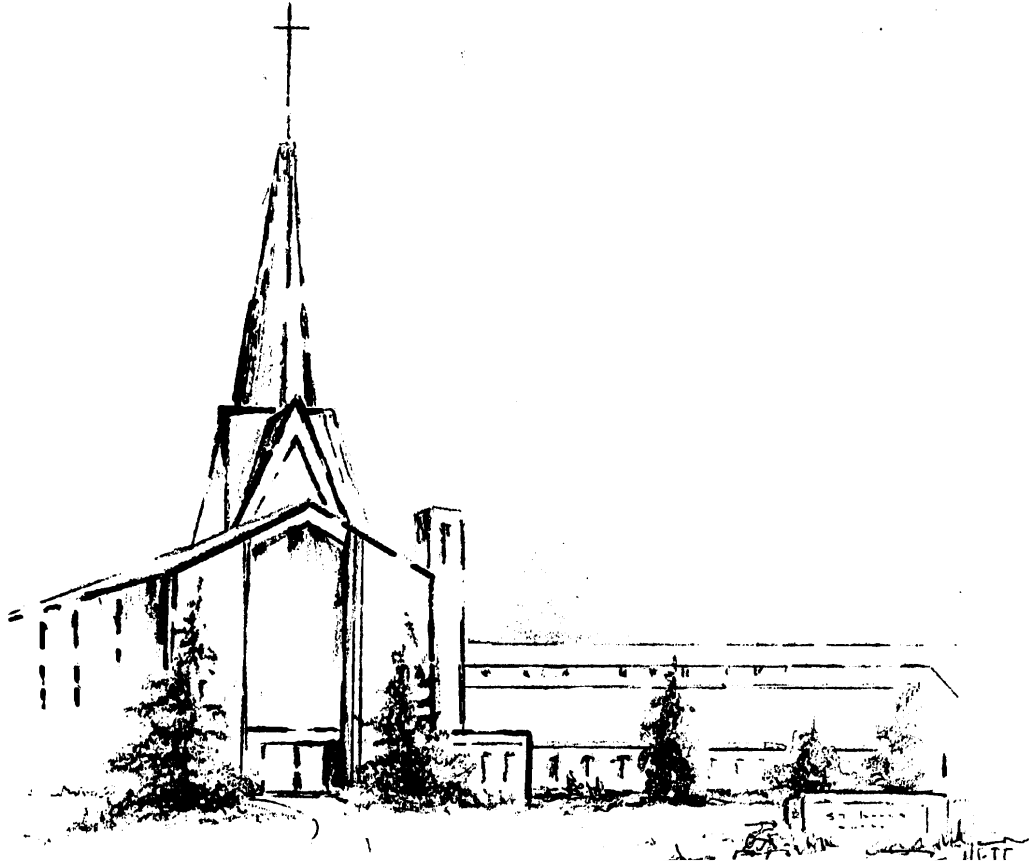


St. John's Journal

WINTER 2022 ISSUE



***ENCOUNTERING,
CONNECTING,
RESPONDING
TO JESUS CHRIST.***

***ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12603***

(845) 452-1550

www.stjohnselc.org

Sunday Worship Service Schedule
9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
10:30 AM Traditional Worship



Church Council

Rev. Jeffrey Koenig	<i>Pastor</i>
Bob Knapp	<i>President</i>
Lee Pagones	<i>Vice President / Property</i>
Dave Hawkinson	<i>Secretary</i>
Art Upright	<i>Treasurer / Finance / Stewardship</i>
Kaitlin Feldweg	<i>Discipleship</i>
Mary Heller	<i>Worship</i>
Karen Olson	<i>Fellowship</i>
Susan van Oss	<i>Ministry</i>
Bob Knapp (temp)	<i>Evangelism</i>

