



September/October 2022

We are a family of Christians raising children in Christian faith.

From Our Pastor

Dear St. John,

What's Next? We moved into a new home in November of last year. We didn't move far from our former house and are still in Arlington Heights, but even with such a short-distance move, it was a lot of work and stress! Moving is consistently rated as one of life's most stressful events. Experts say this is because moving is a massive disruption of routines, combined with giving up much of what is familiar to you. Even if you're happy about your move, it's a lot to take on.

Now that we are moved in and mostly settled, we have begun to ask the question: "What's next?" Will we do some landscaping in the backyard, or save to remodel the kitchen? Should we have some things replaced in the bathrooms, or should we do some painting? Does the cement need to be redone now, or can it wait a few years?

After big changes in any season of life, it's best and probably somewhat natural to look at what's around us and ask ourselves, "What should we do next?" In some ways, a big change like moving gives us a blank slate in that we can make something that's new whatever we want it to be. It can be a time that's full of possibilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic of the last three years changed the world in ways that we haven't even begun to fully grasp yet. It was a massive disruption of life routines and a loss of familiarity with so much. Although it seems like things are getting back to what was typical in our society, the pandemic has changed the way we live our lives and see the world.

The pandemic affected our church life as well. Things are different than they used to be in worship and gatherings, in our programs and structures, and in our service to the community. We have moved through a worldwide pandemic and now we are cautiously coming out on the other side. Some of the changes may seem negative and some may prove to be positive, but they're all big changes, nonetheless.

I believe that the only way we can view our current existence as a spiritual community, St. John, is to recognize that not only have we just been through a big move through the pandemic, but that we are now at the stage of asking, "What's next?" What is next for St. John? What will the coming weeks, months, and years look like for this spiritual community? Will we recognize the possibilities for our future, no matter what they may be? Will we be open to whatever God is calling us to in this new time, pre-pandemic? What's next for our life together, our worship, and our service to our community?

I'm not pretending to be unaware of the difficulties that the pandemic brought to many churches like ours, but I am having trouble not seeing the positives for St. John. We are financially stable, and we have loving, committed members. We value our music, children, and worship together, whether in person or online. We are open to new ways of serving and showing compassion to our community and those in need. We are open to change and rethinking what church means to us and others. And, we are seeing new faces who are becoming part of our community. I think that it's time that we take all of the positives we see now at St. John and start to open ourselves to what we want to be in the future.

We've moved through the pandemic together. I'm excited to see what's next.

Pastor Michael

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Planned Giving to St. John

Have you ever thought about leaving something for St. John in your will or a trust as part of your estate planning? Many of us give regularly to St. John, but we forget that we have the opportunity to continue to support St. John into the future. Many faith communities rely on gifts that are given through estate planning, so if you've never considered this for you and your family, please consider remembering St. John. Contact the office if you have any questions.

ONLINEgiv



Bible Study

Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, September 6.



Mission—Food Pantry

On behalf of the Mission Team and the Food Pantry at Lutheran Church of the Cross, I'd like to thank the Congregation for their continued, amazing support. Please read the Pantry's Summer Report in this newsletter to see how many families they serve and how grateful they are for our support. We'll have to replace our collection baskets shortly because the bottoms are growing weak from the weight of our collections. Please look for the items we're spotlighting each week in the Weekly Update, or call the office for more information. We try to get their current needs each month.

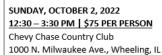
I'd also like to thank Paul Cochran, Barbara Jo Scott and Craig **Brooks** or delivering and/or volunteering at the Pantry.

Thank you all for making this program a success.

Connie Wayman, Mission Team

REGISTER TODAY FOR:

giving hope **HOME COMING** October 2



Sunday, October 2, please join us for a fundraiser luncheon benefiting FamilyForward families. Giving Hope: Home Coming will be a celebration of how we are positively impacting the lives of local low-income, working families! Together, we are bringing families home, to a place of strength through rent assistance, skills development and personal empowerment.



to learn more and register!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Reserve your spot at family-forward.org/giving-hope-2022. Feel free to proudly wear your high school or college colors!

Call Erica Chianelli for sponsorship opportunities, at 847-342-0846.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Silent auction & raffle
- · Cash bar & gourmet lunch buffet with carving station
- · Live streaming of the Bears game
- · Engaging entertainment by District 214 students
- · Family Story: Finding Hope
- · Fund the Need live auction: Raising for Rising Rents

We hope you will join us!





