

2023

A Look Back



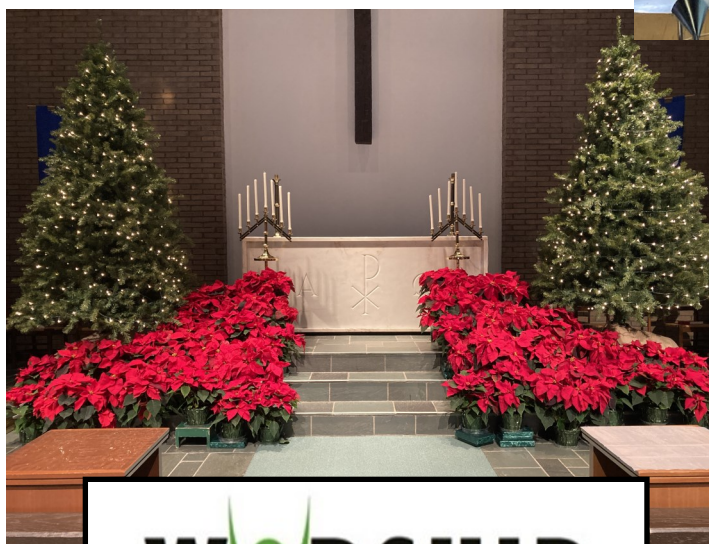
A Journal of St. John's Happenings in 2023



St. John's Lutheran Church Mission Statement

***“Encountering,
Connecting,
Responding
to Jesus Christ.”***

Special Worship Services



MUSIC

Special musicians and ensemble groups enhance worship at St. John's and offer a variety of other musical programs at the church.

This page showcases some of these groups and offerings in 2023.

Dillon Streifeneder, is the St. John's Lutheran Church Music Director.



Some of the Contemporary Music Team Members



Brass & Timpani



Senior Choir

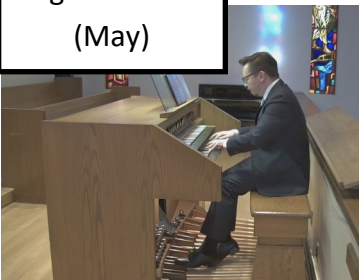


St. John's Bell Groups played at the church and were also invited to play at the Bardavon Opera House in Poughkeepsie



Recorders and Strings

Felix Hell Organ Concert (May)



Blue Grass Sunday The Inns Boys played



Boy Scout Sunday

February 5 was Boy Scout Sunday and it was also the Potluck & Congregation Meeting. Scouts from the community as well as St. John's participated in worship as greeters, ushers, readers, communion assistants and acolytes. They then went up to the potluck to help serve drinks & food and to assist in clean-up.

Girl Scout Sunday

Girl Scouts also had their day at St. John's in March, helping with worship and hosting a Coffee Hour following the service. We appreciate all the scouts and their dedication to service as they share their gifts in the St. John's community.



S C O U T S

Over the years, some St. John's Boy Scouts focused their Eagle Scout Projects on needs they saw at St. John's Lutheran Church. In 2023, Danny Lynch led a project that transformed trees into logs, logs into planks, and planks into a wooden lattice so that the heating/AC equipment in the church courtyard could be covered.

Shown here is Danny's project displayed at Coffee Hour to raise awareness and to help fund the project. Danny's leadership, ingenuity and propensity for hard work made this project a success!



Serving & Caring in 2023

1,219

People were served at the Food Pantry in 2023!



St. Patrick's Day Luncheon & Dance

St. John's Food Pantry

During 2023, the Food Pantry expanded with more families served. The options were streamlined to meet the needs of patrons and create a more efficient process.

The Pantry is funded by the generosity of congregants & community members (donations) and by several large fundraisers held: "St. Patrick's Day Meal/Dance Fundraiser" & "Corn Hole for a Cause" tournament. Over \$6,700 was collected from these events.

Flash Company Band donated their time for the event



Cornhole for a Cause Tournament

Cornhole Tournament Awards!