Mission Team Chairs

John Dux	<i>Adult Education</i>
Sandy Sherwood	<i>Children's Ministry</i>
Susan Lamberton	<i>Evangelism</i>
Doug Ohlandt	<i>Communications</i>
Mark Decker & (TBA)	<i>Financial Secretaries</i>
Jackie Boccio	<i>Hospitality</i>
Janice Viola	<i>Parish Care</i>
(TBA)	<i>Property</i>
(TBA)	<i>Finance & Admin</i>
Steve Jones	<i>Stewardship</i>
Anne Christmas	<i>Worship & Music</i>
(TBA)	<i>Youth Ministry</i>
Abby Dux & Linda Haas Manley	<i>Social Ministry</i>

St. John's Staff

Pastor	<i>Rev. Jeffrey Koenig</i>	<i>revkoenig@stjohnselc.org</i>
Deacon	<i>Richard Ferolito</i>	<i>rferolito@earthlink.net</i>
Director of Music	<i>Patrick Walker</i>	<i>pwalker@stjohnselc.org</i>
Director of Lay Ministries	<i>Jeanne Jones</i>	<i>jjones@stjohnselc.org</i>
Office Manager	<i>Doug Ohlandt</i>	<i>dohlandt@stjohnselc.org</i>
Wizard of Coins & Bills	<i>Alison Schlak</i>	<i>aschlak@stjohnselc.org</i>
Video Production Mgr.	<i>Michelle Locke</i>	<i>michellelocke89@gmail.com</i>



By Pastor Koenig

Last year I purchased a book titled, “300 Writing Prompts,” thinking that it might be interesting to use it for a journal article now and then. So, I opened it to a random page and found this question: *What keeps you from getting a good night's sleep?* ...Okay, bad idea. But as I continued trying to think of a suitable topic, the words just kept resurfacing in my mind. Maybe this stray, disheartening query is the most relevant thing we could possibly ask ourselves right about now.

O micron. That's what keeps me up at night. Not that I have it. Or *do* I? None of us really knows until we've been tested! That, in itself, is causing restless nights worldwide. The ramifications are affecting all things everywhere at this point. As much as we all wish that we wouldn't be talking about COVID anymore, if you're like me you hope that this latest frenzy of somewhat less serious infections is the harbinger of more sustainably normal days to come. Such hope provides me a countermeasure against the sleep I lose every day out of concern for each one of you, wanting to protect you the best way that I can from this ugly virus. Yes, we want to—and we need to be—together in community. But the fundamental responsibilities of disciples and stewards are to love our neighbor and to do no harm, both of which make our decisions so difficult each and every week.

Victory is mentioned upwards of 93 times in our Scriptures, yet it seems so elusive right now when the only “v” word we seem to hear is *viral*, whether that's in social media or literally in the air. Not surprising that might you lose sleep wondering if, and when, as 1 Corinthians notes, God will truly give us the victory through Christ! Here's the thing: the world needs for us to be rested. The world needs the collective spiritual strength of all people of all faiths to come together and work together and *help* together. But how will you get rest in the midst of all this?

Ecclesiology is the study of how the church advances its mission in the world. It comes from the word *ecclesia*, which means “those called out.” You are the ones called... to carry out that very mission! Central to that is: the constant drive to re-center ourselves in Christ; to refocus on God; and to place ourselves at God's disposal. Translation: Let God guide you, let God embrace you, let God handle the heavy lifting. The peace that passes all understanding isn't in elimination of conflict or disease, but in the recognition that God is still in charge—even in the middle of the chaos. My personal go-to text for days like this is Psalm 4:8: *At day's end I am ready for sound sleep; because you, O Lord, have put my life back together.* (The Message). So: get rest, you! God has this. Your only job... is to love!



DEACON'S CORNER

As we look forward to Lent we have to remember what it is that we look for. Lent is a time when we can reflect on our life from the previous year and think of the things that we have done, good and bad. The good that we do is pleasing to God as we carry out the things that further God's mission in this world. As they say, God's work our hands. You see, we are the workers in the field, spreading the love of God to our neighbors and friends. In the process of doing this, we some times get sidetracked in our own world and lose sight of what God wants us to do. That's our free will kicking in. Now is the season when we can look back on these times and see if we can repent and move forward with the love of God. Lent is the season where we can ask God to forgive us our indiscretions and loss of direction, and get back on that track of doing what God wants us to do. We will spend 40 days doing this, looking forward to Easter where we can start anew and ask forgiveness from our God for all the things that we did that were not pleasing to Him.