Bible Study Starting Again

Tuesday Morning Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, September 6 at 10:00 A.M. We read some, talk about it, laugh, and attempt to apply it to our lives. All are welcome to join! We will be meeting in person at St. John. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Michael.

Student Care Packages

Do you have a student that is attending college or a trade school? Would they like to receive a care package from St. John? If so, please send your student's address (home or school) to office@stjah.org. Care packages will be sent in late fall. Donations of food or money (for mailings) will be requested at a later date. Questions? Contact Mary Santi at maryfs2154@sbcglobal.net or 847-907-1586 (call or text).



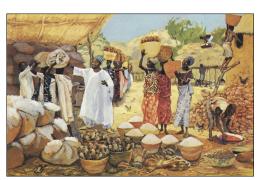
Meals on Wheels

Thank you to Craig & Karen Brooks, Judy Grimes, April & Mark Swenson, and Tim Wayman for volunteering to deliver meals for the Wheeling Township Meals on Wheels program in August.





Mary, Martha and Jesus, 21st Century – Kathleen Peterson Spring City, Utah



The Rich Fool – JESUS MAFA, Cameroon, 1973

Church Calendar

Did you know that all of St. John's events are on a calendar, which you can find on our website, www.stjah.org? Once you're on our website, click on "About St. John", and you will see Upcoming Events/Calendar. Click on that and you'll see the calendar.



Worship Service Update

The State of Illinois and CDC have dropped mask mandates. At St. John, masks are encouraged, but not required; masks are now optional.



Food Pantry

Thank you St. John for your weekly donations to our food pantry—your help is so appreciated!

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS FOOD PANTRY REPORT SUMMER 2022

2022 ACTIVITIES

For the half year of January through June, the LCC Pantry has serviced 2,405 clients and 7,223 individuals when family members are taken into account. We're recently averaging about 90-95 recipients weekly and are still operating via outside distribution (cars at the North door and walkups at the South door) and will continue this method until Fall when we hope to return inside.

Notable times during the past few months included the opportunity to provide bags of jelly beans to clients on the Tuesdays preceding Easter – made possible by a family that so generously provides them to us year after year! Then in mid-May, the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) restarted their Post Office Food Drive that had been cancelled for two years due to the pandemic. Our pantry was the beneficiary of nearly 10,000 pounds of non-perishable food items due to the hard work and coordination of the NALC and their local branch at the Arlington Post Office. We also 'thank' volunteers from the surrounding area who helped us sort and box up the food at our end so that we could use it over the coming months – it wouldn't be possible to accomplish this without everyone's assistance – so thank you, thank you again!



We are about nine months into the new client 'intake' system initiated by the Depository as the method to register clients when they visit us — most come every other week. We still have a few tweaks to make since implementing *Link2Feed* but as time passes, this process — although it's had some quirks to overcome — will be more efficient than any other

system the GCFD has had their Agencies use in the past.

On a somber note, it is with great sadness that we had to say 'good-bye' to another one of our volunteers – Roger Petty passed in late May. He and his wife Carol (who passed suddenly about 3 years ago) of Congregational United Church of Christ, A.H., walked in on a Tuesday pantry day nearly 5 years ago to check us out and offer their services – we were so lucky to have had their dedicated help week after week for 18 months – they are both missed very, very much!



Roger L Petty

We want to again thank volunteers and donators who come from LCC and area churches, organizations and individuals that help keep the LCC Pantry running every week – we are so grateful – God bless all!

Debbie Paddack, Julie Malin, Lori Becker, Co-Directors, Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry

Lutheran Church of the Cross / 2025 S. Goebbert Road / Arlington Heights IL 60005 / 847-437-5141 www.sharegodslove.org

Thank You St. John!



May 7-2022.

for Sponsors at St. John UCG

Me and my pamily are doing time here.

These past Few months, there are lote of happening in my life. First, was in March 21, 1.45 my day, my mother cooked spaghetti, chicken and we also had a birthday cake. My whole family went to the beach to alebrate there. I am every happy on that day. In april, I have lots of school works to do, because it's almost end of the chall year. It has been a great struggle with school work, but I'm sure that i can tackle them all. This month of May 2022, we have also lots of activities in our barangay (community we will have a town ament for basketball and valley ball. I joined the basketball team to have fun. Even if there are lots of happenings in the past 3 months, I didnot forget my studies. I am studying harder for my future.

thank you for supporting my studies. It has greatly helped my family. I am very thankful for what I have right now and will do my best to have better grades and to finish my Junior High and to proceed to senior High school and college.

