



## **Moving Mission Forward 2021 - 2022**

St. John Lutheran Church  
23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills MI 48335  
248-474-0584  
[www.stjohn-elca.org](http://www.stjohn-elca.org)  
Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher, Pastor

The purpose of this booklet is to give you an overview of the various ministries currently operating or under development at St. John, and to help you choose a place to plug in. Some of the activities in this booklet have been suspended or modified as a result of the pandemic. These activities will resume as soon as we are able.

If you have questions about any ministry or suggestions for new ministries, please contact the person identified or speak to the Pastor or a member of the Leadership Team.

On the back page there is a list of contacts identified in this booklet with their contact information.

**St. John Staff and Leadership**

**Staff:**

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher
Office Manager	Marie Cook
Director of Mission Advancement	Ashleigh Altemann
Director of Worship & Music	Dr. Michael Burkhardt
Handbell Choir Director	JoAnn Adams

**Leadership Team:**

Worship and Music	Dr. Michael Burkhardt
Mission Advancement	Ashleigh Altemann
Spiritual Development and Outreach	Kevin O'Brien
Member Care	Kris O'Brien
Young Families and Children	Karen Boczkaja
Stewardship of Resources	Ed Kramer
Facilities	Tom Bosanko
Communications	Elaine Pearson

**Board:**

Diane Stanton - President	Nancy Janik
Mark Switzer - Secretary	Glenn Ming
John Dresden	Larry Urevig

**WHO WE ARE**

**Our Mission**

We are called by Christ to be a Sanctuary that Welcomes and Serves All.

**Our Vision**

We fulfill our mission through the various ministries mentioned below:

- Worship and Music
- Spiritual Development and Community Outreach
- Mission Advancement
- Member Care
- Young Families and Children
- Stewardship of Resources
- Facilities Needs
- Communications

**What We Believe**

- St. John Lutheran Church is a community of faith that believes in a loving God evidenced by Jesus Christ - historical and living.
- We see science and faith as valued partners in helping us understand life's meaning.
- We know that every person is a child of God with unique strengths that can become powerful expressions of God's love!
- Through worship, service and fellowship our community of compassion invites you to come and see who and what we are.
- Finally, please know that we welcome all people! We believe that every person who touches our community adds profound value to the mystery of faith!

**St. John is a Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 worshiping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. We welcome you to experience this church right here in Farmington Hills. You can learn more at [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org).

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Contact Dr. Michael Burkhardt

Worship is at the center of our life together. It takes a large team to put together and present our worship service every Sunday, so there are many opportunities for you to get involved! [Training is available for all positions.](#)



**Lay Assistant** – Read the prayers; assist with communion. Contact Elaine Pearson.

**Lector** – Read the scriptures (currently done by the Lay Assistant). Contact Elaine Pearson.

**Cantor** – Lead the Kyrie and/or Psalm responses. Contact Dr. Michael Burkhardt.

**Communion Assistants** - When we are past the current COVID protocols, we will resume having two people assist in serving communion. Contact Janet Henkel.

**Altar Guild** – Prepare the altar and communion for each service. Altar guild members are scheduled on a rotating basis. Contact Janet Henkel.

**Chancel Choir** – Even if you’ve never sung in a choir before, you are welcome to join. If you like to sing alone in the shower or with others in worship or other events, you should join us! Contact Dr. Michael Burkhardt.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC (*continued*)

**Chancel Bells** – Training is available! Come learn to ring a bell! Contact JoAnn Adams.

**Greeters** – Greet people and check them in. Contact Keven Blaker.

**Ushers** – Seat people at the beginning of the service, release them at the end. Contact Tom Bosanko.

**Slide Preparation** – Prepare the slides for the service. This is a great way to spiff up your PowerPoint skills for use in your professional life! Contact Elaine Pearson.

**Sound/Camera Master** – Run the soundboard and the camera during the service. Contact Dan Bingham.

**SlideMaster** – Advance the slides during the service. Contact Elaine Pearson.

**ZoomMaster** – Start the Zoom and share and un-share the slides. The SlideMaster can do this, or it can be a different person sharing from home. Contact Elaine Pearson.

**MuteMaster** – Join the Zoom. Admit new participants as they come in. Mute and unmute as required. You can do this from home. Contact Elaine Pearson.

**Coffee Hour Host** – We currently are not able to offer coffee hour due to lack of available people to help. Maybe you could? Contact Joanne Hagen.

**Music Librarian** – Catalogue and maintain Chancel Choir and Handbell music. You need not be a member of the choirs - just someone with a heart for service and a gift for organization. Contact Dr. Michael Burkhardt.

