

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH THE EAGLE

VOLUME LXIII

SEPTEMBER 2023

ISSUE Nº 8

Available online @ [www.stjohnnorfolk.org](http://www.stjohnnorfolk.org)



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am

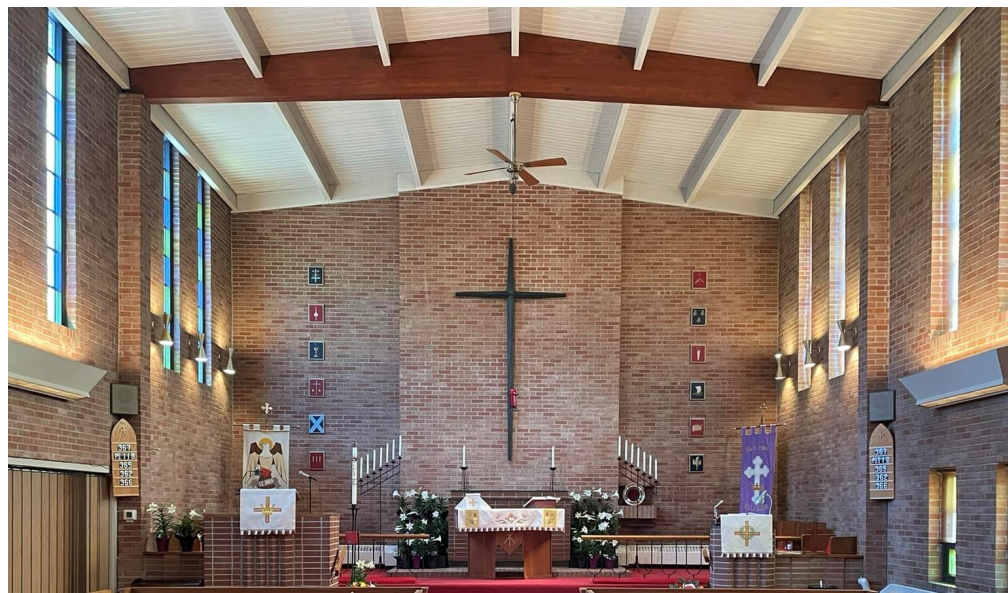
*Adult Bible Study*

10:30 am

*Worship Service*

## OUR MISSION

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



*Please join with us in Celebration of*

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH'S  
70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ministry**

**Sunday, September 17, 2023  
10:30 am Worship Service  
with Holy Communion**

Luncheon to follow Worship in St. Matthias Hall  
R.S.V.P. to the Church Office 757-588-7381  
by September 10, 2023

**70<sup>TH</sup>  
Anniversary**  
St. John Lutheran Church

*Celebrating*  
**70** Years  
*of Ministry  
in Ocean View*  
**1953-2023**



## From Our Pastor

My dear family in Christ,

First, I want to express the most profound thanks to you for your prayers that surrounded me and lifted me up and supported me during the August 11th cardiac catheterization ablation procedure I had at Sentara Heart Hospital here in Norfolk. My electrocardiologist, Dr. Philip Gentlesk, performed a brilliant ablation, located the trouble spot in my irregular heart rhythms and dealt with it. He pronounced it a success with no complications whatsoever during the 3 hour procedure. The support staff at the hospital were wonderful and my body has the knack for healing quickly. I haven't felt this good in many years. Thanks be to God and thanks to you.

Second, in the life of the Virginia Synod there's a big celebrative occasion on Saturday, October 21st at Waynesboro Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA when Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton, Bishop-Elect, will be consecrated Bishop of the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She is practically in our neighborhood, elected while serving as Pastor of Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Portsmouth, VA. The Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro is the largest church building in the area capable of accommodating enough persons for the celebration.

Third, mark your calendars for Sunday, September 17th for our big 70th Anniversary Celebration as a congregation. Former Pastor Tom Bailey will preside and preach and a festive, catered lunch follows.

Lastly, as we gear up for the fall season, your input is welcome and appreciated as we prayerfully consider planning strategies to implement evangelistic outreach and ministry to the community around us. As always, your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service are the means whereby we maintain our witness to Christ here in the Ocean View Community. Thank you.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Don+



Budget Update – July 2023	
Monthly Revenues	\$13,050.00
Monthly Expenses	\$48,436.17
Year to date Revenues	\$62,046.89
Year to date Expenses	\$233,433.78
Year to date: Actual Revenue less Actual Expenses	<b>\$171,386.89</b>
<i>Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.</i>	

## From Our Council President

During our August 13 Meeting:

Tara updated council on the Pastors microphone - Two different quotes were given. All are within the \$500 grant approved by Synod.

70<sup>th</sup> anniversary -Tom Bailey agreed to serve as guest pastor. Dean Harry Griffith, Pastor Don Wilson serving St. John and Pastor Barb Kruum will assist with the worship service on September 17th. Council accepted the menu presented. The Committee continues to meet. Invitations being mailed by August 17th.

Gail announced our next Congregational Meeting is October 29th.

Karen Sutton provided a report on the Synod Assembly. Handouts can be viewed in the office.

No reports from Long Range Planning, Policy, WELCA, Outreach, the school and Pastor Don.

Deb reported nothing yet from the machine shop on the repair of the St. Matthias AC equipment.