Thank you are God bless!

Your sponsored Child,

Daryl Roy

Sponsoring Sunday Morning Flowers

Due to increased requests for flower sponsor dates, St. John will now allow more than one flower sponsor for Sundays. This is a good problem to have! The cost will still be \$40 per sponsor. Please contact the office if you would like to sponsor flowers.

Giving to St. John

Thank you for your continued financial support of St. John.

In addition to giving at Sunday worship, there are 2 ways to give to St. John:

- 1. <u>Give Online</u>: Go to <u>www.stjah.org</u> and click the "DONATE" button at the top of the page. Once on the Give page, click "DONATE." Consider signing up for recurring giving. It makes it easy and helps the church plan.
- 2. <u>Give by Mail</u>: Mail your gift to St. John UCC, 308 N. Evergreen Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.



Looking for a way to support St. John? When you shop at Amazon, please shop at Smile.Amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St. John, at no cost to you. Simply create an account on the Smile.Amazon.com site and select St. John United Church of Christ as the charitable organization.

COFFEE HOUR SIGNUPS

Please consider signing up to host Coffee Hour. A Spiritual Life Committee member can help if it's your first time. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall. Contact the office with any questions.

Contact Changes

If you have a change of address or contact information, please call the office and let us know!



Illinois Conference Women's Retreat

More than ever, kindness is desperately needed in our world today! We will explore kindness when women of all types and ages gather at the Illinois Conference Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Park Camp, starting Friday, September 30 and ending Saturday afternoon, October 1.

This 23-hour get-a-way is an opportunity to relax while engaging God's Holy Spirit as we reconnect with old friends, make new friends, and even bring along some friends. There is plenty of time to unwind, study the Bible in experiential ways, get to know one another, work on a service project tentatively planned for Project Linus, walk around the park and the labyrinth, take a nap, and shop the great selection from Global Villages. Remember, even Jesus needed to get away for a while and we do also so we can be fully present the rest of the time.

All bed linens and towels will be provided so just bring along casual clothing and shoes, personal items, flashlight, umbrella (just in case), and your Bible. If you want, bring snacks, soft drinks, etc. to share.

Check-in is on Friday, September 30 at 4:30 p.m. (supper is at 6:00). Late arrivals are okay. We're homeward bound on Saturday, October 1 around 3:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$140.00 which includes retreat materials, dinner and lodging on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Please register ASAP but no later than Friday, September 16, so everything will be ready when we arrive.

Financial assistance is available.

All participants must be fully vaccinated and boosted as we follow all Covid guidelines. If you have any questions or need more, call Carol Currier-Frighetto (815-277-6041) or Pilgrim Park (815-447-2390).

Hope to see you at the retreat!

Co-directors: Ronda Bower and Carol Currier-Frighetto

Register online: https://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com/





PADS

Thank you for supporting St. John's commitment to helping to feed the homeless this summer and for your continued participation as we transition back to the October - April winter program.

Food Pantry Donations

We're collecting food pantry donations again every Sunday during worship. The kids will pick it up from people as you pass it towards the center aisle. Thank you for supporting the food pantry.

Sunday Worship Livestream

Worship Livestream every Sunday at 10:00 A.M.

Cards

We play cards at St. John at 1:00 P.M. on the first and third Thursdays of each month. All are welcome!



Book Club

Do you enjoy reading a variety of books and then find yourself looking for someone to discuss what you have read? Our book club may be just the group you are looking for! We meet on the second Monday of the month at 2:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall.



Little Free Pantry Update





The Little Free Pantry continues to be well utilized. Demand appears strong for seasonal items: Laundry detergent, tube socks, deodorant, etc. A collection bin for these items is in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to help with maintaining the pantry, go to https://tinyurl.com/2uzc4tdf to sign up for a 2-week commitment.

Contact Jay Virchow or Jenn Borrell with questions.

Pilgrimage to the Cedars of Lebanon, 1907 – Tivadar Contrary Kosztka Hungarian National Gallery – Budapest, Hungary



Sunday Morning Prayer Requests

We will now be taking verbal prayer requests during worship. If you would rather Pastor Michael read your request, prayer request forms are available in the lobby (and below this message). Please fill out the form and give it to one of the ushers or Pastor Michael before the start of the worship service.