We can do this by attending the services that are being held right here at St John's. Starting with Maundy Thursday service Thursday 7:30 PM in the Nave, where we strip the Nave in preparation of the coming days leading up to Easter. Good Friday has two services, the first at noon where we have veneration of the Cross. We will nail all our sins on pieces of paper to the large cross that is in the Nave. Those will be burned and go up in smoke and disappear as God has told us. The second Good Friday service is at 7:30 PM, when we will have the Tenebrae service with readings and hymns telling the story of the death of Jesus and the closing of the door to the tomb. All of this leads to Easter Sunday, the day when we finally come together to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, the culmination of our three days of sorrow. The light shines! Jesus has risen and is alive, and we can rejoice in this miracle. We are rejuvenated once again to go out into the world and tell the story to all those who will listen that Jesus Christ has risen and is alive. Amen.

I wish a Happy Easter to All.

Your Servant in Christ,
Deacon Rich



FROM THE DESK OF THE DLM

Directing Lay Ministries, NOT Velveteen Rabbits!

Winter 2022

It happens to everyone, you pick up the phone and are asked to volunteer for something for which you have no ability or interest in, something you do not feel called to do. That's how I ended up being a director for a local Children's Theater Production, *The Velveteen Rabbit*. The guy who asked me to direct was desperate for a leader and put the pressure on big time to fill the spot. I did NOT feel equipped, nor called to do this job, and I said, "yes" only out of obligation/pressure put upon me. I counted the days and could not wait for it to be over.



I guess it wasn't all bad, because that experience continues to give me perspective in my job as DLM (Director of Lay Ministry). Part of my job is to help people connect through volunteering, but I have never wanted to put pressure on people to do things just to fill jobs at church. *(That is how a person might end up directing a Children's Theater play and hating every minute of it!)* I want to help people develop their God-given gifts and help them discern where they are feeling **called** to serve. Our church "agendas" or "spots that need to be filled" should not be driving that bus; the Holy Spirit needs to be at the wheel! We need to be willing passengers, ready to jump into action, even if the road He is taking us on is unfamiliar. My hope is that parishioners pray and listen to where the Holy Spirit leads when it comes to volunteerism at church, then be willing to go where they are sent. Even if the call might stretch comfort zones, people can find new purpose and deeper connections with God and others when the Holy Spirit drives.

One practical way this can happen, is to have volunteer opportunities suggested to individuals, you know, opportunities that don't just fill spots, but opportunities that are *meaningful* to a person. YOU know YOU best, so that is why I find the Time and Talent Sheets people fill out so incredibly helpful to use when I think of people for volunteer



opportunities in my job as DLM. T & T sheets are filled out by individuals, and they check areas of interest (perhaps also areas they may feel gifted.) People are NOT signing up to volunteer when the form is handed in, they are simply filling out a form that I can use as a tool to help match people and volunteer opportunities better. I am certainly not the Holy Spirit, and prayer before committing is important when one is evaluating a service opportunity. However, these forms are a tool I use to help present these opportunities and they can be extremely useful in the matching process.

If you have *never* filled out a Time and Talent form, if you desire to find more meaningful ways to connect at St. John's or if you have not filled out a T & T form in a while and you would like to update some of the areas of interest, I ask you to please consider doing so within the next few weeks. (There is no deadline, but procrastination is never a friend!) If you are getting this Journal electronically, a copy is attached to the email. If you are receiving a print copy, you can find the form beginning on page 19. You can also get a copy in the kiosk in the narthex (foyer of the church), in the church office (folder on the right side when you walk in), or contact me, and I will be more than happy to get you one.

jjones@stjohnselc.org 845-452-1550.



Won't you help me, help you find ways to serve at St. John's that give you purpose, help you grow as a Christian disciple, and provide positive connections? May we all listen to the Holy Spirit's call to love & serve and do so with joy & faithfulness!