**Copyright librarian** - Observe and document copyright for printed and streamed materials. Contact Dr. Michael Burkhardt.

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Contact Kevin O'Brien



**Find Your Gifts** - Everyone, whether attached to a church or in an active relationship with God, is a child of God, wonderfully created! God has created **you** uniquely. You are the only you on Earth, and you were created with certain gifts and talents. We all have the ability to accomplish things with our unique gifts among the people and places where God has placed us - things that only we can accomplish. We were created on purpose, for a purpose, and with a purpose. If you are interested in discovering your gifts contact Kevin O'Brien.

**Small Group Ministry** - We offer periodic Small Groups which provide opportunity for people's gifts to be nourished and applied. Groups of 8-10 people gather to discuss matters of life and faith. As we read God's word together we learn from each other's views and experiences.

**Bible Study** - Pastor Mark will be offering Bible study on Wednesday evenings online and Thursday mornings in person. You are welcome to join! Contact Pastor Mark.

**Men's Breakfast** - St. John men get together every Thursday morning at L. George's restaurant (24250 Sinacola - Grand River just west of M-5) for food, fellowship and Bible study. Contact Dave Elias.

**Stewardship** - St. John provides an opportunity to offer back to God some of what He has blessed us with financially. This is so that we "may take hold of the life that is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:17-19). Our regular giving enables growth in our ministry and mission so that we can make a difference in our community and the world. For information on how to get plugged in, including on-line giving to make it simple, contact Kevin O'Brien.

## FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE

Contact Ashleigh Alteman



**God's Garden** - The God's Garden ministry focuses on Care for Others - by growing produce to share with local organizations addressing food security; Care for Creation - by utilizing and teaching growing practices that sustain and support life rather than harm; and Care of Self - by exploring and promoting the therapeutic benefits of gardening. There are lots of opportunities to get involved.



Intrepid gardeners work in the rain as the garden begins to take shape.

**Chili Cook-off and Fundraiser** - Bring your chili to compete or come and taste. Contribute items for the auction and bake sale, or buy stuff others have donated. This is a fun event for everyone! Volunteer to help set up, serve or clean up.

**Community Thanksgiving Dinner** - Gather with your St. John family, friends and neighbors on Thanksgiving Day for a potluck meal. Volunteer to help set up, cook turkeys, serve and clean up.

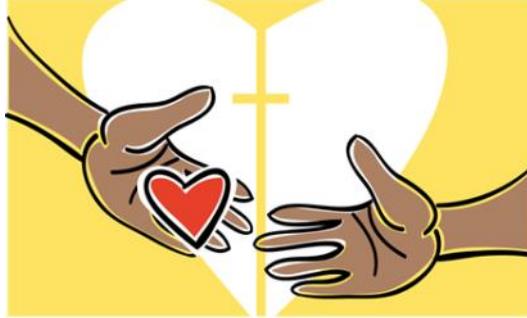
**Pasty and Nisu Bakers** - Periodically, our bakers make pasties or Nisu bread which are sold to raise funds for St. John. You can help bake, or buy the baked goods. Contact Donna Bosanko.

**Men's Basketball** - Join the guys in the gym for fellowship and exercise with a friendly game of basketball. This activity is currently on hiatus, but we hope to resume soon. Contact Fred Ternes.

**Mission Based Activities** - Typically occurring once a month after worship, we offer time for fellowship, personal reflection or spiritual expression. Centered around the themes of shalom - compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and justice - in the past activities have included such things as baking bread together and art projects. Want to contribute to plans for the future?

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Contacts noted below.



**LWR Kits** – Each year we provide about 100 School kits and 100 Personal Care kits to Lutheran World Relief. You can provide items, help assemble and pack kits and/or help deliver the kits to the shipping point. Assembly and packing usually takes place in October. Contact Patty Oates.

**Quilters** – Help make quilts for Lutheran World Relief! Quilts can be used as a blanket, a shelter or a container for personal possessions. Help sew, assemble and pack quilts. Donate fabric or old sheets for quilt backs. This activity takes place all year round. Quilts are packed and shipped in October. Contact Joanne Hagen.

**Adopt-a-Family Bell Tree** – Take a bell from the tree, buy a gift for someone in need. The Bell Tree goes up right after Thanksgiving. Watch for more information. Contact Patty Oates.

