

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2025

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www.stjohnnaitkin.org

I DON'T KNOW... BUT YOU DO, LORD

Sarah had always prided herself on being in control. She was the planner, the one with everything mapped out. But when life suddenly spiraled out of her control, she found herself in a place she never expected to be.

After years of hard work, Sarah's career came to an abrupt halt. Her job, the one she had poured herself into, was eliminated without warning. Just weeks later, a series of family crises hit—an aging parent needing more care, and a close friend facing a life-threatening illness. Sarah found herself drowning in overdue bills, uncertainty, overwhelmed by a sea of decisions she wasn't prepared to make. The weight of the world seemed to crash down on her all at once, and the harder she tried to solve each problem, the more it felt like everything was falling apart. She felt like she was failing at everything.

One evening, sitting alone in her living room, Sarah broke down. The tears were endless, the questions unanswerable. "What now?" she whispered to herself, as she stared blankly at the wall. She didn't know what to do, where to go, or how to keep going. She felt lost.

It was in that moment, with her heart heavy and her mind clouded with doubt, that she remembered a simple prayer she had heard years ago. With nothing left to lose, Sarah closed her eyes and whispered, ***"Lord... I don't know. I don't know where to go from here. I don't know what is happening. I don't know how to process this. I don't know what to do with these emotions. I don't know how to handle this situation."*** And then, she squeezed her hands tighter together and with tears running down her face, with the last bit of dusty little grain of faith that she had, she whispered, ***"But, YOU know, Lord."***

She didn't have the answers, and for once, she wasn't even trying to find them. She surrendered it all—her fears, her worries, her doubts—into the hands of a God who she trusted, even though she couldn't see the way forward.

In the weeks that followed, Sarah didn't suddenly have all the answers. But what she did have was peace—peace that didn't come from solving everything on her own. As she took one small step at a time, trusting that God would show her the way, she began to see glimpses of hope. The storm wasn't over, but she no longer felt like she was facing it alone.

Through her deepest struggle, Sarah learned that sometimes the most powerful prayer isn't asking for answers—it's admitting we don't have them and placing our trust in the One who does.

This story illustrates the beauty of surrendering to God when faced with uncertainty, highlighting how the "I don't know" prayer can lead to peace and trust in His plan. ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight."*** Proverbs 3:5-6

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Putting on the
Full Armor of God

Ephesians 6

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

3/05 The Sword of the Spirit

3/12 The Belt of Truth

3/19 The Shield of Faith

3/26 The Breastplate of Righteousness

4/02 The Helmet of Salvation

4/09 Shoes Fitted for Readiness

SUPPER BEGINS AT 5:00 PM
WORSHIP AT 6:00 PM

with Pastor Petersen
& Pastor Milo

ALL ARE INVITED TO

**MINUTE
TO WIN IT**

FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY

MARCH

16 TH

11:30 am to 1:00 pm

- Snacks provided
- 1-minute games
- Prizes!

**FUN DAY FOR
ALL AGES!**



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOUTH NEWS



MOVIE AND POPCORN



Our kiddos enjoyed watching Moana 2 on a very cold Sunday afternoon in February. They ate pizza and lots of popcorn. Just a fun afternoon together with friends and much laughter. We are all looking forward to another fun Family Day of "Minute to Win It" games on March 16. Everyone is invited to join in!

TIME TO GET YOUR CRAYONS OUT

We are bringing back the Easter Coloring Contest. Be sure to look for coloring sheets at the end of March. This has been a great activity for **all ages** and a fun way to share our creativity with others. Oh yes, there will be prizes! The congregation will judge the final artwork.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS / PLAYS BELLS

Mark your calendars as our Sunday School students share their talents during worship.



MAR 2
Bells



MAR 16
SS Sings



MAR 30
Bells



APR 27
Bells

VBS IS COMING!

SAVE THE DATE: June 23rd- 27th 9:00am- 12:00pm

Crikey! Adventure awaits at VBS this summer! We're taking a journey to Australia to discover amazing animals, explore God's beautiful creation, and learn about His love for us.

Our theme verse, John 14:6, reminds us, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life," and will guide us on this exciting adventure.

VBS is open to all kids age 4yrs - 6th grade. Younger aged children are welcome with parent/ guardian in attendance.

EPIC Australian Adventure

An Unforgettable Journey with Jesus

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
www.stjohnnaitkin.org

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

ACT has been gathering regularly for fun, work, and praising God. We hosted a Superbowl Party at the church with youth and families in attendance. Pop, snacks, and treats satisfied all with a game that lacked the entertainment expected.



SUPER BOWL

We had 24 youth and adults volunteer for the Brainerd Jaycees Fishing Tournament. We helped the organization by checking anglers for any equipment that was not allowed. It was a cold day, but the teens had great attitudes that helped us all get through it.



FISHING TOURNAMENT

Devotion time has been spent talking about apologetics, Elijah and Elisha, and taking the Bible out of context.



Please support ACT with your prayers. God bless St. John's Church, and the youth involved.



LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP

CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

St. John's is providing \$100.00 or one half of the cost of camp (whichever is greater) for any of our children that would like to attend a summer program at Lutheran Island Camp. You can go online to the camp website (www.islandcamp.org) to check on the summer camp possibilities. If you have any questions, you can call Debbie Schultz, 927-6250.

If you would like to donate toward this, please place your gift in an envelope marked: "LIC Camperships" and place the envelope in the offering plate.

SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



CHURCH NEWS & NEEDS

God is at work at St. John's. Thank you to all our amazing guest pastors for helping us out. Please know that the below list is subject to change.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

03 / 02 Pastor Carnicom
 03 / 09 Pastor Petersen
 03 / 16 Pastor Thomson
 03 / 23 Pastor Johnson
 03 / 30 Pastor Thomson
 04 / 06 Pastor Carnicom
 04 / 13 Pastor Milo
 04 / 20 Pastor Carnicom
 04 / 27 Pastor Worrel

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Pastor Petersen / Pastor Milo
 Supper at 5:00pm / Worship at 6:00pm

SHUT-IN VISITS

Pastor Thomson

VACANCY PASTOR

Pastor Thomson
218-900-7164



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

PASTOR CALL UPDATE

At the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 16 it was voted to place a call to Pastor Mark Harriss from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Steelville, IL. He has received the paperwork and now we put it in God's hands and await a response.

CARE BOXES SEALED & DELIVERED



An act of kindness may not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person. Thank you to the St. John's Circle for baking goodies and packing boxes for students away at college or in the military. These boxes are packed with love and appreciated by those who receive them.



THE BLESSINGS OF ALZHEIMER'S

I have shared with some of you of my mother's decade long dance with Alzheimer's and of some of the challenges that this disease faces. Her losses have been countless, and it has been incredibly difficult to stand by and watch this disease take my mom away bit by bit and not be able to help her in a meaningful way. Throughout it all, I have had the blessing of having the support of my siblings and our spouses.

Despite all the challenges, there are blessings. When I visit her now, I now slow down to her pace which helps calm some of my anxieties. She no longer can contribute to a conversation, so I sing to her. Not too long ago, I was singing "Silent Night" to her, and she joined in with me singing her one note for part of a stanza, but it was music to my ears. Sometimes we sit quietly without many words, because that is her world these days. As I feed her, I am reminded that she once fed me and that she taught me how to be a good cook and provide for my family. This also gives me time to reflect on all her accomplishments which are many. At my most recent visit, I was not sure if she remembered who I was. Her responses were single syllables, but when I left, she said "Love you".

Love you too mom.

Theresa Hiller-Baty, RN Parish Nurse



All are invited to a
St. John's
Salad Luncheon

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 11 am - 2 pm \$12 per person

We invite everyone, including our community, to our first St. John's Salad Luncheon on Thursday, April 10 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will have meatballs, breadsticks and a variety of salads to feast on. Cost is \$12 per person.

Watch for a sign-up in the Narthex for bringing salads and bars. Money raised will go to the roofing fund. This meal will be replacing the Chicken Dinner usually done in April.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



JOIN OUR CHURCH GREETER TEAM



We are looking for warm and friendly individuals to serve as greeters each Sunday. If you enjoy welcoming others, making people feel at home, and sharing a smile, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

As a greeter, you'll help create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone who walks through our doors, from first-time visitors to regular attendees. It's a wonderful way to serve our church community and make a difference in people's experience at church.

If you're interested in becoming a greeter, please reach out to Debbie Schultz at 218-839-4322. We'd love to have you on our team! Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

FELLOWSHIP SERVERS NEEDED



We are looking for volunteers to provide refreshments for fellowship time following worship. If you are able to help, please sign up on the sheet posted in the fellowship hall by the kitchen.

Thank you so much for your willingness to serve and help create a warm, welcoming environment for our congregation!

WEEKLY USHERS NEEDED

There is a weekly sign up for ushers located on the bulletin board in the entry. We ask that all confirmed members (male or female) sign up to help each Sunday worship run smoothly. This is an easy way to serve at church. Thanks!





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Blessings on your special day!

Hunter Westerlund	02	Charles Wikelius	13	Roger Renstrom	23
Monica Lovsness	03	Kaleb Bauer	15	Eric Wold	24
Sally Fenner	04	Jessica Schultz-Perlberg	17	Noah Christian Carlson	25
Eric O'Neil	04	Isabelle Harmon	18	Marissa Sterling	25
Ted Hasskamp	08	Kevin Rom	18	Gina Wold	25
Theresa Bartel	09	Bruce Sanvig	18	Jeanie Christian	26
James Bartel	09	Travis Torgerson	18	Dennis Ruschmeier	26
Maria Hasskamp	09	Terry Urban	18	Levi Flerlage	27
Daniel Witt	09	Kathy Hanlon	19	Paige Harmon	28
Lydia Kleinhans	10	Cynthia Priem	21	Katelyn Sarlette	28
Jason Torgerson	10	Nathan Rom	21	Maggie Borseth	29
Stacey Borman	12	Jennifer Monse	22	Gabriel Carlstrom	29
Beckett Pearson	12	Emily Davis	23	Bryan Haugly	31
Christine Miller	13	Lori Kaiser	23	Huck Novotny	31
Randy Quale	13				

**The birthdays listed are from our church records. Any mistakes are unintentional. Please notify the office of any mistakes, deletions, or if you do not want your birthday listed.*



COMING IN 2025!

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

JUNE 11 -14

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

We will be creating a new pictorial directory this year. Mark your calendar and watch for more details in the coming months.

BEING A HERO DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HARD...


You can save up to 3 lives by donating blood!

Red Cross is coming to St. John's

APRIL 21 & 22 12 PM - 6 PM

Register at www.redcrossblood.org
Walk-ins may be available

GIVE BLOOD
You can make a difference.

 **American Red Cross**