Love INC Cookie Walk

The 15th Annual Love INC Cookie Walk was a huge success, with \$6,300 raised to help those in need. It was great to be back in person for this event with 836 dozen cookies being donated. Many bakers, volunteers and patrons from St. John's helped make it a deliciously successful event!



Blood Drives

The 3 Blood Drives St. John's had during 2023



were well supported by congregants and community members, with 122 pints collected over the course of the year.

Sharing What We Have

Harvest Sunday

606 food items were collected on Harvest Sunday. Thrivent Financial kicked in another \$500 to buy even more food.



Stewardship (Thank You) Meal



Pledge Sunday was also on Harvest Sunday. Congregants offered monetary pledges for 2024, and as a thank you to the congregation for their support of St. Johns, the Stewardship Team arranged a thank you luncheon.

St. John's folks have big hearts.

3 collections were taken in December:

1. Gift for Lutheran Care Center Residents
2. Satchels for Seafarers
3. 50 baskets of food and gifts given out to families in need

Joy is spread through giving!



JAM Hunger Project

The JAM kids participated in Hunger Service Project on Harvest Sunday. The kids made bags of non-perishable foods that could be kept in their family's car. If they should see a person asking for food at the side of the road while in the car, the bag could be offered to the person.



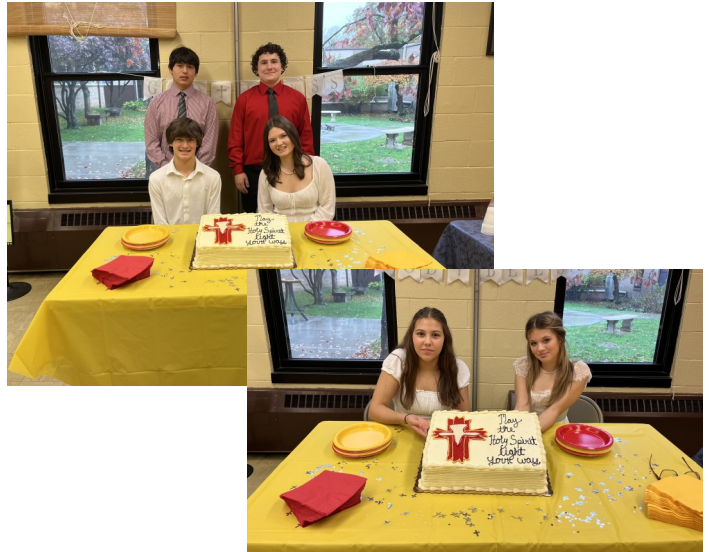
It is a tangible way of helping others and will hopefully spark ideas on how to minister to such folks in the future.

KIDS & YOUTH



JAM Kids Sign the Benediction
In June, the JAM kids went into the 10:30AM worship service to offer the Benediction in sign language and sing a song of blessing to the congregation.

In October, six youth affirmed their baptism on this special Sunday.



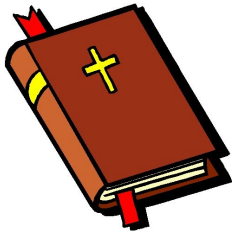
Easter Sunday and the Egg Hunt
An abundance of candy was donated so we were able to fill 500+ eggs and also offer little goodie bags to the older kids who came to watch the hunt. The courtyard became a colorful landscape littered with the 500+ eggs just waiting for the hunt to begin.



JAM Video Production
Bells, Bells, Bells
was a big hit as a kick off to the Christmas Extravaganza.



LEARNING



Bible Studies

Bible Studies were offered during Lent and Advent at the church. Lutheranism 101, Sacred Pathways and Lesson Discussion formats were used.

We offered both in-person studies as well as Zoom; both were well attended and allow for people with all different schedules to participate.




Lesson Discussion Group

Every Sunday a group of people gather in the Blue Room from 10-11am to discuss the day's scripture readings that are read aloud during worship services.



