary, welcoming atmosphere many people are looking for in today's churches. Our mission is simple: **Saved by Grace - Led by the Spirit - Called to Serve.** As grace filled and Spirit led people, we love God through weekly worship and through loving service of our neighbor. If you are interested in learning more about St. John's or in becoming a member, please contact the church office or visit the Welcome Center to learn more.

Publication

"Connections in Christ" is published monthly. Deadline for article submissions is the 20th of the previous month.

Church Services

Worship Services are in person, and YouTube, at 9:00AM. You can also view the service on local cable, Sunday at 9:00AM. Saturday night in person services are at 5:00 P.M.

Address

625 E. Netherwood St.
Oregon, WI 53575

Office Hours

8:00AM -4:00 PM
Monday-Thursday

Website:

<http://stjohnsoregonwi.org>

Public Facebook Page:

[facebook.com/groups/stjohnsoregonwi](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsoregonwi)

Facebook Group for the Members of St. John's:

[facebook.com/groups/stjohnsoregonwi](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsoregonwi)

YouTube Channel:

[youtube.com/c/stjohnslutheranchurchoregonwi](https://www.youtube.com/c/stjohnslutheranchurchoregonwi)

Twitter:

[Twitter.com/stjohnsoregonwi](https://twitter.com/stjohnsoregonwi)

Instagram:

[Instagram.com/sthonsoregonwi](https://www.instagram.com/sthonsoregonwi)

Questions? Contact Sheryl Lindmeier at:

sheryllindmeier@gmail.com