



Monthly Newsletter

ANCHORED IN CHRIST
through every season

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 2026 VOL. XXXIX No. 11 stjohnnaitkin.org

OUR BEST YEARS ARE AHEAD: *THE REFORMATION AND OUR CHRISTIAN HOPE*

As the Church year draws to its close, our readings turn toward death, the resurrection, and Christ's return. Along the way, we celebrate the Reformation and All Saints' Day. These belong together: the Gospel confessed at the Reformation gives us comfort as we remember those who have died in Christ and await our Lord's coming.

The Reformation called the Church back to Holy Scripture as the final authority for Christian doctrine and life. No pope, council, pastor, or tradition may stand above God's Word. Our teaching, practice, and hope must rest upon what God has given us in Scripture.

At the heart of the Reformation was the recovery of the Gospel's clear consolation: we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from works of the Law. Our certainty rests upon His death and resurrection for us. Through His Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit gives and sustains faith, delivering Christ's forgiveness and strengthening our confidence in His promises.

This return to Scripture also renewed our connection with faithful Christians before us. The Book of Concord cites fathers such as St. Augustine, and St. Ambrose. The reformers sought to confess the ancient, apostolic faith, receiving the Church's faithful testimony while rejecting teachings that obscured the Gospel.

That Gospel is especially precious on All Saints' Day. We grieve those who have died, yet we know that those who die in Christ rest with Him. Revelation 7 shows the saints before God's throne, washed clean in the blood of the Lamb. We sing, "We feebly struggle, they in glory shine" (For All the Saints, LSB 677:4). Together, we belong to one Savior and await the resurrection.

Our Lutheran understanding of the end times is called **amillennialism**. The thousand years in Revelation 20 describe symbolically the present age of Christ's reign. At His one visible return, He will raise the dead, judge the world, and bring His people into everlasting life. We do not know the day or hour, but our heavenly Father holds the future. Christ has already won the decisive victory over sin, death, and the devil.

Therefore, we sing, "Our vict'ry has been won; The Kingdom ours remaineth" (A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, LSB 656:4). Jesus' call to readiness in Matthew 25 directs us to remain watchful in repentance and faith. "Wake, awake, for night is flying" (LSB 516:1): our Bridegroom is coming!

November 22 is the Last Sunday of the Church Year. As we approach Thanksgiving, we give thanks through both blessings and sorrows. Whatever our earthly years have held, our best years are ahead: resurrection life with Christ and all His saints.

Sunday, November 29, begins the new Church year with the First Sunday of Advent. We await Christ's return and prepare to celebrate His birth. The Child of Bethlehem is our crucified and risen Savior, who will come again in glory.

His Word is sure. His victory is won. His coming is our joy.

By Pastor Ben Hollingsead

St. John's *November* Food Drive



Drop off
non-perishable
items in the
Narthex during
the month of
November



No expired
items please

Food will go to the
Aitkin
Food Shelf

Neighbors
Helping
Neighbors



We invite you to a

Thanksgiving
WORSHIP
SERVICE

*“Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good;
His love endures forever.”*

Psalms 107:1

**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 25**

AT 6:00 PM



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOUTH NEWS

CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE STORY!

We encourage families to keep the conversation going beyond Sunday School! This month, as we explore the birth of Jesus, the visit of the Wise Men, God's protection of Jesus, and the Baptism of Jesus, take time to talk with your children about these wonderful Bible stories. Together, discover how God keeps His promises and shares His amazing love through the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

NOV 1: Jesus the Savior is Born
Luke 2:1-20

NOV 8: The Wise Men
Matthew 2:1-12

NOV 15: God Keeps Jesus Safe from Herod
Matthew 2:13-18

NOV 29: Jesus is Baptized
Matthew 3:13-17;
Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21,22

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A FALL GATHERING!

by: Brittany Wold

It was a beautiful day! We finally had some gorgeous weather and were able to enjoy a bonfire for the first time since we started hosting this event!

