

The Eagle

November 2023

A Publication of St. John's Lutheran Church in Albany, NY

*I give
thanks!*



From the Pastor

Sharing Gratitudes

As Thanksgiving approaches, November is a month of gratitude. In that spirit, I share the following notes of thanks from two of our local partners in ministry.

From the Albany Maritime Ministry

With gratitude to the estate of Harvey and Caroline Turner, St. John's was able to make five generous gifts as a part of a tithe from their bequest to our congregation, including the Albany Maritime Ministry.

Dear Friends at St. John's,

We cannot thank you enough for remembering Albany Maritime Ministry through the generous bequest that you received. It will be used wisely as we adapt to the Port becoming much more active in the future. We have several projects that would take advantage of some of the money and will help us with supplies for our visiting seafarers. Your generosity is a great blessing that will help us to better "welcome the stranger" in our city.

*Sincerely,
Diane Kingston
Secretary, Albany Maritime Ministry*

From the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless

In September, as a part of our 'God's Work, Our Hands' Sunday all-church service project, St. John's assembled 100 winter care kits for our siblings experiencing homelessness as the colder months set in. With thanks to Karen Bielinski for the connection and transporting the completed kits, we donated the finished products to the [Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless in Albany](#).

Thanks again to St. John's Lutheran Church for your kind donation of bags with toiletries, socks, etc. to Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless 😊. On behalf of our clients, we appreciate your thoughtfulness. They will be put to good use.

*Warm regards,
Anisha Baker,
on behalf of Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless*

✚ ✚ ✚

Thanks be to God for the generosity of the saints of St. John's!

With gratitude, always,
Josh +



GIVE THANKS

thank you

Our special thanks to...

- all who donated items for the Emergency Homeless Overflow Shelter during the September-October Albany Lutheran Cluster donation appeal.
- Karen Bielinski and Lindsay Stannard for sharing their generosity stories as a part of this year's "A Future with Hope" appeal and all who set their giving intentions for St. John's for 2024.

Text us!

In order to better help our staff work remotely, we have recently updated our phone system. Now, you can text the church number (518.465.7545). Texts are sent to Maggie's computer and Pastor Josh's phone so we can easily respond. Additionally, any voicemails are now automatically forward to our email, so you don't have to wait for us to be in the office to get your message.



In Our Prayers

For whom or what shall we pray?

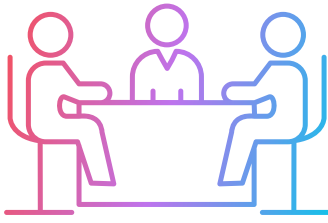
- Prayers of healing for Ruth Klee who is recovering at home after a recent fall
- Prayers of healing for Henrietta Larsen who was hospitalized over the summer
- Prayers of healing for Peg Rendert who is recovering from a broken ankle
- For the victims of gun violence, including those in Lewiston, Maine
- For those impacted by Hurricane Otis in Mexico and all places experiencing severe weather
- For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
- For a justice-seeking peace in Palestine and Israel and a resolution that extends human rights to all

Prayer requests are published in *The Eagle* so that the whole community can hold one another in prayer and support. Submit a prayer request [online](#) or [contact Pastor Josh Evans](#).

Blessing of the Animals • October 8, 2023



Council Corner



St. John's congregation council called a special congregation meeting on Sunday, October 15:

- Following two council motions, the congregation voted to approve our updated Reconciling in Christ (RIC) welcome statement and to initiate the process of moving forward with the construction of a new church building to be located on cemetery grounds.

St. John's congregation council also met on Tuesday, October 17 for its regular monthly meeting:

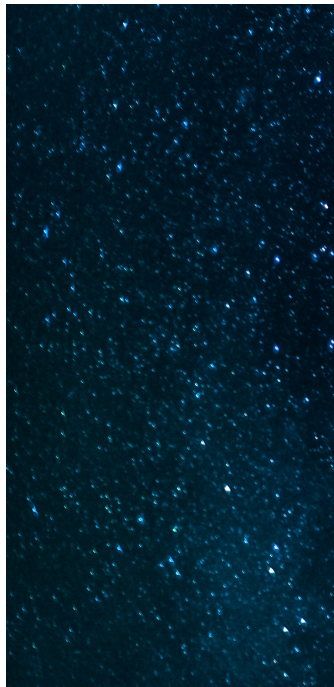
- Following an affirmative vote by the congregation, Dan Foster gave the council an overview of the new building project and next steps.
- The budget team will create an updated template for the FY2024 budget.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 6:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

Albany Lutherans Together

The ELCA congregations of Albany – First, Good Shepherd, Holy Spirit, and St. John's – invite you to a contemplative liturgy of compline (night prayer) for Advent, a season of hopeful waiting and watching before the celebration of Christmas.

