

Announcements November 10, 2024

Worship and Bible Study will be as follows:

Contemporary Worship “The Well” – 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study/Sunday School – 9:45a.m.

Traditional Service – 10:30 a.m.

Offering Plates are located in the back of the church on the tables and as you come forward for communion during the 8:30am service and passed during the 10:30am service.

Thanksgiving Eve Service & Soup Supper

Join us on for our annual Thanksgiving Eve soup supper and service. Please sign up to bring soup or dessert for **Wednesday, November 27**. Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Dinner will begin at 5:30pm and service starts at 7:00pm.

Attendance Pads

Beginning today in the 2nd service, the ushers will be distributing out the Pew Pads during the children’s message. We are asking that you please fill them out during this time. The ushers will then collect them during the sermon hymn.

Barbecue “Thanks Be To God” Potluck

It’s time to celebrate! We will be celebrating our commitment to share our time and talents here at St. John’s. Please come to celebrate with us on **Sunday, November 24, 2024, after our late service**. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or you can email Kathleen Sawicki (kathleen@kb-promotions.net) or Teresa Witner (tlfwitner@yahoo.com) to say you are coming and what you are bringing. See you there!

Youth Group News

There have been 9 youth and 4 adults who have committed to going to the LCMS Youth Gathering in July 2025. The registration forms and fees will be sent in on November 1. The congregation has been very generous since we have ramped up our fundraising efforts since August and we are VERY thankful! **We have raised \$7,890 to add to our initial funds and have reached a total of \$22,400 of our \$25,000 goal!** The youth group has more activities planned over the next few months, but we cannot thank you enough for your support to this point!

Upcoming fundraiser

The youth group will be working with Deanna Thompson in November on a **Christmas photo shoot**. We will have slots available for individuals/families to sign up for a 25-minute mini session with a Christmas background for \$150. Currently, we are planning on dates of **November 23, 30 and, potentially, December 7**. There will be limited spaces available on each day. We are working on additional details and will have more information available in the next few weeks but consider getting your Christmas pictures done professionally and supporting the youth group at the same time! Contact Sarah Strahm with questions.

Blankets for Avery County

After speaking with Samaritans Purse, it was suggested that our area continue to collect items needed for Western North Carolina **instead of Operation Christmas Child Boxes** this year. For the month of November, we are collecting **NEW blankets and comforters** for our neighbors in Avery County. Currently, they are NOT collecting used items. There is a collection box in the school foyer. Many of our neighbors still have no power and some are living in tents as the cold weather approaches. Thanks for your support!

Fulfilling God's Purpose

In the first week of our program, the Bible Study focus was "Building Relationships". We discussed how relationships could be like an onion, building in contact and understanding with each layer. The basis for Relationships is "one on one" contact and discussion, building in understanding and Caring at each level. In Relationships it often "... *takes one to reach one*"; this idea is similar to our mission statement, "**To help one more person get to heaven by pointing them to Jesus Christ.**"

This week, Sunday, November 10th, is the second week of our program, '**Fulfilling God's Purpose!**'

Both Pastors' sermon of that day and our Bible study focus will be "Witnessing for Jesus." All are welcome at worship and 'Bible study' this coming Sunday.

Members will also receive "Stewardship Commitment Cards", at our services. We ask each member to take the Commitment form home with them, to prayerfully consider how and what 'your commitment' will look like during the coming "New Year".

God's plan for his people has always been that we take responsibility for sharing the Gospel. Paul tells us, "*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors as though God were making his appeal through us*" (2 Corinthians 5:20). Knowing that God "*wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth*" (1 Timothy 2:4), we have a great privilege and responsibility as Christ's ambassadors. With the Holy Spirit working in and through us, we can faithfully and boldly proclaim the Gospel to those around us.

Through Jesus, we know the Father. Through Jesus, the Father has come to us. Through Jesus, we have life everlasting in Heaven. This is the Good News that we as Witnesses will want to share. The apostle Paul wrote, "*I can do everything through him who gives me strength*" (Philippians 4:13).

With this mailing we also wish to tell you about our upcoming "Barbecue potluck Sunday", to take place in the Fellowship Hall on "Commitment Sunday", November 24th, following the late service. Sign-up sheets are being posted, BBQ and slaw provided, we are asking members to bring sides of their choice to share and help us celebrate.

Prayer: Dear Lord, grant us passion and boldness to be the effective witnesses you want us to be. Place in us compassion for others. Help others see your love within us. We pray that you will bless our program ***Fulfilling God's Purpose!*** In your precious name we pray. **Amen**

The focus of our study is as follows:

- Sunday, November 10th, - "Witnessing for Jesus"
- Sunday, November 17th, - "Living as a Servant"
- Sunday, November 24th, - "Giving Joyfully and Generously"
(Nov. 24th is also Commitment Sunday)

"Therefore my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Camp Linn Haven Relief donation update!

Thank you so much for the generous support of Camp Linn Haven and the people of Avery County. A **total of \$3350** was collected for the cleanup and rebuilding of our beloved camp. Although we are not collecting money here at St Johns for camp, you can still Venmo or send a check to CLH, PO Box 1096, Conover, NC 28613 if you so wish.

Small Group Bible Study

If you are interested in joining a small group Bible study, sign up on the sheet as you leave church or on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. Or you can contact Dot Anderson at dea821@twc.com. This is a great opportunity to study God's word and make new friends.

