

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

## October 2024

**Mission Statement:** We are called by God to be the light of the world. We are to go forth and show Jesus' love and forgiveness through loving care for all God's creation.

### **Newsletter Deadline**

The November newsletter deadline is Thursday October 24th. Thank you!

### **Scrip Corner**

Thank you everyone that has been purchasing scrip. We have had some great sales recently. Please keep up the good work to help St John Lutheran Church.

### **Out of Office**

I will be out of the office from November 5<sup>th</sup>-November 14<sup>th</sup>. I will be back in the office on November 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to reach out! Thank you-Cassidy

### **Not Too Late!**

It's not too late, there's still time to bring in your books, CD's, and DVD's (in good working order) for our book sale. Place them in the blue bin in the library. Please no magazines, newspapers, cassette tapes, or VCR tapes. The sale will be from 9am-2pm on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your support!

# Lutheran Hour Broadcast

The Lutheran Hour can be heard on the following radio stations on Sunday Morning:  
WAXX 104.5 FM at 6:30 a.m.; WDLB 1450 AM at 8 a.m.; WDUX 92.7 FM at 8 a.m.;  
WSAU 99.9 FM at 8:30 a.m.; and WRVM 91.3 FM, 94.3 FM or 101.3 FM at 10 a.m.

## October 2024

### October 6

#### **"Fit to Be Tied"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A strong knot in the right place holds everything together. God made Jesus to be the "Master Point" to bind all people to Himself through faith.

(Genesis 30:8)

### October 13

#### **"Difficult People"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

With God, all things are possible, even how to deal with that difficult person in your life.

(Genesis 31:6-7)

### October 20

#### **"Children of God--No Longer Losers"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez

God turns lost losers into forgiven sons and daughters. Through Christ, we too become children of God's kingdom, members of His household.

(Hosea 12:2-6)

### October 27

#### **"God-Struggles"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

It's been said, everyone you meet is fighting an unseen battle. God calls us to enter the struggle of those around us because, in Jesus, God has entered our struggle.

(Genesis 32:28)

## **Embracing Our Future: Strategic Planning with Re:Vitality - Serving in God's Mission**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we continue to grow and serve in our community, it is essential that we take intentional steps to ensure our ministry remains vibrant and aligned with God's mission. To this end, we are excited to announce that our church will be embarking on a strategic planning process using the Re:Vitality - Serving in God's Mission (SGM) module from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Office of National Mission. This comprehensive framework will guide us in developing a Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP) that will help us better understand, define, and plan our role in God's mission.

### **Why Strategic Planning?**

Strategic planning is a vital process for any organization, including churches. It allows us to take a step back, assess our current situation, and make informed decisions about our future. By engaging in strategic planning, we can ensure that our efforts are purposeful and aligned with our mission and values. Here are some key reasons why we are undertaking this process:

1. **Clarity and Focus:** Strategic planning helps us clarify our mission, vision, and values. It provides a clear direction for our ministry and ensures that all our efforts are aligned with our core purpose.
2. **Effective Resource Management:** By identifying our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT), we can make better use of our resources. This ensures that we are investing our time, talents, and treasures in areas that will have the most significant impact.
3. **Engagement and Consensus:** The strategic planning process involves the entire congregation. This inclusive approach ensures that everyone has a voice and that we build consensus around our goals and strategies.
4. **Sustainable Growth:** A well-developed SMP provides a roadmap for sustainable growth. It helps us set realistic goals and develop actionable plans to achieve them.

### **The Re:Vitality - Serving in God's Mission Module**

The Re:Vitality - Serving in God's Mission module is a part of the LCMS's suite of resources designed to help congregations develop effective strategic plans. This module provides a structured approach to strategic planning, with a focus on understanding and participating in God's mission. Here is an overview of the key components of the SGM module:

1. **Pre-Workshop Preparation:** Before we begin the workshop sessions, we will review and adopt the goals of the SGM module. This includes conducting a Bible study to lay a theological foundation for our strategic planning efforts. We will also identify and invite potential members for our Core Planning Team (CPT) made up of the core congregation leadership and Extended Planning Team (XPT).
2. **Workshop Sessions:** The SGM module consists of nine workshop sessions, each designed to guide us through different aspects of strategic planning:
  - **Session 1: Overview of Strategic Planning:** This session introduces the SGM approach and provides an overview of the strategic planning process.
  - **Session 2: Building Consensus:** We will identify the different types of people in our congregation and work on building consensus around our strategic planning efforts.
  - **Session 3: God's Provision and God's Mission:** This session focuses on taking inventory of the resources God has invested in our congregation and understanding His mission for us.
  - **Session 4: Identifying Core Values:** We will categorize our core values as active or aspirational and discuss how they shape our ministry.

- **Session 5: The Purpose Statement:** This session involves crafting a purpose statement that expresses our understanding of God’s purpose for placing us in this place, at this time, for these people.
  - **Session 6: The Mission Statement:** We will condense our purpose statement into a concise mission statement that captures our role in God’s mission.
  - **Session 7: Vision Statements:** This session focuses on creating vision statements that describe what our mission looks like in action.
  - **Session 8: SWOT Analysis:** We will assess our vision statements using SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
  - **Session 9: Creating SMART Goals:** This final session involves developing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely (SMART) goals for our vision statements.
3. **Post-Workshop Implementation:** After completing the workshop sessions, we will implement our Strategic Ministry Plan through a cycle of acting, assessing, and adjusting. This ensures continuous improvement and alignment with our mission and vision.

### How You Can Get Involved

The success of our strategic planning process depends on the active participation and support of our entire congregation. Here are some ways you can get involved:

1. **Attend the Bible Study:** Join us for the Serving in God’s Mission Bible study to gain a deeper understanding of the theological foundation for our strategic planning efforts. We will begin the Serving in God’s Mission Bible Study on November 10.
2. **Join the Extended Planning Team:** Consider serving on the Extended Planning Team (XPT). This team plays a crucial role in developing and implementing our SMP.
3. **Participate in the Workshops:** Attend the workshop sessions and actively engage in the discussions and activities. Your input is valuable and will help shape our Strategic Ministry Plan. Workshop dates will be announced at a later date.
4. **Pray for Our Efforts:** Keep our strategic planning process in your prayers. Ask God to guide us, provide wisdom, and bless our efforts as we seek to serve Him faithfully.

### Conclusion

Embarking on this strategic planning process is an exciting opportunity for our congregation. It allows us to reflect on our mission, assess our resources, and make intentional plans for the future. By using the Re:Vitality - Serving in God’s Mission module, we are equipped with a comprehensive framework that will guide us in developing a meaningful and effective Strategic Ministry Plan.

We invite you to join us on this journey. Together, we can ensure that our ministry remains vibrant, focused, and aligned with God’s mission. I pray that this will be a great experience of growth and focus for our congregation as we fulfill our mission of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to our community.

In Christ,  
Pastor Lorfeld

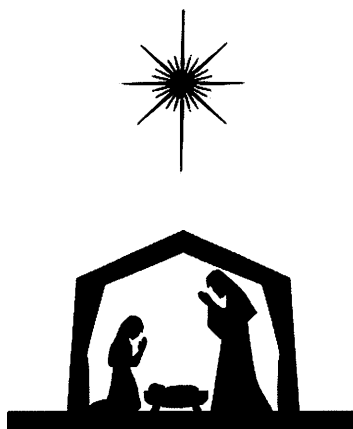
# A Walk Through Bethlehem

## St. John Children's Christmas Experience

### 2024



Walk Through Bethlehem is a **FREE** live, interactive event set in the village of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. Please plan to join us and invite your friends and family to experience A Walk Through Bethlehem with the St. John Youth on **December 11<sup>th</sup> after the evening service.**



You'll be immersed in an ancient city's sights, sounds, and smells, eventually making your way to the same discovery that the shepherds made that first Christmas night—Jesus, the Savior, lying in a manger. Costumed characters and interactive sets help the youth to recreate Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. Visit the merchants and shopkeepers, sample the food, pass through the crowded inn, and find Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus in the manger. Activities are provided in the village shops for children to have hands-on experiences.