Join us on **Wednesdays (December 6, 13, and 20) at 8:00 p.m. on [Zoom](#)**. The liturgy will also be recorded and shared the following evening.



ALBANY LUTHERANS TOGETHER
Compline *for* Advent
Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

a collaboration of
FIRST
+
GOOD SHEPHERD
+
HOLY SPIRIT
+
ST. JOHN'S

Upcoming Fall & Winter Dates

November 5
Worship Assistant Training
with Pastor Josh

November 19
Regular Sunday School

Saturday, December 9
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Advent Fest
(details coming soon!)

December 10
Christmas Cookie Decorating
(service project for shelter meal)

December 17
Sunday School Christmas Program
(during worship)



Sunday School

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Kids of all ages are invited to join us for Sunday School immediately following the liturgy. Contact Paige Pierle, Sunday School teacher, at sundayschool@stjohnsalbany.org with any questions.

First Lutheran Book Club

Tuesday, November 14 • 7 PM

Our ministry partners at First Lutheran in Albany invite us to their monthly book club that meets on Zoom.

November's book is [Practice the Pause: Jesus' Contemplative Practice, New Brain Science, and What It Means to Be Fully Human](#) by Caroline Oakes. Join us to read and discuss!

We're on the Book Club shelf at [The Book House](#) at Stuyvesant Plaza! Get your copy there for 20% off.

Join online: firstlutheranalbany.org/zoom





For All the Saints

We remember with gratitude the saints of St. John's – our members and other loved ones – who have died since our last All Saints observance in 2022, including:

**Rose Boyce † Dave Fake † Gerald Morosky
Tommy Rennie † Allen Roeser † Harvey Turner
Warren Truland**

**All of us go down to the dust,
yet even at the grave we make our song:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 12 + 9:30 a.m.

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 19 + 9:30 a.m.

*All worship services
are held in person at
St. John's (303 Sand
Creek Road, Albany)
or on [YouTube](#).*



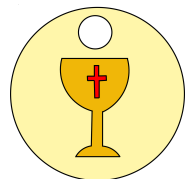
Christ the King Sunday

November 26 + 9:30 a.m.

As the church year draws to a close and we look ahead to Advent and Christmas, we pause to remember Christ who is “king” – but not so much in the ways we might think. Christ is the one we serve when we minister to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged, dwelling in the “least of these.” Christ reigns not from a throne, but from the cross, in solidarity with the poor, lonely, oppressed, and marginalized.

A Word on Communion

At St. John's, we practice **eucharistic hospitality**, extending Christ's table to all. In that spirit, we seek to accommodate a variety of needs. **Every Sunday, you are invited to commune with real bread, a wheat wafer, or an individually packaged gluten-free wafer, as well as wine from the drinking chalice or wine (red) or grape juice (white) from individual pre-poured cups.** Please commune in whatever way best suits you. *Christ is present in it all!*





Advent & Christmas at St. John's

First Sunday of Advent

December 3 + 9:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10 + 9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17 + 9:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24 + 9:30 a.m.

Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)

December 24 + 7:00 p.m.

There will be **no liturgy on December 25 (Christmas Day) or Sunday, December 31** in order to give our staff and worship leaders a well-deserved holiday sabbath. Alternate worship opportunities will be advertised as they are known. Additionally, **the church office will be closed December 25 – January 1** for the holidays.

Christmas at Sea

This Christmas, many of us will be surrounded by family and friends, at home and in church. At the same time, Christmas for most seafarers will be in the middle of the ocean with neither family nor friends, home nor church. As a part of Albany Maritime Ministry's "Christmas at Sea" program, we're seeking your help to gather a few items to be gift wrapped and given to port volunteers to distribute to seafarers this holiday season. Even though crews are confined to their ships, we can deliver some Christmas joy to them.



How can you help? Collect a few items, place them in a shoebox, and gift wrap it. *Suggestions include: knit cap, gloves, socks, writing paper, envelopes, comb or brush, book, ear buds, toiletries (razor, shaving cream, shampoo, shower gel), and new and gently used DVDs. No candy or other food, please.*

**Both wrapped gift boxes and empty shoeboxes (for later packing)
may be left in the church kitchen.**

News & Announcements



Emergency Homeless Overflow Shelter Dinners

As the overflow shelter, housed at First Lutheran, re-opens for the season, St. John's has several opportunities to prepare a meal for the shelter guests. **Our first assigned date is Tuesday, December 12, and we will be decorating Christmas cookies after worship on December 10 and encourage folks – especially Sunday School kids and families – to stick around and help!** A typical dinner also consists of a main entrée (casseroles are a great choice), a starch, and a vegetable or salad. If you'd like to help prepare the meal, please contact Karen Bielinski at 518.463.6224 or kbielins@nycap.rr.com.



