

ST. JOHN LIFE Together

THE FEAST OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

ADORING

The Prayer of the Church

Persecuted Christians in:

Central African Republic, Cuba, Niger, Turkmenistan

Partner Church:

Lutheran Church of Venezuela

Anniversary of marriage:

Barbara and Tom Predki (29 years)

Birthday:

Marilyn Graham (70 years)

Marianne King (70 years)

Nicole Willmann

Baptism:

Cecilia Reese Duddy

(daughter of Emily and Sean Duddy)

Comfort, health, recovery:

Kersha (coworker of Derek Baars)

Patrick (friend of Derek Baars)

Sheri

Sam Bempah (friend of Martha and Dave Schlesselman)

Ian Brown

Sandra Crowe

Christine Edwards (sister of Marianne King)

Lois Hall (grandmother of Emily Varghese)

Lisa Hufford (friend of Shannon and Kevin Halverson)

Lindsey Johnston

(daughter-in-law of Judy and Jack O'Neill)

Joan Geyer Kaliher

Anelina Kamke (grandmother of Mylena Boasquives)

Mike Keehan (friend of Jonathan Phelps)

Melony Land (grand-niece of Bruce Riemann)

Mike Latimer (step-father of Samantha Crowe)

Kathleen Mitchell (sister of Bruce Riemann)

Robert Musa

Mary Ellen Orton

Belinda Sorbucki (friend of Bruce Riemann)

Blessed death:

Barbara Hartfiel (mother of Lisa Smith)

Frank Vondrasek (brother-in-law of Gerald Wehrs)

Peace and comfort for the family and friends of:

Duane DeWeerd (grandfather of Rachel Howland)

Evelyn Donisch (mother of Bob Donisch)

Arlene Siefer (sister of John Crowe)

Those who need our ongoing prayers:

Amy (niece of Donna Festner-Lecky)

Sharon Becker (sister-in-law of Byron Heidorn)

Joan Buchar (aunt of Gretchen Scheel)

David Crawford

Richard Flashing (husband of Marge Flashing)

Tammy Grubbs (friend of Sandy and John Crowe)

Adam Guzik (uncle of Krystine Glaser)

Chrystel Hohmann (sister of Lisa Hohmann)

Ingrid Lewis (cousin of Rachel Schuette)

The Rev. Ronald Meier (brother of Jeanette Marti)

Amy Rushkewicz (sister-in-law of Peter Sovitzky)

Linda Shaw

Roberta Smith

Brynn Tysdal (friend of the Holmen family)

Tracy Zasadny (friend of Marianne and Steve King)

Please submit your prayer requests to the website: www.stjohnwheaton.org/prayer-request

ADORING

Baptism

We rejoice in the new birth given in Baptism to:

- **Cecilia Reese**, daughter of **Emily and Sean Duddy**. Sponsor is Andrea Perry. Cecilia was born April 17, 2025.

MATURING

SUNDAYS

Sunday School Registration

- **Place:** www.stjohnwheaton.org
- **Time:** now through September 7
- **Commitment:** a few minutes
- **Contact:** Gretchen Scheel gscheel@stjohnwheaton.org

Please register your family for the upcoming Sunday School year. Scan the QR code to access the form on the St. John website. Each child will need to be registered individually before the first day of classes. Beginning September 7, please come to the Lower Level at 9:50 to get your children settled for the first day of Sunday School. Preschoolers (age three by September 1) through grade five are invited to come along for Sunday School each week. Younger children are welcome in the ARK for their own age group fun. Bring a friend and join us



for a great year filled with God's word, sacred music and lots of Bible adventures! Parents are asked to come downstairs to sign in and out children who are in third grade or younger. Older students will be dismissed at 10:50.

Adult Bible Study
High School Catechumenate
Confirmation
Sunday School
Classes resume September 7, 2025

WEDNESDAYS

JOY Group Bible Study—

The Three Enemies of the Soul: A look at Satan, the world and our own sinful self

- **Place:** Room 201/The Study
- **Time:** 9:00–10:30 a.m.
- **Commitment:** 90 minutes
- **Contact:** Rev. Fred Gaede fredgaede1@gmail.com

We worship the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Yet scripture reveals that there is a different “trinity” at work that is opposed to the work of God. These are Satan, the world, and our own sinful self.

Pastor Gaede leads this study as we take a look at:

- what the Bible says about these enemies
- what defenses we have to fight against them and
- who our victorious Commander is

All adults are welcome to join this time of learning, fellowship and refreshments.

