Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:16-22).

It is commonly true that people like to know what is expected of them. Whether they do it or not is another matter, but in general, folks want to know what to do. What do I need to do to get a good grade in this class? What are my areas of responsibility in this job? Which chores should I do to help out around the house? What time do I need to be there for this event? With clear enough directions, most people will seek to do what helps fulfill their obligation in an effort to get a good grade, keep their job, aid their family, etc.

As St. Paul brings his first epistle to the Thessalonian church to a close, he seems to hit a series of things that the Christian ought to be doing. Rejoice, pray, give thanks, don’t quench the Spirit, listen to and test prophecies, hold on to the good, avoid the bad. It seems rather simple and straightforward: do these things, and you are doing well in the Christian life. And indeed, some people think just like that. If I do this praying, thanking, rejoicing, etc., then I have fulfilled my responsibility to God and should be good to go when that time comes.

Yet, the truth is that we are not that good at maintaining Paul’s list of Christian activity. The cancer diagnosis mutes our rejoicing. Our busy schedules lead to a less-than-stellar prayer life. The inner desire to get ahead thwarts our thanks for what we have been given by God. Our lack of interest in regular church attendance does quench the Spirit’s work in us. When the prophecies of God’s Word don’t align with our ideals, we deem that Word to be less-than-useful. Doing good and being good may be our aim, but how we define that seems fluid at times, and we’ve all dabbled in some of the fun of evil or ungodly things. If it were up to us handling these things, our only prayer for salvation would be if God graded on a curve.

As it goes with our Lutheran Christian faith, we understand that it is not up to us to appease God or earn our way into salvation. Instead, where we have failed (again and again), Jesus has forgiven and fulfilled what we could never do. Thus it is only with Christ helping us that we are able to accomplish any of what Paul is saying here, which is why he goes on to bless his readers: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24). Through the peace of Christ’s cross, we have been made holy in the sight of God. The grace of God in Christ sustains every last bit of us – spirit, soul, and body. And, through the shed blood of Jesus, we are deemed blameless in the sight of God, and our Lord keeps working on us in life until we are with him eternally.

Of course, rejoice, and pray, and give thanks to the best of your ability. But also remember that such things are not truly possible apart from the Lord’s work on you through receiving the preached Word, the Lord’s Supper, and the blessing of his Spirit. Through such means, God is making us holy and ready to inherit his glorious kingdom forever.
Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove (LSB #686, st. 1).

~ Pastor Noack

**Theology on Tap** – This summer, we will offer a couple of Theology on Tap opportunities. For those unfamiliar, Theology on Tap is a conversation on a topic facing Christians in the Church or in the world, and allows a time to informally discuss said topic in a more relaxed way. Certainly, the biblical view on such topics will be discussed, but the real conversation happens as to how we apply that Word to the situations we face. The dates for our two sessions will be **Thursdays July 13th and August 24th at 7pm**. An email regarding our topic, and the location, will come out the week before we meet. Please set aside those dates, and join us for good conversation around a table, perhaps with a Lutheran beverage (or not). Open to all.

**Fellowship Sunday** – Our next Fellowship Sunday will be held on **July 30**. There will only be one service that day at **9:00am**. Our Church Council is hosting the coffee hour afterward. Please put a reminder on your calendar, and join us as we bring both services together into one, and enjoy the company of one another around the Lord’s Table and the conversations we share afterward.

**2023 Golf Outing** – Save the date and join us for our annual golf outing on **Monday, August 7** with an afternoon shotgun start. Brochures with information on how to participate as a player, sponsor, or donor are available in the narthex or in the Church Office, or on our website [here](#). If you would like to join our golf committee and assist with planning the outing or running the outing the day of the event, please contact Charlie Erb at [che8hae@yahoo.com](mailto:che8hae@yahoo.com). Start practicing now so you have a shot against Pastor’s team! Hope to see you at the outing!