**CROP Walk** – Join the Farmington Area CROP Walk as a walker or support St. John walkers! Contact Ashleigh Altemann.

**Blood Drives** – We host a Red Cross Blood Drive four times per year. If you are not able to donate, you can encourage family members and friends who are eligible to come and donate. Contact Cindi Sailus.

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES (*continued*)

**South Oakland Shelter** – Antioch has been hosting homeless people for a week each year. We commit to providing dinner for one night of that week. Contact Dave Elias.

**Farmer House** – This is a small group home housing three ladies with developmental disabilities. All of their care is provided. What they need from us is basically to befriend them – read stories, play games, etc. Contact Caran Hoffman.

**Pathways in Compassion** – Approximately half of all the people in nursing homes have been essentially abandoned. They have no visitors and no one to advocate for them. This ministry will create a partnership between St. John and one or more local nursing homes. Volunteers will visit residents on a regular basis, developing a relationship with them. This new ministry will begin as soon as the COVID situation allows. Contact Kevin O'Brien.



Quilts are displayed in the sanctuary for a blessing prior to being shipped.

## MEMBER CARE

Contact Kris O'Brien

**Phone Call Ministry** - Our Phone Ministry Team calls each member on a regular basis to keep in touch and make sure they're alright. Here's an opportunity to make a friend and be a friend from the comfort of your own home. Contact Pastor Mark.

**Stephen Ministry** - Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. This team is not currently functioning, but could be if there is need.

**Prayer Team** - This team prays for specific people who request it. Members of this team will periodically receive a call or text message asking you to pray. Contact Catherine Federspill.

**Eucharistic Ministers** - Eucharistic Ministers make monthly visits to homebound members to chat and provide Communion.

**Funeral Luncheons** - This has been an important service provided to bereaved families. Sharing a meal following the funeral service offers the family and friends of the deceased spiritual and emotional support in addition to physical sustenance. It offers a reminder that they are not alone. Funeral luncheons usually take place immediately following the service, and as such are generally scheduled on very short notice. Food is provided by the deceased's family. Team members are asked to set up, serve and/or clean up after. We have lost several members of our team and may not be able to continue without some additional help. Maybe you?

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** - Prayer Shawls are available to anyone, member or not, who needs comfort and a reminder of God's love. If you knit, crochet, or do anything else with yarn that can end up as a prayer shawl, you are welcome to join us. If not, we will be happy to teach you. Contact Catherine Federspill.



## FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Contact Karen Boczkaja

We are beginning to build a ministry for families with young children. Initially, our focus will be a family friendly worship experience that will expand into Sunday School and other activities as we grow. If you are interested in being a part of this journey in faith let us know.



**Tutoring** - Provide tutoring for elementary school age children in our community. Contact Shirley George.

**Hearts, Hands and Voices Worship and Fine Arts Program** - We offer a unique opportunity for young people, grades 2-7, from across the region to come together in a safe and welcoming environment to grow spiritually and musically. We gather on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. during the Academic Year and for a week-long summer camp experience. Through hands-on experiences the program seeks to provide lifelong tools for creating, appreciating and sharing the arts; participating in worship; and leading enriched lives in society. Contact Dr. Michael Burkhardt.



Hearts, Hands and Voices Summer Camp closing program.

## STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

Contact Ed Kramer



**Finance Team** - Help keep tabs on our spending and plan the coming year's budget. Contact Ed Kramer.

**Stewardship** - Help study stewardship trends and help with our next Stewardship appeal. Contact Dave Androvich.

**Counters** - Count the offering each week following the service. You would only need to serve once every few weeks. Contact Barbara Dresden.

**Audit Committee** - Once a year the Board appoints a team to do an audit to make sure our bookkeeping and accounting are accurate and properly managed. You can help! Contact Board President Diane Stanton.

**Donate to St. John** - There are several ways to provide financial support to St. John's ministries:

1. bring your gift to the Sunday service and put it in the basket on the way in;
2. mail it to the church office;
3. give online using the link in your eNews or the "Donate to St. John" button on our website - [www.stjohn-elca.org](http://www.stjohn-elca.org).

## FACILITIES

Contact Tom Bosanko



**Facilities Maintenance** - In a building the size, age and complexity of St. John, there's always something to be maintained or repaired. Sometimes we just need things to be moved around, and of course our landscape needs to be maintained. If you are willing to do any kind of maintenance, contact Tom Bosanko and he will put your name on a list to be called as needed.

**The Monday Guys** - The Monday guys show up every Monday morning to clean the areas of the church not covered by our professional cleaning service and to do light maintenance.