We kicked off the afternoon with hot dogs, chili, mac and cheese, and lots of delicious desserts. After enjoying a wonderful meal together, the kiddos got creative with pumpkin painting before heading into the corn maze. Their mission was to find the flags hidden throughout the cornfield and exchange each one for a full-sized candy bar. All 22 flags were found!

After the corn maze, we ventured out for a fun tractor ride. The kiddos also enjoyed riding bikes, playing with toys, jumping on the trampoline, roasting marshmallows over the bonfire, and even spending time with the chickens!

It was such a wonderful afternoon filled with laughter, fun, and fellowship. We are so thankful for the opportunity to spend time together and enjoy the company of our extended church family.

A big **thank you to everyone who came, participated, or stopped by!** We appreciate each and every one of you and look forward to doing it all again next year!



Handbells
Begin Sunday
November 1



Sunday School
Sings
November 22



Fish House
Parade
November 27



WEEKLY ACT GATHERINGS

ACT continues to meet every Wednesday evening, beginning with dinner at 5:00 p.m., followed by games, devotions, and fellowship.

Our devotions have been focused on the book of Ephesians, where we're learning about God's incredible grace, the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, and what it means to live as His children. We're exploring how God calls us to love one another, encourage each other, stand firm in our faith, and recognize that we are all part of one body in Christ. It's a wonderful reminder that our identity is found in Christ and that we are saved by grace, not by anything we do or earn.

We've also been blessed with great attendance this fall, with our numbers steadily increasing each week! It's exciting to see so many youth coming together to grow in God's Word, build friendships, and support one another in their faith. We are so thankful for the continued encouragement and support of our congregation and families!

GLOSS • GOSPEL • GAMES

A big thank-you to everyone who joined us for Gloss, Gospel & Games on October 7! We had 16 teens and 7 congregation members participate in a fun evening of fellowship and faith. We loved seeing different generations of our church family come together and can't wait to do it again!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



PARENT MEETING
 Wed, Nov. 18
 6:30 pm

Parents of youth in grades 7-12 interested in attending the Higher Things Youth Conference, June 22-25, 2027, at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon, are encouraged to attend an informational meeting. We'll discuss trip details, costs, fundraising, family contributions, and financial assistance options.



ACT SCHEDULE
 Wed, Nov. 25
 5 pm supper
 6 pm worship

ACT will meet as usual on Wednesday, November 25, beginning with dinner at 5:00 p.m. We will then gather together for a Thanksgiving worship service beginning at 6:00 pm.



PARADE & CHURCH DECORATING
 Fri, Nov. 27
 Parade time TBD /
 Decorating to follow

ACT will participate in the Fish House Parade on Friday, November 27, followed by Christmas decorating at the church with hot cocoa and cookies! Decorating time will be announced once parade times are confirmed.

you're invited to a **HARVEST** **BREAKFAST**

SUNDAY NOV
22
following
worship

Pancakes
Sausage
Eggs
Fruit
Juice
Coffee



This will be a freewill offering breakfast,
with proceeds supporting ACT youth activities
and upcoming trips.

hosted by
ACT
ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ACT will be hosting our annual Harvest Breakfast immediately following worship.
There will be no regular fellowship that Sunday, as breakfast will be served instead.

Faith in Action, Hearts in Service

ANOTHER WONDERFUL BAZAAR & BAKE SALE!

What a blessing it is to see so many people come together to make our Annual St. John's Bazaar & Bake Sale a success! From the planning and preparations to the final cleanup, it truly takes many helping hands to bring this event together.

Thank you to everyone who baked, cooked, donated, organized, decorated, advertised, set up, cleaned up, worked behind the scenes, or welcomed and served our customers. And to everyone who stopped by to shop, enjoy lunch, and support the event, we are equally grateful!



We are especially excited to share that **\$4,700 will be contributed to the church's general budget!**

Beyond the money raised, this event is a wonderful example of fellowship, generosity, and people working together for the good of our church. We are grateful for each and every person who helped make it possible. Thank you for another successful year!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Blessings on your special day!

