



St. John Journey

www.stjohnabingdon.org



Message from our pastor:

Dear St. John Lutheran,

The month of October is going to be jam packed for us here at St. John! We have the blessing of the animals to kick off the month and are ending with a big conference wide Reformation service to end the month with a bang! In between we will have a lot of activities and opportunities to gather for worship and also in small groups for Bible

Study, support and care, and socializing.

One of the biggest themes of the month will be stewardship! As we look to the year ahead and even further down the road we will be presenting a proposed budget for 2025 and invite you all to consider contributing to our combined ministry with you time, talents, and financial contributions. It takes all of us to make our worshiping community a place where we can all come together to worship together and work together to make our community a better place for all people!

Stewardship campaigns are about being open and honest about what it takes to make our congregation work and what we need to bring in to meet our budget but also what volunteers we need and our goals for our ministry. They are also about celebrating all that we have been able to accomplish over the last year and look with joy toward our future goals.

Throughout the month we will have temple talks from members sharing their experiences and thoughts on different aspects of stewardship and I encourage you all to think about and pray about what you want to see happen in our congregation in the next year! Together we will work towards a stronger community, spreading the good news of Jesus to our neighbors near and far!

Blessings,

Helping Hands and Care Team

As we continue to explore the different ministries of our congregation, I'd like to highlight a couple that have been started and restarted in the last year...

Helping Hands is a new ministry that I realized was needed after having very similar conversations with a few members of our congregation who were the primary caregivers for their spouses, loved ones and friends experiencing chronic illness. Caregiving comes with a lot of responsibilities, you become a healthcare expert overnight, working with insurance companies and other providers, giving medical care to your loved one all while dealing with tough challenges and changes in your relationships. It can be a tough and lonely experience filled with moments of joy and also moments of grief. Helping Hands functions as a support group for folks who are the primary caregivers for people in their lives, from caring for a dying spouse to being the go to person for a sick friend, it is a space to talk about all that those responsibilities bring to the surface as well as a place to share ideas and resources with each other. The group meets on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 11am. If you are someone you know (even outside of our congregation) may benefit from being with this group, please join us!

Care Team is a collection of ministries that all fall under the umbrella of caring for each other and reaching out to our community. From writing cards to sick and homebound members, to making food for Food for the Flock, visiting homebound members, and all the way to helping members with transportation concerns, the Care Team does it all! There is a team of organizers and leaders, but the work is done by members of the congregation! If you are interested in volunteering with the care team, please let me (Pr. Elise) know!

Upcoming October Events

*Be sure to look at our online calendar for the most up to date information on things happening this month at the church.
(stjohnabingdon.org)*

Saturday, Oct.5th: Taylor's Ride-New information regarding the day will be sent out soon!

Sunday, Oct. 6th: Book Club 2:00pm-We will be discussing "Katie Luther" by Ruth A. Tucker. Snacks are potluck.

Sunday, Oct.6th: Blessing of the Animals Service 4:00pm

In celebration of our animal companions, we will have a Blessing of the Animals service.

We will gather outside for a brief service of blessing for our furry, scaly, and feathered friends. Feel free to bring your animals with you or a picture of them to be blessed! We will also take the time to

remember beloved pets and animals lost in the last year.

Saturday, Oct.19th: Church workday 8:30am-12:00pm

Lunch will be provided. Please see Ken or Sue Croghan if you have any questions in advance.

Sunday, Oct.27th: Reformation Service 5:00pm

We are hosting a conference wide service. A reception of appetizers and desserts will follow.

Monday, Oct.28th: Food Pantry 9:45am-1:00pm

Monday, Oct.28th:Helping Hands Meeting 11:00am

Tuesday, Oct.29th: Food Pantry 3:45pm-6:00pm

Tuesday, Oct.29th: Council Meeting 7:00pm

Preschool News:

We will have a fundraising dinner and silent auction beginning at 5:00pm on Wed., Nov.13th. If you have an items for the auction, please bring them to the office. Gift cards in any amount will also gladly be accepted. We have already received some great donations!

Your grocery purchases at Kroger and Food City can earn money for our preschool! You must go online into store shopper's account to link them to your shoppers card. If you have questions or need help, see Jill in the office.