Jeanne Jones
DLM
(Director of Lay Ministries)



MUSIC NOTES

THE JOY AND WONDER OF ST. JOHN'S MUSICAL OFFERINGS DURING ADVENT



After months of planning, the weekly Advent Musical Reflections for 2021 premiered to rapturous acclaim. Headed up by Musical Director, Patrick Walker, the Advent Musical Reflections and Service of Lessons and Carols were a treat for all during the weeks of advent, leading into Christmas. All four services were in-person and livestreamed. The action kicked off with the stellar, "Sing We Now 'Til Christmas," a program of Celtic,

Scandinavian, and North American folk music performed by the dynamic duo of Jeff and Kathy Walker.

The wonder continued in the second week of Advent with a fantastic solo organ concert offered up by none other than the maestro himself, Patrick Walker. Not to be outdone, however, was the crowd stomping showstopper of the Service of Lessons and Carols. The bells pealed in glorious time as the choir sang to pitch perfection to declare—live and in person for the first time in two years—that Advent had returned to St. John's! And then, in the fourth week, we were treated to the tasty encore of, "Christmas Bows," featuring seasonal favorites for string, performed by Hannah Walker & Friends.





VIDEO PRODUCTIONS



Video Production Manager, Michelle Locke produced a Christmas Greeting Video that featured the musicians and musical groups of St. John's.

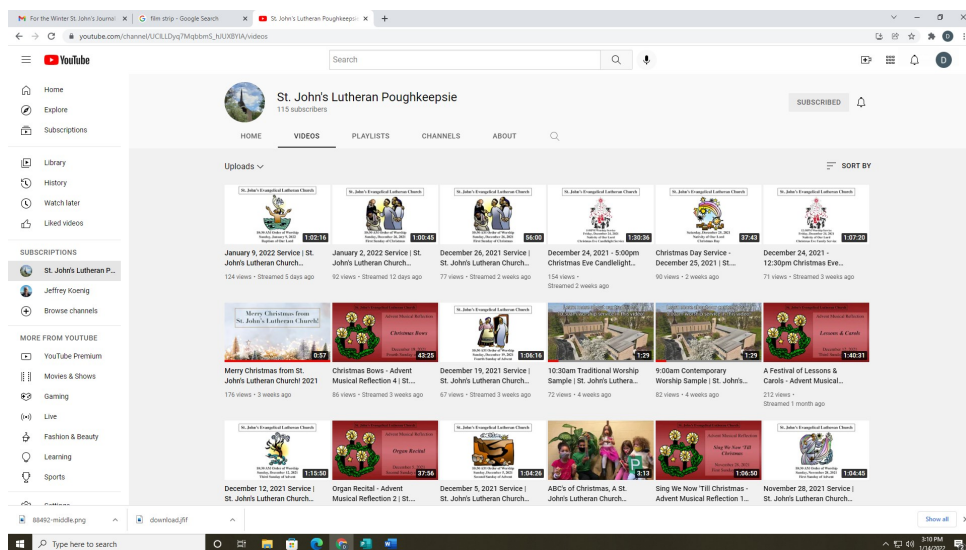
<https://youtu.be/ZrQE7DxjQuU>

She also produced 2 sample videos featuring the 9:00 AM Contemporary Service and the 10:30 AM Traditional Service.

The videos are on the St. John's website and social media pages. The purpose of the videos is to highlight the two services for visitors who are interested in attending St. John's Lutheran Church.

9am Contemporary Worship Sample: <https://youtu.be/kr0jAsSPye4>

10:30am Traditional Worship Sample: <https://youtu.be/J3QdJSw2pdA>





YOUTH HAPPENINGS



Kaitlin Feldweg has been coming up with creative ideas to help our youth stay connected to St. John's, including continuing the Zoom Game Nights. The youth group was able to hold an in-person Christmas Party. There are plans for more celebrations and other youth group events to come.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

As part of the Confirmation Program, the youth of our congregation are encouraged to serve at St. John's as well as within the community. We are thankful for the youth who chose to help with leaf raking, at the various Christmas Extravaganza tables, and who helped distribute Christmas baskets as an outreach to the community.





