

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE EAGLE

VOLUME LXI

OCTOBER 2021

ISSUE Nº 10

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## From Our Pastor

My Dear Family in Christ,

Can you believe it, October already! That means before long (if not already) the trees will be shedding their leaves in varied colors, and the landscape will assume a bleak, brownish, grayish hue. The trees and most of the landscape will appear dead. Winter arrives.

However, when Spring rolls around again, leaves and flowers will resume their colors for they only appeared dead. Life was still throbbing invisibly within the plant life.

The past year and a half have seemed like an eternal winter, like the scene described by C. S. Lewis in his children's book *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The land of Narnia is covered with snow, for the evil Queen rules, until overturned by the sacrificial giving of his life by Aslan, THE GREAT LION, the Christ figure in the story who rises to life after his death.

COVID19 seems to have reigned supreme with God absent, but God is never absent from our presence, encouraging, walking with us, loving us no matter how awful the circumstances we find ourselves in. So, we walk by faith and not by sight, knowing Jesus walks beside us, even carrying us at times, and we pray and hope and trust that He will see us through that which seems like an eternal winter.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Don



## Call Committee Update

We received a profile from the Synod mid September. We will update the congregation once a decision is made about interviewing this candidate. Please keep us in prayer as we continue this process.

Yours in Christ, Gail Davidson  
Call Committee Chair

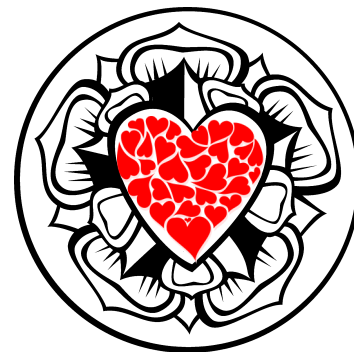


## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:30 am  
Worship Service

## OUR MISSION

*We are a family  
of Christ,  
committed to serving,  
teaching, welcoming  
and loving  
all God's people.*



Visit us on  
Facebook

### From Our Council President

October is here! The holidays will be here in a flash! Thanks to all for your support as we navigate this new surge in COVID cases. We continue to follow CDC guidelines.

Have you noticed the new signs outside directing folks to the worship space? Thanks to Deb Midgette for handling this.

The contract with our former pest control service has been cancelled. Ellen Wilson agreed to contact our new service *Getem*. Continued efforts by all to reduce pests is appreciated.

The Coffee Hour after worship has been restarted. We are looking for volunteers to set up, make coffee and clean up. Contact Karen Sutton who is compiling the weekly schedule.

We have two Council positions to fill in December. Tim Garvin is eligible to serve a second 3 year term. If interested in serving on Council, please see Karen Sutton or Ellen Wilson.

Our lawn service begins this month. Please continue to bring in recyclables - funds collected can be used to offset the cost of the lawn service. Thanks to Bill Krumm for his time taking the items to the recycle center.

Please keep the congregation and our Pastor in your prayers. I look forward to the coming months to see what all we here at St. John can do!

Peace, Gail Davidson, Council President

### Council Minutes - August 9, 2021

#### ROLL CALL

PRESENT: T. Taffee, K. Sutton, G. Davidson, D. Midgett, M. Hoyt, E. Wilson.

Absent Pastor Wilson. Unexcused absence: J. Byers, T. Garvin.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- A. The Stove: has received an offer but the party has not returned calls. Since Jim Dollar moved out of state this left a vacancy in the Maintenance Dept. Council then elected Jim Ripley/JGR Enterprise to fill the spot, he currently does the Janitorial Service for St. John and has a contractors license so he can handle all of the churches needs.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Opening and closing of church after services, unlocking/locking doors, turning off AC/ heat etc. Lee will open the church and a list will be made up for closing afterwards. This will be in the Eagle Newsletter and on the hall calendar. POC D. Midgett. 1st T. Taffee, 2nd K. Sutton.

#### APPROVED

- B. Add a sign ?? Directions to enter the church for services . POC D. Midgett  
1st T. Taffee, 2nd K. Sutton. **APPROVED** Money to come out of property fund.
- C. We need to elect a property council member. Jim Ripley/JGR Enterprise will do repairs when needed.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Women's Serenity group asking to use St Mathias Hall/kitchen May 6th and 7th for group of 50-75 AA members. POC E. Wilson. 1st. D. Midgett, 2nd T. Taffee **APPROVED**

#### Worship Attendance

Date	Congregation	Choir/Assistants	Nursery	Total
August 1, 2021	?	?	?	?
August 8, 2021	27	6	0	33
August 15, 2021	23	8	0	31
August 22, 2021	19	8	0	27
August 29, 2021	17	8	0	25

### August 29<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting

After the worship service, the meeting was called to order by President Gail Davidson.