Choir News:

Choir will meet every Sunday morning, at 8:45am. There will also be a monthly evening rehearsal. This month will be Wednesday, October 23rd at 6:30pm.

Food Pantry:

We serve at the pantry on Monday, October 28th from 9:45am-1:00pm, Tuesday, October 29 from 3:45pm-6:00pm and Friday, November 1st from 9:45am-1:00pm. Please consider volunteering for this important ministry. Please continue to bring in cans of tuna or other nonperishable food (no glass) each Sunday. They truly appreciate everything!

Quilting Update: Help for Damascus Relief

The quilters need more help to get quilts ready to donate to the families in Damascus. If you can tie a knot, you can help! Quilting will continue to meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to noon. Come late, leave early. Edie is willing to answer any of your questions.

Edie can be reached at home (276) 628-5533, text (276) 447-9692, or email to ehilte67@gmail.com. PS - I don't check my email every day.

Tapestry Team:

The next Zoom meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 22nd at 7:00pm.

Tapestry is the group that handles the plastic recycling program. Although we didn't meet our 1000 pound goal, we will continue to collect plastics, so please continue to bring it in!

Food for the Flock will also be a part of the Tapestry group. They will need donations to get this ministry going again. Please indicate "Food for the Flock" if you write a check to the church.

Book Group:

Will meet on October 6th at 2:00pm to discuss Katie Luther, First Lady of the Reformation by Ruth A. Tucker. Snacks are potluck. Hope to see you there!

Blessing of the Animals Service:

In celebration of our animal companions, we will have a Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday October 6th at 4pm.

We will gather outside for a brief service of blessing for our furry, scaly, and feathered friends. Feel free to bring your animals with you or a picture of them to be blessed! We will also take the time to remember beloved pets and animals lost in the last year.

Women's Group:

Click [here](#) for some future VSWO events; mark your calendar & start planning now.

The deadline to register for the Women's Retreat is approaching! Contact Dona Jenkins if you have any questions or wish to carpool. You can click on this [link](#) for more information.



ALWR

ALL LUTHERAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

RETREAT

A CUP OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2024

REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 11

HOTEL DEADLINE OCTOBER 14

Hilton Garden Inn Innsbrook, Glen Allen, VA

To register: alwretreat.org

Bring a favorite mug or teacup to use for
retreat devotionals



October birthdays

10/02-Kelly Read
10/03-Pastor Elise
10/06-Kathy Smith
10/09-Jim Meacham
10/15-Jim Lovett
10/21-Wrenda Fuller
10/29-Amanda Meacham
10/29-Michael Shaver

Please email Jill in the office know if we missed your birthday so it can be added to our database.

NexTrex Plastic Recycling Update

Although we did not make our 1000 pound goal, we will continue to collect plastic and do what we can! Thanks to all that have brought it in!

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!



✓ Produce bags

FROM THE STORE



✓ Store bags

✓ Ice bags



✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY



✓ Cereal box liners

✓ Case overwrap

✓ Bread bags



✓ Newspaper sleeves

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR



✓ Dry cleaning bags

✓ Bubble wrap

✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue



NexTrex

trex.com/recycling 1-800-Buy-Trex

Volunteers for October

If you are unable to serve, please let Jill know as soon

as possible.

	Oct.6	Oct.13	Oct.20	Oct.27 10:00am	Oct.27 5:00pm
Livestream	Adam Brock	Chris Meacham	Adam Brock	Adam Brock	Adam Brock
Assisting Minister	Joan Shaver	Ken Croghan	Ed Davis	Helen French	Visiting minister
Acolyte	Madison Wellenhoffer	Chris Dixon	Spencer Wellenhoffer	Chris Dixon	Sharon Meacham
Lector	John Gifford	Doris Vaught	Joan Shaver	Micheal Jenkins	Visiting minister
Ushers	The Giffords	Sue Croghan Don Williams	The Krolls	The Wellenhoffers	Sue Croghan Doris Vaught
Counters	Roger Nipper Helen French	Doris Vaught Chris Meacham	The Krolls	Sandy Davis Bill Spencer	N/A