

SEPTEMBER 2023



## St. John Journey

[www.stjohnabingdon.org](http://www.stjohnabingdon.org)

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### Council President's Corner

Ever wonder what's in a name? Over the years, I've wondered how our church became known as St. John Lutheran Church; however, figuring this out has eluded me. Not that I haven't tried though. I found the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brochure and I even contacted the Synod office! No luck. The naming was done a long time ago in the early 1960s. So perhaps instead of wondering how the church got its name, I'd like to dive into the significance of our church name, and what it means to us today.

Who was St. John? According to sources from Britannica to Wikipedia, the Apostle John, also known as John the Evangelist, John of Pathos, or "the beloved disciple" was one of Jesus' favorites. John was a fisherman before he was a disciple and evangelist. Perhaps this is why he was so good at evangelism! St. John followed Jesus throughout his ministry, from the very beginning to His death. Not only was he present during Jesus' ministry, he, along with his brother James and Peter were often alone with Jesus at special times such as the raising of Jairus' daughter, the Transfiguration, and in the Garden of Gethsemane the evening before His crucifixion. He was at the foot of the cross when Jesus died. John traveled extensively after Jesus' death. He was known for his preaching ability and bringing (converting) people to Christianity. He spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and established churches throughout Asia Minor, Greece, and along the Black Sea. St. John is generally credited with writing the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, and the book of Revelation. He certainly had an impact on the earliest Christians and seekers, evidenced today throughout the New Testament.

In the Gospel of John, written specifically for new Christians and perhaps even searching non-Christians, St. John makes it clear that Jesus is more than a man, He is

the Son of God, and all who believe in him will have eternal life. In John 19:26-27 we read that St. John was the disciple whom Jesus loved. “When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, ““Dear woman, here is your son,”” and to the disciple, ““Here is your mother.”” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.” This says a lot about the importance of family to me. Jesus wanted someone he could trust to look after his mother. Similarly, our church family looks out for each other, sharing Jesus’ love and grace among ourselves and in the broader community.

The three Epistles were short letters, written in Ephesus before John was banished to the island of Patmos. In these letters, John continues to stress that Jesus is the son of God, perhaps to inform seekers who may have been hearing otherwise. Furthermore, John recognized that being a follower of Jesus also meant that we aren’t perfect; but, admitting that we aren’t reveals to us the full effect of God’s grace. John writes: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9). Sounds Lutheran to me! **In his second letter, John made an urgent plea for Christians to show their love for God and his son Jesus by obeying the commandment to love each other and live their lives in obedience to the Scriptures. He also warned about false teachers and subsequent false teachings.**

**Finally, early Christian art usually depicts St. John the Evangelist alongside an eagle. An eagle represents what comes from above. Ironically, Chapter 1 of our Constitution indicates the seal of this congregation is the high soaring eagle. An eagle is a symbol of an evangelist, and the height John rose to in the gospel.**

In summary, I wish I knew why we are known as St. John Lutheran Church. It could be as simple as someone, perhaps the pastor at the time, who grew up in a Lutheran Church named St. John and had fond memories of growing up there. Who knows? Given that John the Apostle was a gifted evangelist, and spread the word of Jesus Christ throughout Asia Minor and beyond, perhaps his example of a life of telling others about the good news of Jesus Christ is what the founders of St. John Lutheran Church in Abingdon envisioned in a mission church back in 1962. If so, keep up the good work folks!

God’s Peace and Blessings  
Bill



## Prayer Chain

Joanna Wolfe  
Kathy Smith  
Bob Murphy  
Richard Brumleve  
Joel Rosen  
Dallas Church  
Bridgette Smith

Peg Curphey  
Erik Flynn  
Taulbee Cherry

We pray for all on the front lines: doctors, nurses, medical personnel.

We pray for the homebound: Marty Dunn, Vickianne Dotten, Ann Godsey, Barbara Wright, Nancy King, Betsy Bohham

If you have names to add (or ones to be taken off) the prayer chain, please email Joan at the church office.

**SUNDAY SEPT. 17TH--  
CONGREGATION  
MEETING FOLLOWING  
WORSHIP**--We will be  
choosing 3 new Church  
Council members.

**ST JOHN QUILTERS**  
It's September and time to  
get back to assembling  
more quilts Start date is  
September 5 From 9:30  
to 12 noon. Remember,  
we welcome late arrivals,  
early departures and  
newcomers (with no  
knowledge of how to  
assemble a quilt and are  
willing to give it a try).  
We meet Tuesdays  
between Labor Day and  
Memorial Day, taking time  
off for Thanksgiving,  
Christmas, New Years,  
and Easter. If the  
Washington County, VA,  
schools are closed for

### September Birthdays

Sept. 3--Doris Vaught  
Sept. 11--Brenda Murphy  
Sept. 14--Larry Fuller  
Sept. 14--Bill Phillips  
Sept. 27--Herb Proffitt  
Sept. 29--Marty Dunn

**If we missed your September birthday, please let the church office know.**

### Volunteers for September

Sunday September 3  
Lay Asst.: Joan Shaver , Lector: Charlie Garnett  
Ushers: , Altar Guild:  
Sunday September 10  
Lay Asst :Ed Davis, Lector :Doris Vaught  
Ushers: , Altar Guild:  
Sunday September 17  
Lay Asst.: Linda Garnett, Lector: Dianne Suhrbier  
Ushers: Spencers , Altar Guild:  
Sunday September 24  
Lay Asst.: Ken Croghan, Lector: Dave Morris  
Ushers: Sue Croghan, Don Williams,  
Altar Guild:

weather issues, we don't meet (per TV announcements). Other ways to contribute to our work is by donating clean bed sheets (flat and fitted) that are used for quilt backs and monetary donations which are used to buy batting in quantity, and contribute to the transportation funds that move our quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland and out to the world communities that are in need of these quilts. Also, if you want to work from home, contact me at [ehilte67@gmail.com](mailto:ehilte67@gmail.com) or text me at (276) 477-9692 regarding preparing sheets for backs or sewing quilt tops. Helen Findley and I transported 35 quilts to Greenville, TN, on August 25 for our donation for this year. There are still quilts available in the nursery for purchase or donation to local needy individuals in our area. Thank you to the congregation for supporting our mission. Edie Hildebeitel

#### **CHOIR**

**Regular choir rehearsals have begun at 8:45AM on Sunday mornings--we invite all who would like to join us in sharing our faith through song during Worship services. We will also have some extra rehearsals for Reformation and the Advent/Christmas season.**

Sign-up sheets for Usher and Altar Guild are on the bulletin board. There is also one for after church snacks.

Please find someone to trade with if you cannot serve your assigned Sunday.

#### **TAPESTRY GROUP**

**Tapestry group will meet on Zoom Sept. 19th at 7PM.**

To join Zoom Meeting, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88469069351?pwd=T3l6dzZieHdOVHBxeC9HaGh0azZvQT09>

Meeting ID: 884 6906 9351

Passcode: 303792

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

**St. John serves at the Food Pantry the week of October 2nd-6th.**

**Saturday Oct. 7th--Rails to River Ride for Taylor--see bulletin board for registration information.**

