



2025



Grace and peace to you. I am writing this before our Tell Out My Soul Celebration in November, but I am already overwhelmed by your generosity! Thank you for supporting St. John's ministry financially. And a special thank you to those who gave an additional gift to support Young Adult Ministries, and we set the foundation. I'm looking forward to our celebration.

Advent is here! I have been excited for this Advent since we began planning months ago. Then, we were able to connect the theme with our Homecoming Sunday back in September to the Advent theme - Our Dear Christ Enters In. Here is an introduction,

"No matter where life takes us, many of us see home as the place where we are always wanted, a place of warmth, mutuality and welcome. It's more than a structure, it's people, relationships, memories. It's an intangible connection to a tangible place. As we prepare our hearts and homes during Advent, we'll explore how our dear Christ enters in and is the connection between our home here and our forever home to come."

Take a moment every Sunday in Advent to look at the bulletin boards as you come in the front door. If you come in by the back door, make an effort to check around the corner to see the bulletin boards as well. Each week's topic will be reflected there. Thank you to Katie Burkert who has helped me bring it all together.

The devotional booklet that goes with our theme has a door on the front cover symbolizing the way in which Christ enters our lives giving us forgiveness and new life or maybe it is the door in which we enter to encounter Christ in our lives by entering our worship space, caring for our neighbors, reading scriptures, and receiving the body and blood of Christ. Thank you to Tom Holderman for providing our sanctuary "door."

May Christ enter our hearts and minds making this a safe and welcoming place for all people.

Pastor Terri



Notes: December 24 - Pre-service program and hymn sing, 6:30pm and then Candlelight mass.

We will have both a French horn and guitar accompaniment for different parts of the service.

December 25 - Christmas Day Mass, 9am. This beautiful and simply sung mass frames one of our most holy days of the year. Thank you to Sam Sommers for assisting with music again this year. St. James' will join us.

Looking to next year.... St. John's Annual Meeting is January 25. It is a carry-in and we will have Las Vegas style games with prizes!



The Curate Corner

Thank you so much for all the support you have given to the Young Adult ministry we are planting between St. John's and St. James'. Between those who are helping with planning our ministry, drafting a grant application, and giving generously to support Young Adult Ministry, your involvement, support, and prayers are deeply appreciated.

For the past few months, we have been exploring the theme "Tell Out My Soul." This classic hymn is a paraphrase of the canticle that St. Luke's Gospel records the Blessed Virgin Mary proclaiming after learning from the angel Gabriel that she is to be the mother of Jesus. For Christians throughout the generations, Mary has served as an example of a faithful life dedicated to God. Her witness in scripture and tradition should always point us to her Son and encourage us to tell out the ways God is moving in our lives.

Mary's role in the life of the Church has extended to visions or apparitions where she has appeared to the faithful on Earth. While no Christian is required to believe in any of these apparitions as a matter of salvation, the stories about them have nurtured and sustained many people in their faith.

One such apparition that is particularly treasured amongst many Anglicans is Our Lady of Walsingham. According to tradition, in 1061 Mary appeared to Richeldis de Faverches, a pious Saxon noblewoman in Walsingham. She showed Richeldis a vision of her home in Nazareth where Gabriel appeared to her and asked Richeldis to build a replica in England. This holy house, and the priory later built around it, became a major site of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages until it was destroyed during the Reformation. In the 1920's the local priest revived interest in Our Lady of Walsingham, which spread with the Anglican Communion throughout the world. (I have prayed at a Walsingham shrine in Sri Lanka!) Today, Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and Methodists all have a presence in Walsingham.

Another popular apparition, especially amongst those of Mexican descent, is Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1531, Mary appeared to Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Christianity in what is now Mexico, speaking his native language and asking him to have a shrine built for her on Tepeyac hill. (Tepeyac had previously been a site of worship for an Aztec mother goddess.) The Archbishop of Mexico City asked for proof, and Mary instructed Juan Diego to climb the hill and pick flowers to present to the bishop. Even though it was winter, he found Castilian roses that were not native to Mexico and filled his tilma (a type of garment) with them. When he opened his tilma to show the flowers to the bishop, they discovered that the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe had miraculously appeared on it. The tilma with the image is enshrined to this day in the basilica that fulfilled Mary's request.

Fr. Nolan McBride



The Longest Night, December 21st, 4pm, Augustana Lutheran Church, Elkhart

This service gives us space to mourn, lament, and sit with the difficulties in life when our culture pushes us to hide our struggles and put on a happy face for the season. We will pray, light candles, and hear God's whisper of hope on the darkest night of the year.



St. John's December Calendar

Sundays –9 am- in person and streamed Mass on YouTube, a link on St. John's website.