This was an informal meeting for the congregation to voice any topics/concerns they might have.

The first topic was the **lack of volunteers**, especially, Altar Guild, Counters, Lawn Care, Coffee, etc. Karen Sutton pointed out that we have only three people signed up for Altar Guild when it takes a two-person team each month. We also only have 5 people signed up as counters, while 2 people are required each Sunday. Lawn care also needs people, as 2 people per team really can't do it all.

That brought up the subject of **hiring a lawn care service** as our volunteers are aging and the heat and humidity have been brutal this year. After much discussion, the consensus was that Council should get bids and hire a service for twice a month. This might run about \$600 per month.

The **stove** that was purchased and never used is being advertised for sale. Only one nibble so far, but that person did not call back. It was suggested that when we do sell the stove, the money might go to funding a lawn service.

Deb Midgett brought us up to date on **the state of our roof**. The leak by the library and music room has been fixed (new pipe and flange). The nursery also had a leak which soaked the carpet. The roofer looked at it and reported that walking on that roof was like "walking on a waterbed". Rain water was collecting under the rubber membrane. Again it was a blocked drain. It is now fixed, but the roof must dry before any interior repairs can be made. It was highly recommended that the drains be cleaned on a regular basis (monthly?, bi-monthly?). A suggestion was made that perhaps a Scout might take on this project.

On the subject of **Home Communion**, it was suggested that:

People desiring Home Communion call Pastor.

Margie Gish will coordinate calling shut-ins and volunteers.

The same communion bread and wine sets we are currently using will also be used for Home Communion.

Pastor will prepare a paper which will contain a brief service and be left with the communion set so the shut-in need not come in contact with those delivering. (Protection for both parties.)

Sheila pointed out that the CDC may soon require **masks** in churches, regardless of vaccination status.

**Ice maker** needs to be installed

A **portable microphone** was suggested be purchased for use during meetings.

About the **organs and organ parts in the fellowship hall**: Lee will look into assembling and selling them.

Some **lights** need to be fixed.

After giving thanks for such an open and congenial meeting, Pastor Don dismissed us with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Sutton

#### October Birthdays

01 ~ Elizabeth Ball  
04 ~ Donald Meyer  
04 ~ Carolyn Moran  
10 ~ Jeffrey Gulley  
12 ~ Stacia Frazier  
16 ~ Norma McNellis  
18 ~ Roxiee Dollar



#### October Anniversaries

05 ~ Anthonette ♥ James Jasco  
20 years

ST. JOHN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1953 & 1978  
SCHOOL

*Celebrating 68 years of Ministry!*

8918 Tidewater Drive  
Norfolk VA 23503

757/ 588-7381 Church  
757/ 588-8227 School

Email: [churchoffice@stjohnnorfolk.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnnorfolk.org)

Website: [www.stjohnnorfolk.org](http://www.stjohnnorfolk.org)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

President: Gail Davidson  
Vice President: Deborah Midgett  
Council Secretary: Ellen Wilson  
Financial Secretary: Karen Sutton  
Director of Music: W. Lee Hendricks  
School Director: Sheila Sanchez  
Parish Bookkeeper: Carolyn Moran  
Parish Secretary: Anne Combes

**If your mailing information has changed,  
please notify the Church Office.**

**Thank you!**

October ushers in an exciting time in the Church Year. We celebrate Pastor Appreciation on October 17th and Reformation on the 31st.

We now have three teams of counters; we can still use Lector's and Worship Assistants. Leave a message with the Church Secretary if interested.

Our Choir can always use more voices. Contact our Music Director, Lee Hendricks.

During this pandemic, we plan to continue using the individual communion "cups".

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Davidson, Chair



Diakonia failed to mention the Celebration of Life for the passing of Susan Bove's mother, Margaret Hurdle, on August 23, 2021. It was held at her mother's home. Food was provided by the family and Diakonia. Susan would like to thank everyone who helped with this celebration.

We are still sending cards each month to our shut-ins and those who have been ill. We are all trying to settle back into a normal as possible church routine. Thank you to all who are working hard to make this happen.

Diakonia will be providing Trick or Treat to our school children in October. We are working with Sheila to make this a fun affair.

Hope the Fall will bring better news with Covid. Please keep everyone in your prayers at this time.

Respectfully,  
Regina Starling  
Deborah McLaughlin

**DIAKONIA**  
Service  Opportunities