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WWW.stjah.org	Sunday Morni	ing Prayer Reque	st Form
Your prayer request:			
Your Name (Optional):			
Would you like the prayer request to	be read during the Prayer	s of the People today?	
		Yes	_ No
Do you want your name mentioned w	vith the prayer request?	Yes	No
If yes, please indicate how you would	like your name mentione	ed: Check One	
		friend of (Name).	
		family of (Name). [Other]	of (Namo)
		[Ottle1]	or (Ivalile).



Tree of Hope, 2013 – Julie Leuthold
This painting was auctioned to benefit the American Cancer
Association.



Good Samaritan, 1917 – Jules Pascin / Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art /Japan

St. John Pollinator Pocket—All Creatures Welcome!

We have a new garden at St. John located on the west side of the church. This 8' by 10' grass area had struggled to thrive for years. We decided to replace the grass with a garden that feeds nature! Last summer we smothered the grass with cardboard and wood mulch. The worms and soil critters did all the work over the winter and we had a composted garden ready to plant in Spring. On Wednesday June 22, after the second heat wave of the season had passed, the St. John Pollinator Garden team (Cliff Schultz, Janet Landeweer, Barbara Jo Scott, Cindy Giambarbaree, Holly Petersen and Judy Grimes) planted 100 native forb and grass seedlings. All of the plants are native to the Chicago region (except for a few zinnias to add color this growing season) and were started by seed by our team this year. The garden does not look like much this season because these small plants are spending all of their energy in establishing a long root system. We had to water the garden regularly the first month it was planted and now it only requires some watering in temperature extremes and drought periods. Next year we will see more blooms and pollinator activity and by the third year the garden will be alive with color and insect activity from early Spring through the Fall. The following is a list of the plants that are in this pollinator pocket. We hope you enjoy watching the transformation over the years.

Forbs		Grasses
Beardtongue foxglove	Black Eyed Susan	Prairie Dropseed
Bee Balm	Rattle Snake Master	Little Bluestem
Butterfly Weed	Rosin Weed	Purple Love Grass
Button Blazing Star	Royal Catchfly	
Common Ironweed	Tall Coreopsis	
Golden Alexander	Wild Blue Indigo	
Hoary Vervain	Wild Columbine	
Mountain Mint	Nodding Onion	
New England Aster	Wild Petunia	
Prairie Coreopsis	Wild Quinine	
Purple Coneflower	Showy Goldenrod	





St. John Pollinator Pocket (Continued)



Team members on the day that the garden was planted— June 22, 2022



July 31, 2022—One month later







Capital Campaign













Capital Campaign (Continued)









Thank You St. John for the Graduation Gift

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for sendingme Such a generous gift as I am so gateful for it! I will make sure to use it towards my future endeavors.

- James Kiewel

Volunteers Needed!





More than a ride. A connection.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are a good driver and enjoy spending time with seniors, then being a Connections to Care volunteer will bring you smiles and miles of satisfaction.

Our Connections to Care volunteer drivers connect with seniors and provide them with reliable transportation to their health-related appointments.

Volunteering for Connections to Care is FLEXIBLE! You set your schedule and how often you would like to drive — whether it is weekly, monthly, or quarterly. With our web-enabled software, you can go online and select the rides that fit your lifestyle. Not tech-friendly? Call us, we will work with you and your personal schedule!

"This is truly a tremendous organization. I've always been impressed with everything Connections to Care does. Very professional in its approach to everything. After close to four years, I still feel enthused and fully committed."

For more information or to volunteer:

Call 847.222.9227 info@connectionstocare.org https://connectionstocare.org



Summer Bassoon Concert & Reception

The Summer Bassoon Workshop, which is a group of Bassoon students who have been rehearsing at St. John this summer, held a free **Summer Bassoon Concert & Reception** at St. John on July 30. We are grateful for the concert and for those who came to support the young, local musicians!



Fall Fest Sunday



Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 11! On that Sunday, we'll welcome back all of our families and friends to church, we'll celebrate Confirmation Day, and we'll celebrate the First Sunday of Sunday School! After church during Coffee Hour, there will be food and fun for a celebration!



September & October Birthdays—Happy Birthday!



	September
4th	Georgia Runge
5th	Ashley Ilg
8th	Annette Rost
10th	Bob Burdick, Owen Hong, Jordan Slonke
12th	Jackson Travis
14th	Craig Mallar
15th	Erik Hanssen
16th	Evie Browning
18th	Paige Jones
20th	Darlene Vogt
25th	Pastor Michael

Do we have your birthday? If not, please call the office and let us know!