Bake Sale

Baked goods will be available on Sunday mornings between services for \$1. These funds will go directly to the LCMS Youth Gathering fund.

Stewardship Corner:

Flowers Will Always Bloom

Today I saw the peonies blooming at the home of Guy Ward. Every spring he brought the first peony blossoms to decorate our church sanctuary and continued until the last bloom faded.

Guy was chair of our Trustee Board when we voted to install an elevator in our small church in our retirement village. By the time of installation, he had fulfilled his term with the trustees although of course, he was faithfully serving on another board.

Because of his deep commitment to the Lord and his knowledge and interest in the elevator project, he made it his business to be at the site every work day. He was available to answer questions, befriend and witness to the workers and kept the coffee pot on for them at all times. It was a physically demanding endeavor for this retired Marine colonel and we had no idea how difficult it was becoming for him and how tired he really was. He was happy to be at the dedication of the new elevator, but last spring before the peonies bloomed, he passed away after suffering a massive heart attack from a serious congenital heart condition that had been unknown and debilitating for years.

We now enjoy that much needed elevator and Guy's wife Pat, promises that we will have his peonies at church again this spring.

St. John's online calendar

You are now able to access the happenings at St. John's via an online calendar. All events taking place at the church and some of the school events will be published on this calendar. You will be able to copy these events to your calendar. To access the calendar please go to our website or our app and click on the "News" button. <https://stjohnsws.com/news/> if you see any errors please contact the church office.

Contacting Pastor Tyson

If you need to reach Pastor Tyson, you may text him at #703-459-0518 or send him an email at Tlabuhn@stjohnsws.org. He will respond as soon as he is able. **Please refrain from contacting Pastor Tyson on Thursdays, this is his day off.** In the event of an emergency please contact your Elder first.

Event and Activity Form

If you or your group are interested in hosting an activity or an event on the campus of the church or school, please fill out an event/activity form, so that it can be approved to put on the church calendar. Please check the online calendar and with Kerstin to see if dates/rooms are available. Requests need to be made 30 days in advance. Events/ Forms are available in the church office, or you may email the church. churchsecretary@stjohnsws.org

Confirmation Class - Today

Confirmation Class will be on **today at 12:15pm.**

Nursery open for Traditional Service

Our nursery is now open for **infants to 3-year-olds** at the 10:30am service. It will be held in the 2-year-old classroom, **Room 108**. Parents or grandparents can bring their children or grandchildren to **Room 108 beginning at 10:15** and pick them up after the service.

Gluten Free Wafers

Are available upon request for communion.

Announcements

As a reminder, please submit your information to the church office by **noon on Wednesdays**. All requests need to come through the church office. Please refrain from last minute announcements on Sunday morning. Announcements will be read prior to the beginning of each service.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Class

Ladies Bible Study is back! We meet each Tuesday morning at 10:30, for approximately an hour, in Room 102. We are currently studying some of the Minor prophets - Amos, Obadiah, Micah, and Zephaniah. All ladies are welcome. **We will take a break for Thanksgiving so will not meet on November 26.** If you have questions, please email Sue Brake at sue.e.marks@gmail.com or call her at 908-447-4628.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

For November and December, we meet on the **SECOND SUNDAY**. Our November get-together will be at the home of **Charla Anderson at 140 Robert Street, Lexington, NC 27292** (phone 336-807-4877) on **Sunday, November 10 from 2 to 4 pm**. Everyone is welcome to join this wonderful caring ministry. Any questions please contact Cherry Horn (910) 617-8122), Ann Carney (336-602-1232), or Claudia Essbach (336-293-6380).

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Cyndie & Rod Anderson honoring Lola's 10th birthday.

Worship Assistants: **8:30am** – Bob Burke, Bill Thorpe; **10:30am** – Steve Anderson, Dale Mierisch

Lector: **8:30am** – Claudia Essbach; **10:30am** – Cheryl Wulfert

Altar Guild for November: Sarah Strahm, Meg Lorenz

Crisis Control Item for November: **Baking Items** (Sugar, Flour, baking soda, baking mixes, pumpkin pie spice, vanilla, cinnamon, etc.) Please place in the basket in the back of the church. **61 lbs. was collected for October. Thank you for your donations!**

Board of Directors Meetings

Board of Directors meetings are held monthly, on the second Tuesday of each month. Congregational members are invited to attend. If you have an agenda item that you would like to bring to the board, please send that item to Mark Meier at least two weeks in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting – November 12, 2024

2nd Tuesday of the Month – 7:30pm

Board of Elders Meeting

3rd Tuesday of the month – 7:30pm – 9:00pm

November Birthdays

11-10 Arden Lackey
11-10 Helen Bredenberg
11-12 Cheryl Wulfert
11-12 Tyler Tibbits
11-13 Alice Mierisch
11-14 Sam Drouillard
11-15 Peter Bahuk
11-15 Debbie Baronowski
11-16 Madison Lynch
11-17 George Clever
11-17 Samantha Plyler
11-20 Gary Brake
11-20 Jordan Michel

11-20 Scott Banks
11-22 Gail Finau
11-23 Wes Walker
11-27 Stephanie Black

November Anniversaries

11-14 Andy and Debbie Sayles, 43 years
11-18 Dave and Donna Gronewoller, 35 years
11-20 Brooke and Alex Stone, 3 years

November Ushers for 10:30am service

Gregg Vogelsmeier
Bruce Sawicki
Holly Wilson
Avery Burch