Thursdays –8 am- Bible and Breakfast, Old Style Deli Café, Elkhart

- 01 Euchre Club, 1-3, Common Room
- 10 Ladies' Luncheon 11:30, The Vine, 214 S. Main St., Elkhart
- 21 Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve following 9 am Mass
- 21 Longest Night Service, 4 pm, Augustana Lutheran Church
- 21 Saint Thomas the Apostle
- 24 Pre-service and hymn sing 6:30 pm, Candlelight Mass 7 pm
- 25 Christmas Day Mass 9 am
- 26 Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
- 27 Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
- 28 Holy Innocents (Childermas)
- 31 Eve of the Holy Name



Vestry Update:

St. John's Vestry met October 19th and approved the September minutes and financials. • The Tell Out My Soul small group dinners have gone well with lively and inciteful conversation. Pet blessings were held on October 4 at St. James and on the 7th at the Humane Society. Visioning meetings with parishioners and the public focused on values, impact, vision, and mission. • Claire Elizabeth Welter was baptized on the 15th. • Scheduled events for November include the Ladies' luncheon, Book Club, a Mosaic Fall Event, Clergy meeting with Bishop Sparks, and Celebration Sunday the 23rd, a Carry-in meal and Advent wreath making. • Thanks to Robin Schalliol for donating a snow blower. • Maintenance issues centered on the office air conditioner system. It is 21 years old and may need to be replaced- hopefully using grant money. • Everyone is asked to save Christmas cards for Christmas at Sea sailors. Well over 500 cards were sent in 2025. • Kyle Willis and Bob Meyers will attend the Diocesan Convention on November 15th. • The meeting ended with prayer. The next meeting is on November 20th at 6:30 p.m.



Financial Summary:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income	20,410	18,351	191,203	183,512
Expenses	19,015	19,875	200,403	198,749
Net	1,395	(1,524)	(9,200)	(15,237)



December Birthdays

05	Thomas Burkert	14	Melissa Renner
05	Ann Turnock	15	Phil Lux
06	Tim Purdie	17	Cheryl Menzel
07	Katrina Willis	18	Glyn Powell
10	Fran Meckley	27	Brenda Goethals
11	Jim Morningstar	31	Betty Loomis
14	Liliana Kozyrieva		

December Anniversaries

15	Jim and Betty Loomis
17	Ron and Jill Longbrake
17	Charlie and Sue Moore
29	Jack and Ann Turnock



Fun Dates in December

01	Cyber Monday, also National Pie Day	21	First Day of Winter
04	Santa's List Day	24	National Egg Nog Day
12	National Ding-a-Ling Day	25	National Pumpkin Pie Day
15	National Bill of Rights Day	29	Tick Tock Day
18	Answer the Phone Like Buddy the Elf Day	31	New Year's Eve



The Ladies' Luncheon

We will gather on Wednesday, December at 11:30 at Rico the Bulldog, Elkhart. This is an informal setting for the women of St. John' to take time out of our busy lives and gather to share a meal. The monthly lunch dates have been a wonderful time for fellowship. Please let Ellie or Margie know if you plan to join us there.



Book Club

December 18 The Story She Left Behind by Patti Callahan Henry

January 15, 2026 Good Night Irene by Luis Alfredo Urrea
 February 19 Before Dorothy by Hazel Gaynor
 March 19 Broken Country by Claire Leslie Hall

We meet via Zoom at 7 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month. An invitation via email will be sent out a few days prior to the event. Please join us whether you have read the book or not.



Please SAVE the Christmas cards you receive this year. We will be using them to make cards for Christmas at Sea and there will be a collection box for them after Christmas.



Indoor Giving Trees

Hats needed! – Hats were collected in November for Beardsley School and Saving Grace! Thank you to everyone who already donated.

St. John's Scarf and Mitten Tree Bring new winter mittens and scarves for our giving tree. These collected items will be given to CAPS and our food pantry clients. Thank you for your generous donations!



December Serving Schedule

Dec	Lector	Vestry	Stream	Usher	LEM	Crucifer
7	Fran Meckley	Pam Weaver	Katie Burkert	Dennis Weaver	Tim Purdie	Chris Renner
14	Heather Cash	Robin Hansell	Steve Cash	Jack Paulen	Robin Hansell	
21	Sue Moore	Charlie Moore	Kyle Willis	Charlie Moore	Sue Moore	
24	Heather Cash	Charlie Moore	Steve Cash	Charlie Moore	Sue Moore	
25	Steve Wylder	Whit Slabaugh		Whit Slabaugh		

28	Barb Brown	Dana Bergerson		Tom Holderman	Dana Bergerson	
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Special Thanks to Pam Weaver, Katie Burkert and friends for the lovely "Tell Out My Soul" Thanksgiving meal gathering November 23rd.



Staff: Pastor Terri Peterson Fr. Nolan McBride Deacon Melissa Renner	Bob Meyers, Sr. Warden Margie Paulen, Jr. Warden Katie Burkert, Clerk Charlie Moore, Treasurer	Robin Hansell, Dana Bergerson, Kyle Willis, 2026 Whit Slabaugh, Beth Hall, Robin Schalliol 2027 Katie Burkert, Tom Holderman, Pam Weaver 2028
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