FOOD & FUN



ABBY'S FAREWELL COFFEE HOUR



Why, Abby? Why? Why'd you have to leave so soon? 15 years was too much for you? We would have welcomed you here for ten times 15 years! But what can we do, other than to wish you joy and luck in your amazing new adventure?

Abby Triebel, St. John's intrepid Director of Youth Ministry, bid farewell to the safe and sunny shores of St. John's to venture off into the great unknown of a new job in a new town. To show our appreciation, the staff and congregation at St. John's held a special coffee hour in Abby's honor. We hope that Abby felt loved and appreciated. We are so grateful for her service at St. John's, and ask God to bless her as she walks down this new path in her life.





HOSPICE LUNCHEON

About 40 People came to enjoy a tasty lunch, crafted by J.J. Manley & Friends. They were there to listen to a talk by Sophia Kozlowski Sciacca from Hudson Valley Hospice. Sophia discussed the nature of hospice programs and the decision making process for loved ones. Information was passed out to the participants and is also available on their website: <https://www.hvhospice.org/>





CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S



Christmas is always a wonderful time here at St. John's, and the Christmas of 2021 was no exception. Besides the Advent Musical Reflections already highlighted in our "Music Notes" section of this edition of the Journal, there were other beautiful and memorable events and services.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

The 2021 Christmas Extravaganza began with the captivating JAM Production, "The ABC's of Christmas." The kids had so much fun putting this together. If you missed it, you can check it out on St. John's YouTube channel via this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHhUtn4taI4>



Other highlights of the Extravaganza included craft tables (with a service project making Christmas cards for others), the Church Library table with Advent and Christmas materials for adults and kids ready to be checked out, a cookie decorating table, a hot chocolate bar, a food/goodie table, and — of course — a photo both with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Many thanks to the Hospitality Mission Team for their hard work and the fantastic job they did helping us all get into the spirit of Christmas with this event!



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Christmas Eve Family Service was an interactive time of worship for the children who were there. Each child was given a Christmas gift box filled with items to help tell the Christmas story. As Reverend Koenig read the Christmas story, he instructed children to find certain items (for example: a white feather to represent the angel, a bag of hay to represent Jesus lying in a manger, and gold coins to represent the gifts of the wise men). After the story was over, the children were encouraged to take home the Christmas script and props in their box to retell the story to their own families and friends.

The Candlelight Christmas Eve Services were filled with beautiful musical selections, and the altar poinsettia display added so much to the ambience of worship. The in-person and livestreamed congregation worshipped together, praising God for the amazing gift of Jesus incarnate.





NEWS & EVENTS

LEAF RAKING

20 people came out to help at the Leaf Raking Day at St. John's on November 21: Brent Feldweg, Kaitlin Feldweg, Bill Angevine, Jan Markowitz, PK, Marlies Brandt, Doug Ohlandt, Susan Guse, Mike Guse, Kayleigh Sigrist, Olivia Sigrist, Ali Schlak, Mason Decker, Misty Decker, Steve Jones, Lee Pagones, Cath Koch, & Nathaniel Koch. A VERY special thanks to Steve Polichetti, owner of Lawn Wizard, and his assistant, Larry, who donated their time and equipment to help with the leaf clean-up. Thanks to their help, the project was completed in record time!



NEW MEMBERS

We give thanks for our whole church family, and especially lift up these individuals who officially joined St. John's Lutheran Church on December 12, 2021!

- Mark Lehrer**
- Stephanie Lehrer**
- Matthew Lehrer**
- Simon Lehrer**
- Barbara Liljedahl**
- John Lynch**
- Wanda Lynch**



BAPTISM

Annalise Marley Yeargin was baptized at St. John's on December 12, 2021. Annalise, who is the daughter of Devon Yeargin and Jacqueline Slater, was born on June 2, 2021.