**Official Acts at Saint John’s (thru June 21):**

**Baptisms:**
- Payton Jane Domingo  June 11
- Giano Luca Grimaldi  June 11

**Weddings:**
- Anthony Corsi/Caitlin Figoski  June 2

**Funerals:**
- Elaine Parrish  June 1
- Rosemarie H. Walter  June 8
**MUSIC NOTES**

**Chorister for a Day**

The Fifth Sunday of the Month, July 30, St. John’s gathers the entire congregation for one service at 9 am. Chancel Choir forms the core of the choir that morning, with guest violinist, Kristen Johnson, joining in. Additionally, we welcome all singers to test the waters and be part of the choir for a day of celebration!

Rehearsal is at 8:15 am in the Music Room behind the organ. Vestments (robes) will not be worn that day.

Please, join us, and consider coming in September when the new season’s rehearsals begin Thursday evening, September 7 at 7:30pm.

St. John’s is a member of the Handbell Musicians of America. The organization is holding their National Seminar in Irving Texas, with several of the noted concerts being live streamed. If you love handbells, go to handbellmusicians.org to obtain the livestream links to any of the following programs. Times listed are Eastern Day Light Savings time.

**Wednesday, July 12**

2:00 PM - CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HANDBELL CHOIR
6:30 PM - CONCERT BELLS OF FORT WORTH

**Thursday, July 13**

1:45 PM - BROOKWOOD HANDBELL ENSEMBLE
6:30 PM - HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

**Friday, July 14**

2:00 PM - AUSTIN HANDBELL ENSEMBLE
9:00 PM - BELLS AT TEMPLE SQUARE

**Saturday, July 15**

2:30 PM - ALL-STAR CHOIR & DISTINCTLY TEEN

If you love what you hear and want to explore it further, a Bell Ringer Seminar is in the works for August. Watch the bulletins for the date. The Eagle Eye Ringers are seeking 2-3 additional players for the bell choir’s fall ‘23 season and you could be one of them!

Ringing a bell is quite simple; learning various techniques for ringing and reading the music takes more practice. Playing with an ensemble requires working and playing together. It also makes for lots of fun, fellowship and lets you leave “other stuff” behind for an hour every week – traditionally on Thursday evenings at 6:30. Rex Holden (St. John’s Bell Director) is the contact if you would like to give it a try. You can reach him at 631 567 8913 or email: aam2001reg@aol.com

Chancel Choir Member, Mary Eylmann is attending Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) at Valparaiso University in Indiana this summer. LSM is the nation’s premier faith-based music academy for high school students. In addition to musical instruction and many performance opportunities, LSM students form an intentional community, living together for 2-4 weeks on a Lutheran College campus. Since 1981, this unique and immersive program has guided the lives of young musicians, who credit LSM as the starting place for their future careers and vocations.

Visiting a former chorister at LSM, I saw (even envied!) the experience of liturgy, ensemble playing, choir, private and group lessons, concerts & activities – all with supportive faculty and surrounded by music making & music loving fellow students, sharing a common faith, in addition to their music.

This year, we can all take in a bit of the LSM experience as many of the events are being livestreamed. Go to the calendar at www.lsmacademy.org/2023 to find links to the various programs. Please also pray for Mary as she travels and participates in what, for many, has been an enriching, even life-changing, experience.
Thank you, Scouts!
Fifteen members of Boy Scout Troop #184 along with some of their parents muscled their way through the weeds, ivy, overgrown bushes, and trees on the south side of St. John’s 55 Greene Avenue property on Saturday, June 24.
The crew was organized and led by St. John’s member and Boy Scout, Kieran Lundquist as a project in partial fulfillment of the requirements for his Star Rank in the Boy Scouts.
Thank you to Kieran, Troop 184 and the family members that enabled this labor of love & work. The project improved the appearance of the grounds, disposed of the debris, and helped build character, leadership skills and volunteerism among the youth in our community. Well done, Gentlemen!