Kylan Hill	Nov 01	Deanna Bauer	Nov 11	Jeff Parker	Nov 24
David Paulson	Nov 01	Mark Lageson	Nov 11	Adah Williams	Nov 24
Lois Paulson	Nov 02	Brian Roettger	Nov 11	Tenley Crowther	Nov 27
Trevor Radke	Nov 02	Johnathan Arness	Nov 12	Randy Greenbush	Nov 27
Paige Beaufeaux	Nov 03	Chad Backstrom	Nov 12	Connor Rose	Nov 27
Hanna DeVries	Nov 03	Jeff Peysar	Nov 15	Ruth Bender	Nov 28
Brad Nelson	Nov 03	Becky Zenke	Nov 16	Amber Peet	Nov 28
Brian Ruschmeier	Nov 03	Greta Rose	Nov 18	Alexis Phillips	Nov 29
Gerald Borgman	Nov 05	Cody Fossum	Nov 19	Julie Solien	Nov 29
Brenda Larson	Nov 05	Judy Fossum	Nov 19	Shanna Christian	Nov 30
Cora Nelson	Nov 05	Sierra Espeseth	Nov 20	Rebecca Harrison	Nov 30
Lynn Wikelius	Nov 05	Braden Bartel-Wagner	Nov 21	Mike Johnson	Nov 30
Paul Zenke	Nov 06	George Bender	Nov 22	Wendy Wegner	Nov 30
Jim Urban	Nov 08	Linda Hejny	Nov 23		

**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.*



ANNUAL REPORT - REQUESTING UPDATES

Please take a moment to review your information in the 2025 Annual Report. If you have any updates, such as a new phone number, corrected name spelling, or address change and haven't already contacted the church office, please let us know. You can reach us by calling **218-927-3170**. Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate!



The fall maintenance of the facilities has begun. HVAC is completed and boilers inspected.

The snow blower maintenance has been done so it should be in good shape for the winter season. The lawncare equipment will be winterized shortly as well.

The front door lock has been periodically found to be loosening up. We've had the locksmith tighten it at least twice and he feels that the reason it is loosening is due to people not seating their key deep enough into the lock and then trying to turn it or muscling it, or wiggling it until it finally turns. Please be careful when unlocking so we don't need to replace the entire mechanism again.

Marv Baty



Flowers are a beautiful way to brighten our sanctuary and make our worship services a little more special. Whether you'd like to remember a loved one, celebrate a birthday or anniversary, give thanks for a blessing, or simply share the beauty of flowers, we invite you to sign up to provide altar flowers. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

If you provide flowers, please plan to take them home following worship that Sunday. Thank you for helping keep our altar looking beautiful throughout the year!



Monday, December 7 at 11:30 am

All women of the congregation are invited to the Annual Women's Christmas Party. Please bring a dish to share. More details to come.



As part of our commitment to transparency, we want to share our monthly giving statement with the congregation. This is an important season for our church and one that calls us to be attentive, prayerful, and united as we look ahead.

If you consider St. John's your church home, we encourage you to prayerfully support the ministry through regular giving and prayer. Every contribution helps sustain the work God is doing through our congregation and outreach to our community.

We are deeply thankful for the faithfulness and generosity of this congregation and trust in God's continued provision.

SEPTEMBER 2026 GIVING

GENERAL FUND

Offerings	\$18,292.41
Other	\$86.33
Together in Missions	\$50.00
Improvement Fund	\$265.00
	<u>\$18,693.74</u>

DESIGNATED FUND

ACT	\$801.73
Centennial	\$2,634.54
Circle	\$20.00
Endowment Fund Interest	\$206.98
Missions	\$629.00
Quilting	\$100.00
Sunday School Offering	\$11.26
Sunday School/VBS Special Fund	\$50.00
	<u>\$23,147.25</u>

GENERAL FUND GIVING COMPARISON TO EXPENSE BUDGET

	Monthly	YTD
Expense Budget	\$23,408.00	\$210,672.00
General Fund Giving	\$18,693.74	\$188,291.86
OVER (UNDER) BUDGET	<u>(\$4,714.26)</u>	<u>(\$22,380.14)</u>