BENEVOLENCE

MUSIC MINISTRY FUNDRAISERS AND DONATIONS

Thanks to fundraisers and donations, \$6,789 was raised in 2021 to fund special St. John's Music Ministry programs.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thanks to donations, \$4,430 was raised in 2021 to benefit the St. John's Food Pantry.

PROPERTY DONATIONS

Thanks to a \$10,000 anonymous donation, St. John's now has air conditioning in the Meet & Greet Room.

Thanks to a \$2,000 anonymous donation, St. John's now has a new water fountain in the hallways next to the Meet & Greet Room.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

January 30, February 6 & 20: Food Pantry Open, 9:00-11:00 AM

February 5 & 9: Wrapped in Love Ministry, 1:00-4:00 PM, Blue Room

January 30: Congregation Annual Meeting, 1:00 PM Virtual Meeting

February 6: Youth Cookie Making for Love INC, 11:30 AM, Kitchen

February 12: Love INC Cookie Walk, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM, Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church

February 13: Youth Valentine's Day Party (Time TBD)

February 13: Souper Bowl of Caring, after each service

Every Sunday: Coffee Hour in Meet & Greet Room—Please note that coffee hour has been suspended for January and is tentatively scheduled to resume on February 6.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH & APRIL

March 6 & 20: Food Pantry Open, 9:00-11:00 AM

April 2 & 13: Wrapped in Love Ministry, 1:00-4:00 PM, Blue Room

March 2: Ash Wednesday Worship
12:00 PM — Nave & Livestreamed
7:30 PM — Nave & Livestreamed

March 9, 16, 23, 30, & April 6 (Wednesdays): Soup Supper, 6:00-7:00PM, Fellowship Hall

March 9, 6, 23, 30, & April 6 (Wednesdays): Lenten Worship, 7:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

March 10, 17, 24, 31, & April 7 (Thursdays): Lenten Bible Study, 6:00 PM, Zoom

April 10: Palm Sunday Worship
9:00 AM — Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM — Nave & Livestreamed

April 14: Maundy Thursday Worship
7:30 PM — Nave & Livestreamed

April 15: Good Friday Worship
12:00 PM — Nave & Livestreamed
7:30 PM — Nave & Livestreamed

April 16: Saturday Easter Worship
7:30 PM — Nave & Livestreamed

April 17: Easter Worship
8:00 AM — Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM — Nave & Livestreamed
11:45 AM — Nave



YOUTH & CONFIRMATION

MARCH & APRIL

March 6: Confirmation, 5:00-8:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

April 3: Confirmation, 5:00-8:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

ADULT EDUCATION

MARCH & APRIL

March 10, 17, 24, 31, & April 7 (Thursdays): Lenten Bible Study, 6:00 PM, Zoom
Contact John Dux for Zoom link & details: johnbdux@gmail.com; (845) 677-5835

MUSIC PROGRAM REHEARSALS

- Ensemble Bells:** Tuesdays, 5:00 PM, Music Room
- Bells of Promise:** Tuesdays, 6:00 PM, Music Room
- Contemporary Worship Team:** Wednesdays, 3:00 PM, Fellowship Hall
- Bells of Peace:** Thursdays, 6:15 PM, Music Room
- Adult Choir:** Thursdays, 7:30 PM, Music Room & Choir Loft

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

We are always looking for acolytes, readers, and ushers to help in both our contemporary and traditional services. Please reach out to Doug Ohlandt in the church office—(845) 452-1550, dohlandt@stjohnselc.org—if you are interested. He can point you in the right direction to get you signed up. Serving in this way is a fantastic way to get to know more about the church and deepen your involvement in Sunday service.

The St. John's Food Pantry is open the first, third, and fifth Sunday of each month from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. The Social Ministry Mission Team can always use help in this important mission. Note for all Confirmation Students: assistance with the Food Pantry can count toward your service goals.