SAVE THE DATE...Our Annual Treasure & Tag Sale will be held on Saturday August 5th from 9am. to 1pm in our gym. Please come down and find a “treasure.” If you have some treasures to donate, please bring them to the gym anytime from July 30th on. Check with the office to make sure the building is open. Remember, nothing will be accepted before July 30. We will not accept any furniture, clothing, books, cassettes or VCR tapes. However, we would be willing to post a notice about anything you would like to sell. Just give us a card with the information along with your name and telephone number. If you have a picture of the item, you might want to include it. All proceeds will be going towards supporting the missions of the Mary Martha Guild here at St. John’s, as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary. Hope you will help make this sale a success. See Honey Pabst for more information. We are also in need of help with the event for setup, working during the sale, and cleanup and transportation of remaining items to local charities. Please sign up online if you are able and willing to assist (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A45A4AB2BA1FC1-tagsale) or call the Church Office.
July 2023

1 Joshua 6:6-27; Acts 10:18-33
Sun 2 Joshua 7:1-26; Acts 10:34-48
3 Joshua 8:1-28; Acts 11:1-18
5 Joshua 23:1-16; Acts 13:1-12
6 Joshua 24:1-31; Acts 10:18-33
7 Judges 2:6-23; Acts 13:13-41
8 Judges 3:7-31; Acts 13:42-52
Sun 9 Judges 4:1-24; Acts 14:1-18
11 Judges 6:25-40; Acts 15:6-21
12 Judges 7:1-23; Galatians 1:1-24
13 Judges 13:1-25; Galatians 2:1-21
14 Judges 14:1-20; Galatians 3:1-22
15 Judges 15:1-16:3; Galatians 3:23-4:11
Sun 16 Judges 16:4-30; Galatians 4:12-31
17 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 5:1-26
18 1 Samuel 1:21-2:17; Galatians 6:1-18
19 1 Samuel 2:18-36; Acts 15:22-41
20 1 Samuel 3:1-21; Acts 16:1-22
21 1 Samuel 4:1-22; Acts 16:23-40
Sun 23 1 Samuel 6:19-7:17; Acts 19:1-22
24 1 Samuel 8:1-22; Acts 21:15-36
26 1 Samuel 10:1-27; Acts 22:17-29
27 1 Samuel 12:1-25; Acts 22:30-23:11
28 1 Samuel 13:1-18; Acts 23:12-35
29 1 Samuel 14:47-15:9; Acts 24:1-12
Sun 30 1 Samuel 15:10-35; Acts 24:24-25:12