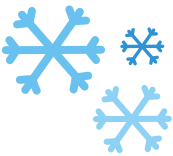
Christmas Adopt-a-Child

The Outreach Center at Sacred Heart Church in North Albany will again distribute gift cards to families in need this holiday season. **The Center has requested \$25 gift cards for either Target or Walmart**, so that parents are able purchase their own gifts for their children, as well as other household necessities. **Purchase gift cards yourself and drop them off in the church office. Monetary donations are also welcome so we can purchase gift cards on behalf of the congregation. All donations must be received by December 11.** Thank you for your generosity this holiday season!



Christmas Memorials

The church office is now accepting Christmas memorials which will be used to purchase poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary. Email your memorials to parishsec@stjohnsalbany.org or call the church office by December 17.



Closings

The safety of our community members is our priority. In the event of inclement weather that requires the cancellation of a liturgy or other church event, we will follow the lead of our local school districts and share any closure information with local radio and TV stations, including WGNA, WNYT TV, WRGB TV, WXXA TV, WIEN TV, 810 WGY, FLY 92, and B95.5 WRVE. Information will also be posted on stjohnsalbany.org and [our Facebook page](#), as well on our phone recording.



2024 Calendars (Still) Wanted

We are collecting 2024 calendars for clients of [Rehabilitation Support Services](#), who use them to track appointments, medication, etc. A collection box is located on the cart near the kitchen.


Serving This Month – November 2023

Please [contact Parish Secretary Maggie Anderson](#) if you can fill one of the *Available* slots.

Thank you for serving!

Role	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26
Altar Guild <i>(set-up & clean-up)</i>	Paula Schwab	Paula Schwab	Linda Davis	Diane & Kelly Conley
Changing Paraments & Laundering Linens	Paula Schwab			
Assisting Minister	Paula Schwab	Lindsay Stannard	Paula Schwab	Karen Bielinski
Reader	Thaisa Beach	Avery Heaney	Melissa Savage	<i>Available</i>
Communion Assistant(s)	Paula Schwab & <i>Available</i>	Lindsay Stannard & <i>Available</i>	Paula Schwab & <i>Available</i>	Karen Bielinski & Melissa Savage
Ushers	Freddy Boyzer & Kelly Conley			
Opener / Closer	Maggie Anderson / Maggie Anderson	Maggie Anderson / Maggie Anderson	Maggie Anderson / Karen Bielinski	Maggie Anderson / Maggie Anderson
Coffee Hour Host(s)	Maggie Anderson	Maggie Anderson	Maggie Anderson & Linda Davis	Maggie Anderson, Ruth Klee, & Barbara Ableman

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Sunday of the Reformation 10:30AM Coffee Hour 10:30AM Fall Sunday School 	30 Pastor's Day Off	31	1
5 Daylight Saving Time ends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM All Saints Sunday 10:30AM Coffee Hour 10:30AM Sunday School: Worship Assistant Training 	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 Election Day - #ELCAvotes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00PM Food & Faith - Cornerstone Campus Ministry 	8
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM 24th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30AM Coffee Hour 	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM First Lutheran Book Club: Practice the Pause 	15
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM 25th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30AM Coffee Hour 10:30AM Fall Sunday School 	20 Eagle Deadline Pastor's Day Off	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00PM Congregation Council Meeting 	22
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Christ the King Sunday 10:30AM Coffee Hour 	27 Pastor's Day Off	28	29

Eagle Deadline

Submissions for the November edition of *The Eagle* are due by **Monday, November 20**, and may be sent to Parish Secretary Maggie Anderson at parishsec@stjohnsalbany.org.

St. John's Month at a Glance

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal	3	4  Don't forget to <i>fall back</i> one hour tonight!
9 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal	10	11
16 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal	17	18
23 Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed 	24	25
30	1	2 

Follow us on Facebook



facebook.com/stjohnsalbany

or visit us online



stjohnsalbany.org

for the most up-to-date calendar of events

Office Coverage

Monday & Friday
Maggie Anderson

Tuesday-Thursday
Pastor Josh Evans

Please call ahead before stopping by to ensure someone is in the office.



St. John's

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PO Box 5085

Albany, New York 12205

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission

We worship God, serve faithfully, and reach out.



We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Trusting in the extravagant grace of God that sets us free,
we affirm the sacred worth and dignity of our siblings in Christ
– of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions,
racial and ethnic identities, ages, abilities, and socio-economic statuses.

We confess the church's complicity in systems that harm God's people,
including homophobia and transphobia, sexism,
racism and white supremacy, and ableism.

Together, as a community of Jesus followers, rooted in grace,
we commit ourselves to the work of racial equity and anti-racism
and to confronting and dismantling all systems of injustice and oppression
in all we do and say.

Church Staff

The Rev. Josh Evans

Pastor

pastorjosh@stjohnsalbany.org

Dan Foster

Director of Music

danfoster@stjohnsalbany.org

Maggie Anderson

Parish Secretary

parishsec@stjohnsalbany.org