Do you sing in the shower, play air guitar, or drum on the dashboard of your car? If so (or even if you don't), St. John's may be looking to add your musical skills to our ever-expanding repertoire. In case you haven't noticed, St. John's has a vibrant music ministry. However, this only happens with volunteers. Please reach out if you have any interest in the St. John's music ministry—pwalker@stjohnselc.org or jjones@stjohnselc.org. We would love to add your voices and your notes to ours.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



GOD'S HOUSE

“Membership in a congregation is a 24-hour, seven day, 12 month commitment—and joy. As people who occupy a pew for an hour on Sundays, we are called not by a membership committee, but by God. We are the congregation, not them, but us. Yes, the church building is “God’s house”—but you are the host. Let it reflect your love and concern for God and your neighbor. Let all who pass by know it is a cared for and caring place! That requires time as well as money as good stewards of the facility and the programs. This is God’s house—and your congregation.” (Excerpt from *Pew User’s Manual* by Andrea Cornwall, *The Lutheran* 1995)

- St. John’s Property Mission Team



Time & Talent

Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone	E-mail
Address			
Occupation/Vocation			
Hobbies & Skills			
Volunteer Activities in Community			

Please Indicate areas you might wish to serve in at St. John's. No experience needed, specific training provided.

<u>Administration</u>	<u>Care/Service</u>	<u>Craftsmanship/Artistry</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Congregational Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Blood Drive Coordinator or Helper	<input type="checkbox"/> Decorating for Events
<input type="checkbox"/> JAM Superintendent	<input type="checkbox"/> Building & Grounds Work	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping/Gardening
<input type="checkbox"/> Mission Team Chairperson	<input type="checkbox"/> Caring Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry
<input type="checkbox"/> Office Work Volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/> CROP Walk Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Electrical
<u>Finance</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Clothing Distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> Masonry
<input type="checkbox"/> Audit Team	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandwich making for Duchees Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Painting
<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Fund Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Eucharistic Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance Mission Team Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Basket Volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/> Roofing
<input type="checkbox"/> Offering Counter	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital/Home Visitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Shelter Lunch Bags (15 bags)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing
<u>History</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Care Center Volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/> Truck Available for Church Projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Historian/Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> Meatball Making	<input type="checkbox"/> Wrapped in Love (knitting/crocheting)
<input type="checkbox"/> Librarian	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Care (Child Care)	<u>Hospitality</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Oral History	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Ministry Mission Team Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Baking
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cooking
		<input type="checkbox"/> Help with Social Events
		<input type="checkbox"/> Meet & Greet Host



Time & Talent

Education	Leadership	Worship
___ Adult Bible Study Leader	___ Children's or Teen Program Leader	___ Altar Guild (Worship Preparation Team)
___ Adult Mission Team	___ Congregation Council	___ Acolyte (Candle Lighter)
___ Christ Care Group Leader	___ Mission Team Chair	___ Worship Leader (9:00 Worship)
___ Confirmation Leader	___ Nursery Coordinator	___ Assisting Minister (10:30 Worship)
___ 1st Communion Teacher	___ Synod Activities	___ Communion Assistant (10:30 Worship)
___ Librarian	Music (Vocal)	___ Reader (For the Scripture Lessons)
___ Reading Group Participant	___ Adult Choir	___ Communion Glass Washer
___ JAM Teacher	___ 8:00AM Service Vocalist	___ PA Room
___ JAM Assistant	___ JAM Song Leader or Helper	___ Usher
___ JAM Substitute	___ Vocal Ensemble	Writing
Ministry Partners	MUSIC (Instrumental)	___ Communication Mission Team
___ Love INC	___ Bell Choir	___ Letter Writing for Social Ministry
___ Dutchess Outreach	___ Instrumentalist _____	___ Mission Team Secretary
___ Habitat for Humanity	___ Pianist	___ Publicity Helper (Make flyers, etc)
Technology	___ Substitute Pianist	___ St. John's Journal Editor or Helper
___ Audio Operator/Helper	___ Substitute Organist	Connections
___ Computer Maintenance & Help	___ Evangelism Mission Team Member	___ Adopt-a-Highway
___ Video Operator/Helper	___ Telephone Committee Member	___ Arlington Street Fair
		___ Evangelism Mission Team
		___ Greeter
		___ Telephone Caller
		___ Youth Group Leader/Helper

What other areas of interest and/or service do you have?