August 2023

1 1 Samuel 17:1-19; Acts 26:1-23
2 1 Samuel 17:20-47; Acts 26:24-27:8
3 1 Samuel 17:48-18:9; Acts 27:9-26
4 1 Samuel 18:10-30; Acts 27:27-44
Sun 6 1 Samuel 20:1-23; Acts 28:16-31
7 1 Samuel 20:24-42; 1 Corinthians 1:1-25
8 1 Samuel 24:1-22; 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:16
9 1 Samuel 25:1-22; 1 Corinthians 3:1-23
10 1 Samuel 25:23-44; 1 Corinthians 4:1-21
11 1 Samuel 26:1-25; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13
12 1 Samuel 28:3-25; 1 Corinthians 6:1-20
Sun 13 1 Samuel 31:1-13; 1 Corinthians 7:1-24
14 2 Samuel 1:1-27; 1 Corinthians 7:25-40
15 2 Samuel 5:1-25; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
16 2 Samuel 6:1-19; 1 Corinthians 9:1-23
17 2 Samuel 7:1-17; 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:22
18 2 Samuel 7:18-29; 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:16
19 2 Samuel 11:1-27; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
Sun 20 2 Samuel 12:1-25; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13
21 1 Kings 1:1-4, 15:35; 1 Corinthians 12:14-31
22 1 Kings 2:1-27; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
23 1 Kings 3:1-15; 2 Corinthians 1:1-22
24 1 Kings 5:1-18; 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:17
25 1 Kings 7:51-8:21; 2 Corinthians 3:1-18
26 1 Kings 8:22-30, 46-63; 2 Corinthians 4:1-18
Sun 27 1 Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-13; 2 Corinthians 5:1-21
28 1 Kings 11:1-26; 2 Corinthians 6:1-18
29 1 Kings 11:42-12:19; 2 Corinthians 7:1-16
30 1 Kings 12:20-13:5, 33-34; 2 Corinthians 8:1-24
31 1 Kings 16:29-17:24; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>5th Sunday after Pentecost: 7:45am Divine Service, 9:30am Divine Service</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6:30pm Basketball</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6:30pm Basketball, 7:00pm Judo, 7:00pm Women’s 12 Step</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12:30pm NA</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>6th Sunday after Pentecost: 7:45am Divine Service, 8:30am Bible, 9:30am Divine Service</td>
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<td>6:30pm Basketball</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6:30pm Basketball, 6:30pm Basketball, 7:00pm Judo, 7:00pm Women’s 12 Step</td>
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<td>12:30pm NA, 6:30pm Basketball</td>
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<td>6:30pm Basketball</td>
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<td>8th Sunday after Pentecost: 7:45am Divine Service, 8:30am Bible, 9:30am Divine Service</td>
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<td>9th Sunday after Pentecost: 9:00am Divine Service</td>
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<td>6:30pm Basketball</td>
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<td>8:30am Treasure/Tag Sale</td>
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<td>7:00pm Judo</td>
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<td>1:00pm Treasure/Tag Sale Clean up/delivery</td>
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<td>7:00pm Women's 12 Step</td>
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<td>10th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
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<td>11th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
<td>7:00pm Judo</td>
<td>7:00pm Judo</td>
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<td>7:00pm Judo</td>
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<td>7:00pm Theology on Tap</td>
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<td>7:45am Divine Service</td>
<td>7:00pm Women's 12 Step</td>
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<td>13th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
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Secretary 1 6/28/2023 3:51 PM
# July Divine Service Assistant Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 2</th>
<th>Sunday 7:45am</th>
<th>Sunday 9:30am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communion Stewards</td>
<td>Bill Audia</td>
<td>Leo Rigaud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Charlie Erb</td>
<td>Jane Emmel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Jim Farrell</td>
<td>Kristin Noack</td>
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<th>July 9</th>
<th>Sunday 7:45am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communion Stewards</td>
<td>Robert Bayley</td>
<td>Al Coppola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Christine &amp; Brian Kirschenheiter</td>
<td>Judy &amp; Chuck Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Christine Kirschenheiter</td>
<td>Annie Habeeb</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communion Stewards</td>
<td>Greg Calvano</td>
<td>Paul Erath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Andy &amp; Patricia Harris</td>
<td>Pam &amp; Lloyd Arrasate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Jim Farrell</td>
<td>Elaine Whitehouse</td>
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<th>July 23</th>
<th>Sunday 7:45am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communion Stewards</td>
<td>Charlie Erb</td>
<td>Al Coppola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Steve Lindfors &amp; Dianne McPartland</td>
<td>Kevin Paul Barbara Dahlgren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Pastor Noack</td>
<td>Al Coppola</td>
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<tr>
<th>July 30</th>
<th>Sunday 9:00am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communion Stewards</td>
<td>Leo Rigaud &amp; Greg Calvano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Pam &amp; Lloyd Arrasate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Paul Erath</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are unable to serve where assigned, please find someone you can switch with or someone who can take your place. Please let the Church Office know of any changes you make. Thank you.

**Scripture References:**

- **July 2:** Jeremiah 28:5-9; Romans 7:1-13  
  - **July 9:** Zechariah 9:9-12; Romans 7:14-25a  
  - **July 16:** Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:12-17  
  - **July 23:** Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:18-27  
  - **July 30:** Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Matthew 13:44-52

- **August 6:** Isaiah 55:1-5; Romans 9:1-5  
  - **August 13:** Job 38:4-18; Romans 10:5-17  
  - **August 20:** Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32  
  - **August 27:** Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 11:33-12:8
Saint John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
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E-mail: pastor@stjohnsayville.org

Cindy Holden, Director of Music
E-mail: music@stjohnsayville.org

Darelle Gil, Office Administrator
E-mail: secretary@stjohnsayville.org

Carolyn Holtz, Bookkeeper
E-mail: bookkeeper@stjohnsayville.org

Saint John’s Divine Service Schedule
Sunday 7:45am & 9:30am

Church Office Hours:
Monday & Tuesday – 8:30am-12:30pm; Wednesday 12:30pm-4:30pm; Thursday & Friday, 8:30am-12:30pm

Bookkeeper Hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-3pm

MISSION STATEMENT
The family of Saint John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church is called, gathered and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament to confess and proclaim the gospel and love of Jesus Christ to our congregation, community and world.

A Congregation of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Good News is published by the church office of Saint John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church to keep its members and friends informed of church news and activities. Newsletter deadline for the September 2023 issue will be August 15th.