Pastor Chats resumes September 10

Men's Bible Study resumes September 11

Women's Bible Study resumes September 12

EMBODYING

Open Gym/Pick-up Basketball

- **Place:** St. John Gym
- **Time:** 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- **Commitment:** up to 2 hours
- **Contact:** Pastor Nelson mnelson@stjohnwheaton.org

The Gym is open Sunday evenings for anyone high school and older to play basketball.

Garden Club • Thursdays

- **Place:** Meet in Church Parking Lot (*Weather permitting*)
- **Time:** 8:00 a.m.
- **Commitment:** 3 hours
- **Contact:** Carol Toenies 630-668-0701 x 417
toenies@stjohnwheaton.org

Consider joining the St. John Garden Club! We work Thursdays from 8:00 until 10:00, take a snack break and then wrap up the to-do list.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Mites • August Featured Mission Grant

- Place: Narthex offering boxes
- Time: before/after Liturgies
- Commitment: a few minutes
- Contact: Jodie Chester 630-436-5739

Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry is the recipient of a \$50,000 LWML mission grant at Hope Lutheran Church in South Sioux City, Nebraska. Pastor Henry Witte collaborates with and trains local congregations to meet the needs of their Hispanic neighbors and share the Good News of Jesus with them. This grant funds curriculum for the English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) program, Spanish Bibles, catechisms, hymnals, and other resources and supports retreats, conventions and special holiday meals. Please use the purple LWML offering envelope included in your quarterly mailing or print MITES on an envelope from the pew rack for your contribution.

Afternoon Circle • Wednesday, September 3

- Place: Room 206
- Time: 12:00 p.m.
- Commitment: 2 hours
- Contact: Laura Scheidt 630-853-2064
laurascheidt@sbcglobal.net

NEW! The Afternoon Circle is a community of Christian women who gather monthly for fellowship, food, fun, learning and service. Love offerings to Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries support mothers who choose life for their babies. We also collect plastic bread bag tags for basic wheelchair purchases through "Danielle Cares for Chairs" and aluminum pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities to recycle. Drop off your tag and tab donations in the Afternoon Circle mailbox in The Commons. Please join the ladies of St. John at the September meeting for devotions, prayers, a light pizza lunch and program. We are excited to welcome author Adrienne Giordano who will share about her career and newest book.

Kantorei • Wednesdays, starting September 3

- Place: Balcony
- Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
(7:30–8:30 p.m. during Advent and Lent)
- Commitment: 1 hour per week
- Contact: Rev. Nathan LeMahieu
nlemahieu@stjohnwheaton.org
or Peter Sovitzky psovitzky@stjohnwheaton.org

The summer is coming to a close and that means the Kantorei is back! This choir sings about two services per month. Bring a willing heart to sing in response to God for the gifts He has given us through Christ. That is WHY we do what we do. Childcare is available if needed.

St. John Ringers • Tuesdays, starting September 9

- Place: Balcony
- Time: 6:45–8:00 p.m.
- Commitment: 75 minutes
- Contact: Cheryl Ondratschek, director
630-341-9036 or condratschek@gmail.com

If you are high school age or older, can read music or follow a musical line, and want to have fun with bells and chimes with a group of folks who praise the Lord through the gift of music ... come and join the St. John Ringers. Interested? We love new faces and can always find a place for more hands! *For more information on how to get started ringing please contact Cheryl at the email or phone above before August 31, 2025 so we can have a spot for you at the first rehearsal September 9.*

Women's Book Club • Thursday, September 18

- Place: The Commons
- Time: 7:00 p.m.
- Commitment: 1–2 hours, plus reading time
- Contact: Gretchen Scheel gscheel@stjohnwheaton.org

Ladies, join us the third Thursday of each month for fellowship and book discussion. Our September selection is *House of Living Stones* by Katie Schuermann. "When a new choir director arrives at Zion Lutheran Church, her presence disrupts the small-town dynamics, forcing church staff and members to confront their personal challenges and relationships." Coming up:

- **October 16**—*This Tender Land*
by William Kent Krueger
- **November 20**—*The Next Ship Home* by Heather Webb

Baristas Needed at the St. John Coffee Bar Sunday Mornings

- **Place:** The Commons & the Study
- **Time:** Before/After 8:30 a.m. Worship & Bible Study
- **Commitment:** 60–90 minutes
- **Contact:** Sandy Crowe 630-668-0701 x413
or scrowe@stjohnwheaton.org

NEW! Do you enjoy sharing coffee with fellow parishioners on Sundays? If so, the St. John coffee bar may be the place for you! About two Sundays per quarter you would arrive at 8:00 a.m. to get things going, tend the coffee bar during fellowship and, after Bible study, prep the coffee for the late service folks. No need to clean up; we'll take care of that! Sign up with a friend or fly solo if you prefer. Training provided! If this sounds like your cup of tea (or coffee!), then contact Sandy Crowe for more details.