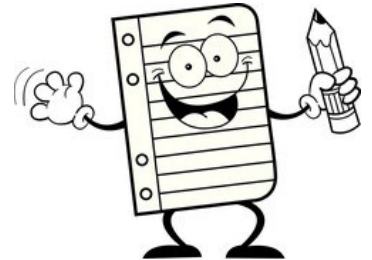
JAM Walks Through the Bible

 The JAM kids walked through the Old Testament and finally got through all 39 books. They learned a word and motion for each book and a song to help them remember the order of the books. In the fall of 2023, students started the New Testament and will use the same format to walk through those 27 books in 2024.



Lenten Devotion

John Dux organized the 6th annual Lenten Devotional booklet filled with scripture reflections from St. John's members, participants and friends from the past. We learn from each other!



Confirmation

6th -9th graders participated in the confirmation program in 2023 as they gathered at St. John's for lessons, discussion and activities and also visited houses of worship in the local area.



BEHIND the SCENES SERVICE

Spring Clean-up & Fall Leaf Raking



The Property Team works hard all year to maintain the church grounds & building. In the spring and fall there are work days when the congregation helps with that upkeep. All these efforts help keep St. John's in tip-top shape!



The Property Team arranged to have the gym floors refinished, look at 'em shine!



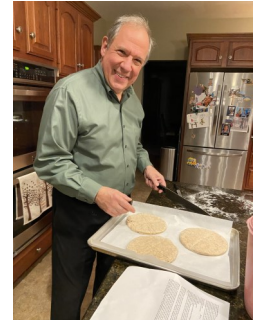
Altar Guild (Worship Prep Team)

The Altar Guild does a ton of work behind the scenes. These ladies are preparing for the Christmas Candlelight



Communion Bread

Each week the communion bread for the 9AM service is made by a special group of volunteers. Because of their efforts, fresh bread is handed out each week during the Holy Eucharist.



Julie Monroe-Mihans & Diane Betz are part of a Pew Angel Team who restock pews—holy cow, we sure have a lot of pews for them to restock!



Patti Donahue works from home with her handy dandy paper cutter to make some of the items the Pew Angels use when they restock the pews. Lots of behind the scenes work!

Coffee Hours

Coffee Hours are an important time of fellowship at St. John's each Sunday. Hosts supply food and assist with set



up and clean-up ; we appreciate individuals and teams who hosted in 2023. Here is a picture of the Hospitality Ladies offering a patriotic themed Coffee Hour the Sunday before June 14 (Flag Day). *Those HMT ladies LOVE their themes!*

Social Time is Important Too!



Golf Ministry

The Golf Ministry offers golf outings each Wednesday at Vassar Golf Course. At the end of the season, the group has a Golf Luncheon for participants.

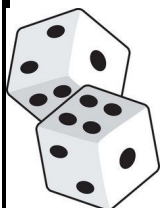


Rally Day

Despite having the event indoors because of rain, the Rally Day event was a great success. Over 80 people, including 7 community visitors, enjoyed the picnic fare while perusing the many booths/tables offered by the various ministry teams at St. John's.



New at Rally Day this year was a cotton candy machine, which was quite popular with the kiddos! Thanks to Jonathan Leigh for being the Master Cotton Candy Maker.



Bunco

Bunco was so popular, we decided to have a second game night in the fall. 110 people attended Bunco in 2023!



St. John's Reading Group celebrated their 25th Anniversary together this year.



Spring Tea

In May, the Hospitality ladies organized a Spring Tea where 65+ people attended and enjoyed delicious food prepared by the Hospitality Team, good music provided by Eric Garrison and a social time to celebrate spring together!



Ice Cream Social

The Ice Cream Social was a fundraiser for the St. John's Music Ministry Program and over \$1,000 was donated to the cause. The Thrivent Choice Program matched the first \$800 donated, so over \$1,800 was put in the Music Ministry fund for special programs and music at St. John's.



Christmas Extravaganza

The JAM kids once again were in a Christmas video production entitled *Bells, Bells, Bells*. The Christmas Extravaganza began with the debut of the video, followed by a reading of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* and then people perused the craft tables, the facepainting station and of course the food and beverage offerings.