**Safety/Security Team** - St. John is a member of the Church Security Coalition. We will be attending monthly meetings and keeping members aware of any available training. The St. John team will be resuming meetings in the near future. If you have interest in being part of keeping St. John safe and secure please reach out to Tom Bosanko.

**Event Hosting** - Outside use of the building is scheduled by the Office Manager. When we have outside groups use our facility, we have a St. John Host who lets them in, is present while they are on the premises and locks up after they leave.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Contact Elaine Pearson

We communicate with our members and friends in many ways. Learn more about how we stay in touch and how to get in the loop.



**The VOICE** - Published each month, The VOICE provides information on upcoming activities as well as thoughtful reflections. If you are not receiving The VOICE, or have an article or announcement to contribute, contact Marie Cook.

**Email Communications** - Each Friday the eNews goes out with information on what's happening, with "special issues" for late-breaking news or reminders. Not getting these emails? Contact Elaine Pearson at [ecp2000@comcast.net](mailto:ecp2000@comcast.net). Want to put something in the eNews? Contact Elaine.

**Mailings** - Periodically we send letters via snail mail to let you know of specific things going on, especially things you may need to do. Contact Marie Cook to receive these mailings.

**Website** - Our website is at [www.stjohn-elca.org](http://www.stjohn-elca.org). Check it out! The home page provides detail on what's happening in the near future. There is a special password-protected area for members that has Board Minutes and other information as well as an online directory. When you get to the page that says "Guest Area," the "secret" password is 23225Gill. (Hint: It's our address!) Please let Elaine Pearson know if your directory information is

## COMMUNICATIONS *(continued)*

**facebook pages** - St. John has two facebook pages - one for the church and a special one for God's Garden. Both can be accessed by clicking the "f" logo at the top of the St. John home page. You can help make St. John more visible on the internet by Liking and Sharing!



**St. John has a YouTube channel!** - You can find recordings of our church services, Pastor Mark's sermons and other fun things! Use the YouTube logo at the top of the St. John homepage.

**Public Relations** - When we have an important event happening that may be of interest to the larger community, we send out a press release. Do you have experience writing press releases or contacts with local press? Help us get the word out!

**Text Messages** - We have a free service through which we can send a text message when there's something urgent to communicate. If you want to be on the list, text your name and request to Elaine Pearson at 248-425-5216.

**Phone Messages** - We have a free service through which we can send a recorded phone message when there's something urgent to communicate. If you want to be on the list, text your name and phone number to Elaine Pearson at 248-425-5216 or email to [ecp2000@comcast.net](mailto:ecp2000@comcast.net).

**Outdoor Banners** - We put up banners to let the neighborhood know what's going on at St. John. Changing these regularly helps call attention to our presence in the neighborhood. Our banner frame will accommodate one 3' X 10' or one or two 3' X 5' banners. Contact Elaine Pearson if you have questions.

## CONTACTS

Individuals noted as contacts are listed below with phone number and email address. An asterisk\* indicates their preferred method of contact.

JoAnn Adams	248-514-0702	<a href="mailto:joannadams@18@yahoo.com">joannadams@18@yahoo.com</a>
Ashleigh Altemann	248-227-2918	<a href="mailto:ms.fancyfood@gmail.com">ms.fancyfood@gmail.com</a>
Dave Androvich	248-513-2207	<a href="mailto:david_androvich@yahoo.com">david_androvich@yahoo.com</a>
Dan Bingham	248-636-2636	<a href="mailto:djbingham5113229@gmail.com">djbingham5113229@gmail.com</a> *
Keven Blaker	248-425-9379	<a href="mailto:kblaker@att.net">kblaker@att.net</a>
Karen Boczkaja	248-752-0831	<a href="mailto:terneska@mail.gvsu.edu">terneska@mail.gvsu.edu</a>
Donna Bosanko	734-516-9625	<a href="mailto:tbosanko1@hotmail.com">tbosanko1@hotmail.com</a>
Tom Bosanko	734-516-9625	<a href="mailto:tbosanko1@hotmail.com">tbosanko1@hotmail.com</a>
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Pastor Mark Fisher	248-207-1312	<a href="mailto:bellfisher@aol.com">bellfisher@aol.com</a>
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Elaine Pearson	248-425-5216	<a href="mailto:eep2000@comcast.net">eep2000@comcast.net</a> *
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Diane Stanton	248 881-1992	<a href="mailto:Dstanton29@sbcglobal.net">Dstanton29@sbcglobal.net</a>
Fred Ternes	248-474-0995	<a href="mailto:ternesfd@aol.com">ternesfd@aol.com</a>