Suggested we return to having communion elements at the altar until more ushers volunteer to serve.

Ellen reminded us of the vote on the kitchen contract August 20<sup>th</sup> after worship. Those attending 8-13-23 were given the total proposal from RHS.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Davidson

We continue to need volunteers for Altar Guild, Communion Assistants and Ushers.  
Training is available.

In Christ's Service, Gail Davidson  
Worship and Music Chair



### September Anniversaries

13 ~ St. John Lutheran Church  
70 years

21 ~ Stephen ♥ Elizabeth Ball  
10 years

Let us take the opportunity to  
congratulate them on their years together,  
and wish for them to have many, many more.

### September Birthdays

8 ~ Sheila Charnock

10 ~ Patricia Kindred

12 ~ Tim Garvin

13 ~ Anne Combes

14 ~ Cheryl Gebler

### Worship Attendance

Date	Congregation	Choir/Assistants	Nursery	Total
July 2, 2023	25	9	0	34
July 9, 2023	30	6	0	36
July 16, 2023	19	8	0	27
July 23, 2023	26	6	0	32
July 30, 2023	18	6	0	24

ST. JOHN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1953 & 1978  
SCHOOL

*Celebrating 69 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

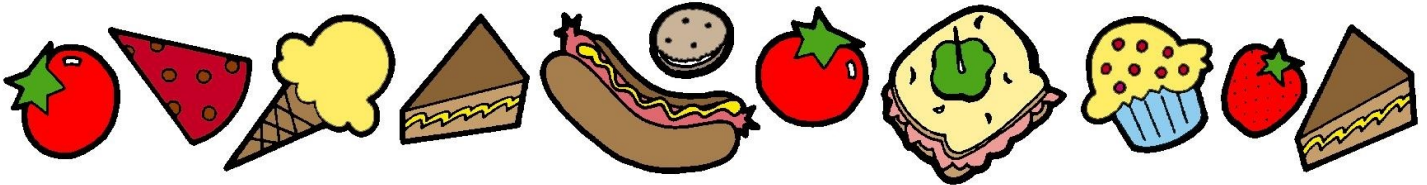
School Director: Sheila Sanchez

Parish Bookkeeper: Carolyn Moran

Parish Secretary: Anne Combes

## Did you know???

To help save paper and postage,  
you can view *The Eagle* newsletter online.  
If you would like to read the newsletter online  
and not receive a paper copy,  
please notify the Church Office.



# SEN-RETS

We will meet on September 20th  
at 11:30 am in St. Matthias Hall.

Bring your own bag lunch and  
enjoy the fellowship.

For further information  
please contact Emily Kircheval.





## Report on the June 2023 Virginia Synod of the ELCA Assembly June 9 –12, 2023

First, thank you for allowing me to be your delegate to this assembly. It had been many years since the last time I represented St. John.

Synod assemblies are long, with many reports – however, there were many interesting presentations as well. There were displays from many agencies which we could visit on breaks to learn about the varied ministries supported by the synod and ELCA.

The biggest highlight of this assembly was, of course, the election of a new bishop for a six-year term. We bid farewell to current Bishop Humphries and thanked him for his leadership. The process of electing a new bishop is rather interesting, and this year held some surprises. The first ballot is an ecclesiastical ballot which means delegates can write in any ELCA minister. The results of this ballot were almost funny with so many pastors nominated. The pastors were then able to submit a form if they did not want to be considered for the office of bishop. Amazing how the next ballot had far fewer nominees. We were furnished with bios and photos of the remaining candidates to review. We were given several hours to review these bios and pray for guidance of the Holy Spirit.

After this vote (75% of the votes cast needed for election), the top seven candidates were each given 5 minutes to speak of their qualifications and vision for the future of the Virginia Synod. We were given time to pray before voting. 66.6% of votes cast needed for election.

The top 3 candidates were then asked to answer a series of questions, with the order of answering changed for each question. The Youth Assembly also submitted a question: “Why did none of you list Youth Ministry as a priority in your bios?” All three candidates were chagrined and answered well after the laughter and applause ended.

The top three candidates were:

Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton, Holy Communion, Portsmouth  
Rev. Jonathan Hammon, Holy Trinity, Wytheville  
Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop

None of the candidates received the 60% required for election, so Rev. Hammon was dropped from the next ballot. This vote was done Sunday morning and the result was a shocker – a TIE!! After the election committee conferred, another vote was taken, and this time **Rev. Dr. Phyllis Milton was elected bishop**. She is the first woman, and the first person of color to be elected bishop of the Virginia Synod. She was shocked and humbled by her election, God bless her. Some of us had met Pastor Milton several years ago at a VWSO convention in Staunton.

There were many other highlights of this 3-day assembly, including meaningful worship services, video presentations of ministries around the synod and fellowship with many delegates. We adopted a 2-year budget, elected members to the synod council, and participated in the consecration of 11 lay preachers. My tablemates for the assembly included Rev. Harry Griffith, Rev. Kaye Hute, Rev. Keith Olivier, and the contingent from St. Timothy's: Rev. Bob Vogl, Benjamin Alger, and Zareena Skyfire. I will leave the Bulletin of Reports of “The Way in the Wilderness” in the church office.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Sutton