	October
4th	Faith McNaney
5th	Robert Rost
7th	Gus Tashima
12th	Anna Marie Slonke
14th	Lindsey Herazy & Brendan Kave
15th	Hannah Hong, Nancy Riley & Dave Tashima
16th	Ellen Burkhardt
17th	Mark Santi
18th	Cathy Pecora
19th	Frank Styzek
20th	Judy Kriston & Stefanie Landeweer
24th	Harris Brinson, Dorothy Esmail & Jennifer Riley
25th	David Pump, Gail Tiedel & Deborah Wittmeyer
26th	Russell Crum
27th	Lorraine Grupe & Rachel Martin
29th	Jean Frost
30th	Joel Martin
31st	Gianna Buske



September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	HAPDY LABOR DAY			1 1pm Cards	2	3
4 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Communion Worship 11am Coffee Hour	5 Labor Day Church office closed	6 10am Bible Study 7pm Spiritual Life Committee Meet- ing	7 6:45pm Chan- cel Choir Re- hearsal	8	9	10
11 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Fall Fest Sunday 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	2pm Book Club	13 10am Bible Study 7pm Council Meeting 7pm Conversations on Race	14 4pm Brownies Troop Meeting 6:45pm Chan- cel Choir Re- hearsal	15 Ipm Cards Apm Girl Scouts Meeting	16	17
18 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Communion Worship 11am Coffee Hour	19	20 10am Bible Study 7pm Stewardship Committee Meet- ing	21 6:45pm Chan- cel Choir Re- hearsal	22	23	24
25 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	26	27 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Tones Rehearsal 7pm Conversations on Race	28 6:45pm Chan- cel Choir Re- hearsal	29 4pm Girl Scouts Meeting	30	

RefugeeOne Back-to-School Supply Drive

On behalf of RefugeeOne, thank you to all who donated supplies to their back-to-school drive. They were overwhelmed by the generous response and were starting to run out of room for all of the backpacks when Jay, Abner and I dropped them off. They've already begun delivering them to very grateful and excited kids in anticipation of starting school soon!

Jenn Borrell

First photo: Backpacks donated by St John. Second photo: All donated backpacks.





October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Communion Worship 11am Coffee Hour	3	4 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Tones Rehearsal 7pm Spiritual Life Committee Meet- ing	5 6:45pm Chan- cel Choir Re- hearsal	6 1pm Cards	7 5pm Wed- ding Re- hearsal	8 2pm Wedding
9 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	2pm Book Club	11 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Tones Rehearsal 7pm Council Meeting 7pm Conversa- tions on Race	12 4pm Brownies Troop Meeting 6:45pm Chan- cel Choir Re- hearsal	13 4pm Girl Scouts Meeting	14	15 Arlington Heights Au- tumn Harvest in North School Park
16 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Communion Worship-Bell Tones Ring in Church 11am Coffee Hour 11am Coffee Hour	17	18 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Tones Rehearsal 7pm Stewardship Committee Meeting	19 6:45pm Chan- cel Choir Re- hearsal	20 Ipm Cards	21	22
23 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	24	25 10am Bible Study 6pm Bell Tones Rehearsal 7pm Conversa- tions on Race	26 6:45pm Chan- cel Choir Re- hearsal	27 4pm Girl Scouts Meeting	28	29
30 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	31 Happy Hal- loween					

Confirmation at St. John

St. John will have a confirmation class this year! If you have a child who is currently in 7th or 8th grade, please be in contact with Pastor Michael. We will soon be contacting families to set up an orientation and to work out the schedule for the year. We're looking forward to a

great year!



Eucharist Door with Lord's Prayer, Sagrada Familia Cathedral,
Barcelona, Spain
Joseph Maria Subirachs, 1927-2014 / Photo by Philip Serracino
Inglott

Contact Us

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Dr. J. Paul Cochran, Organist & Orchestra Director

Linda Styzek, Pianist & Worship Band Coordinator

Alberto Mantovano, Choir Director & Livestream Coordinator

Carin Zachar, Bell Choir Director

ST. JOHN UCC OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT



The congregation of St. John United Church of Christ rejoices that our community of faith is strengthened by diversity. We declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation, extending God's extravagant welcome to all people regardless of culture, economic status, age, sex, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, marital status, or physical/mental condition. We invite everyone to join our journey of faith and participate fully in the life of our congregation.

St. John United Church of Christ 308 N. Evergreen Avenue Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Phone: 847.255.6687

E-mail: office@stjah.org

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

Mailing Address Line 1 Mailing Address Line 2 Mailing Address Line 3 Mailing Address Line 4 Mailing Address Line 5