Monthly Volunteer Opportunity at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

Tuesdays, September 23 and October 28

- **Place:** Feed My Starving Children
555 Exchange Court, Aurora, IL
- **Time:** Every 4th Tuesday, 8:30–10:45 a.m.
plus lunch optional
- **Commitment:** 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 hours
- **Contact:** Emalee Stellwagen 630-668-3472
or estellwagen@gmail.com

NEW! St. John is initiating a regular group of volunteers to pack meals at FMSC. Carpool from church following Morning Eucharist, or meet at the Aurora facility by 9:00 a.m. The packing process is a simple, staff supervised assembly line, suitable for anyone ages 5 to adult. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Most tasks require standing, although some labeling jobs may be done seated. Participants must register 10 days in advance and provide an email for reminder notices and information. Join one or both of these starter sessions and experience the joy of making a difference in the lives of children around the world.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday • August 24

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9:45 a.m. Governing Board Meeting (Room 206)
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 6:00 p.m. Open Gym/Pickup Basketball

Monday • August 25

CLOSED

Tuesday • August 26

- 7:40 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

Wednesday • August 27

- 7:40 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
- 9:00 a.m. JOY Group Bible Study (Room 201)

Thursday • August 28

- 7:40 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
- 8:00 a.m. Garden Club (Main parking lot)

Friday • August 29

- 7:40 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel)

Sunday • August 31

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 6:00 p.m. Open Gym/Pickup Basketball

You can prepare for next Sunday's worship by reading:

Proverbs 25:2-10

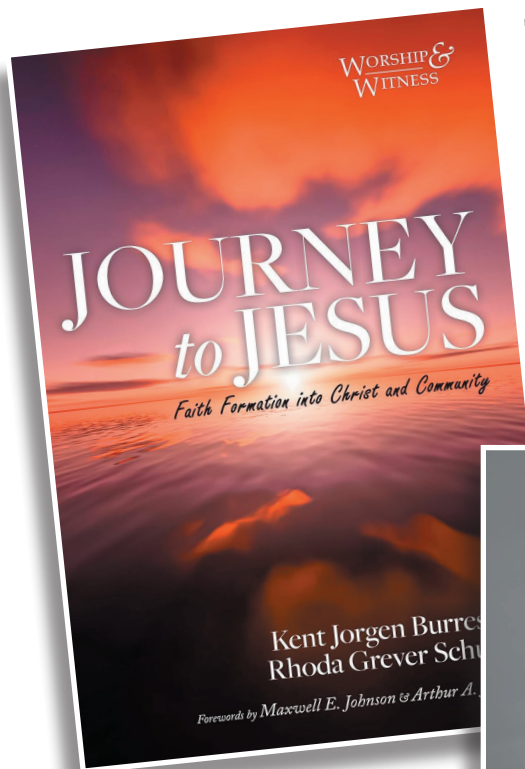
Hebrews 13:1-17

Luke 14:1-14

**The church office will be closed on Tuesday, September 2.
Daily Eucharist will be held as usual at 7:40 a.m.**

OVER THE LAST DECADE, ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH has been a subject of two studies, one supported by the Lilly Endowment and the other by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Each asked in its own way:

What makes churches work today?



AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE
SEPTEMBER 14 **\$20**

The findings of the latter study have now been turned into a book by **The Rev. Dr. Kent Burreson** (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis) and **Dr. Rhoda Schuler** (emerita, Concordia University, St. Paul).

Dr. Schuler will be visiting St. John on September 14, 2025.



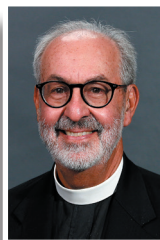
She will be available in The Commons to chat, sell, and sign books before, between, and after the Liturgies that day.

Do take the time on September 14 to greet and thank her for her long and faithful service to the Church!

Adult faith formation is a journey—not a program—of belonging, believing, and behaving that draws people into Christ's orbit for life. As one participant said, "For the first time I understood what it meant to be a Christian."

Through the adult catechumenate she heard the voice of Christ, calling her to new life and a rich baptismal identity.

FROM THE BOOK COVER



JOURNEY TO JESUS: FAITH FORMATION INTO CHRIST AND COMMUNITY is a rich and indispensable primer on what the catechumenate looks like in congregations that have been shaped by its ancient wisdom. This will be the first book my students read as they contemplate how the catechumenate may be the key to the revitalization of their congregation's ministry and mission.

ARTHUR A. JUST JR.

Professor of Exegetical Theology

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

410 N. Cross St., Wheaton, IL 60187 • 630-668-0701 • www.stjohnwheaton.org