



# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH THE EAGLE

VOLUME LXIV

FEBRUARY 2024

ISSUE N<sup>o</sup> 2

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

## From Our Pastor

My Dear Family in Christ,

FIRST, let me wish you a very Happy New Year, and that you will be bountifully blessed by the good Lord with the riches of His grace.

SECOND, Ash Wednesday and Easter are really early this year, the former on February 14th and the latter on March 31st. The season of Lent affords us holy time to reflect on the mighty acts of God in Jesus Christ and his atoning death on the cross.

In Medieval England, the church educated a largely illiterate population to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus through the production of "Mystery Plays"...events from Christ's life and death were portrayed on horse drawn wagons called "pageants", hence the derivation of our word "pageant". Various trade guilds competed, so to speak in dramatically presenting the events of Christ's life.

For example, the baker's guild would enact our Lord's feeding the multitude; the butcher's guild, Jesus' scourging and crucifixion; the physician's guild, our Lord's healing miracles, etc.

Two of the most famous places for these plays were Chester in the midlands and York in the North. Although we don't have these plays for the most part, we have the rich narratives of Holy Scripture and special services geared toward the deepening of our own faith for this 40 day (minus Sundays) Church Season.

THIRD, let me thank you - the congregation - for your gifts, prayers and presence. We have accomplished much that borders on the miraculous: the liquidation of around two decades of deferred maintenance on the church's physical property! This will free us up to move from a maintenance orientation to a mission orientation: evangelism, nurture and outreach to the community God created here over 70 years ago; more on this later. Once again, heartfelt thanks to all you for the cause of Christ's Church in this place.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Don+



## 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.*

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



## From Our Council President

Hard to believe we are in our second month of 2024 already. Council discussed plans for the coming year.

Executive Committee was re-elected:

Gail Davidson, Council President

Deb Midgett, Council Vice-President and Property Chair

Ellen Wilson, Secretary

Karen Sutton, Financial Secretary

The Long Range Planning/Growth Committee recommend adopting Big Events Day as a monthly event. The first is February 11th "BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY" with a Winter Picnic featuring hot dogs and beans after the Worship Service. Food items were donated by the WELCA committee.

LRP/Growth Committee meets monthly the first Wednesday at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Visitor packets should be ready soon. Ushers can give them out when greeting visitors.

February Council meeting moved to February 10th at 1:30 pm due to February 11th Winter Picnic event.

Karen Sutton, Financial Secretary, reported we exceeded our projected income by over \$12,000 in 2023. Thanks to all for your generous support of our church and our ministries.

By late January, we anticipate receiving the ELCA grant of \$700 to purchase a wireless mic for Pastor's use.

Karen Sutton volunteered and was approved as the contact person for the Columbarium.

Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service is at Noon on February 14th.

Instead of a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Council decided to hold a pancake breakfast as one of our monthly big events.

February SenRets meets February 21st at the Church. Bring your lunch.

The last task for the Kitchen Committee is painting the walls a pale gray. Some of the Scouts dads volunteered to take on this project.

In Christ's Service,  
Gail Davidson, Council President



**Our Lenten meal of soup and bread will be offered following the Sunday Worship Services during Lent.**

**Sign up sheets for soup and bread will soon be posted. Please consider not only attending, but also supplying soup and/or bread for one or more of these meals.**

**The dates are: February 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17,**

An Usher handbook was copied for ushers.

Volunteers are needed for all Worship and Music ministries. Training is available.

Easter Lilies will be available for purchase in early March.

Home communion is still available for those unable to come to the service.

We enter the season of Lent on February 14th, a time of reflection and contemplation. Spend time daily in prayer and the Bible.

In Christ's service,

Gail Davidson - Worship and Music Co-Chair



### Budget Update – December 2023

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Monthly Revenues  | \$14,423.77          |
| Monthly Expenses  | \$11,848.83          |
| Year to date Revenues   | \$105,946.75         |
| Year to date Expenses   | \$380,314.36         |
| Year to date: Actual Revenue<br>less Actual Expenses  | <b>-\$274,367.61</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> |                      |

### Worship Attendance

| Date              | Congregation | Choir/Assistants | Nursery | Total |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------|---------|-------|
| December 3, 2023  | 28           | 8                | 0       | 36    |
| December 10, 2023 | 30           | 7                | 0       | 37    |
| December 17, 2023 | 26           | 6                | 0       | 32    |
| December 24, 2023 | 40           | 8                | 0       | 48    |
| December 31, 2023 | 27           | 6                | 0       | 33    |



### Scout Sunday February 4th



ST. JOHN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1953 - 2023

*Celebrating 70 years of Ministry!*

8918 Tidewater Drive  
Norfolk VA 23503  
757-588-7381

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  
Parish Bookkeeper: Carolyn Moran  
Parish Secretary: Anne Combes

**February 11, 2024  
is "Souper" Bowl Sunday.**

**Who will be in it??? Who will win it???**

On that Sunday place your "bet" (free will offering) into whichever soup pot represents the team you want to win.

In the Narthex, there will be one for each team.

Let's see if we pick the winner!

*There will of course, be the Pity Pot for all of those who root for any one of the other 30 teams who didn't make it this year!*

All monies collected will be donated to a local food bank here in Hampton Roads.

**Invite a friend to Church  
Sunday, February 11th**

following the Worship Service  
we will have a

**HOT DOG DINNER**



**There will be games and door prizes,  
so make sure you plan to join the fun!  
A free-will offering will be taken.**

Worship Service with  
Imposition of Ashes  
Wednesday, February 14th  
12:00 Noon



Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.