



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People of St. John's and Friends,

The month of March will carry us through Lent right up to Holy Week (the week before Easter) and the Triduum – the “three days” of Maundy (Holy) Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

Although Maundy (Holy) Thursday is on April 1, I urge you to mark the dates on your calendars now – a full month before those days will be upon us – so that you can really make space and time to be here if at all possible. There is a physicality to the sacraments and to these sacramental days.

The Thursday of Holy Week is known as Maundy Thursday in the Episcopal Church – (known as “Holy Thursday” in some circles). We call it that because of Jesus's mandate (“mandatum” in Latin) at the Last Supper to love one another as he loved us. We wash one another's feet during that service – as John's gospel tells us Jesus did at the Last Supper. Being part of the Mandatum – the washing of the feet – is a very prayerful and powerful experience...even if one simply is ‘present’ for it.

At the end of the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday, we strip the altar and the sanctuary – so that we are left with the emptiness. The elements – the consecrated bread and wine remaining from Eucharist – are reserved for our use during the Good Friday service.

On Good Friday, we pray the liturgy from the Book of Common prayer together at noon – which includes special intercessions for the whole world, a time of reverencing the wood of the cross, and the reception of Holy Communion that was reserved the night before. At 3 pm, we gather to pray together the Way of the Cross using adaptations of prayers written by Deacon Nancy Casey Fulton – following the way of Jesus to his crucifixion.

(Continued on next page)

Finally, we gather together again on Saturday evening to celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter. We light the new fire outside, celebrating the Resurrection – acclaiming Christ as our Light as we light the Easter Candle. We process into church and light our own candles from the Easter Candle. – We will hear the scriptures telling of salvation history, we will bless the water, celebrate baptism, and renew our own baptismal promises. We will again sing “Alleluia” with full voices!!!

It is a very meaningful time – that “Holy Week” – those days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Easter Vigil. Let us take the rest of Lent to make space and time, so that we can celebrate those days together.

Blessings to you,
Sr. Diane+

Minutes, December 2025 Vestry Meeting

Saint John's Episcopal Church

Minutes of December 16, 2025 meeting

Meeting came to order at 11:30 PM

Present: Liz Brockman, Kevin Davidson Clancy DeLong, Dan Eichinger, Jerry May, Sam Raisanen, Jim Thurston

Brenda Rau gave an update on potential changes to St. John's phone system. The Outreach Committee is suggesting utilizing an electronic transfer assistant to answer and route incoming calls to St. John's office. The decision tree for this system would route appropriate calls for economic assistance to Listening Ear, calls of spiritual, emotional, personal nature would be routed to Rector Diane or Deacon Jess, business calls would go to the office assistant.

The vestry will accept quotes for setting up and providing this type of service.

Pastoral report: Rector Diane's report was given by Dan Eichinger.

- o Thanksgiving Day Eucharist will be at 10:00 AM followed by a potluck Turkey Dinner for all who wish to stay and join in the festivities.
- o The evening of Dec. 21, 2025, St. John's will host Advent and Carols.
- o Rector Diane is writing grants to help fund Deacon Jess's position with St. John's.

Treasure's report: Clancy DeLong

- o There has been a delay in the audit, but it should be available in the next 7 – 10 days.
- o In the future St. John's should be able to use an internal committee to annually review St. John's financial accounts. By using such committee, St. John's should be able to get by with having a full audit every 10 years.
- § As retiring treasurer, Clancy volunteered to serve on the committee.
- o Choir Director, Eric Vinciguerra, has requested \$1,000 for the purchase of new music folders.
- § By consensus the Vestry determined to delay this purchase.

The Vestry went into closed session to review the 2026 budget. The 2026 budget will be presented during the 2026 Annual Meeting in January.

Property report: Jerry May

- oThe structural evaluation has been completed, and WTA is currently writing its report.
- oCody's Property Care of Mt. Pleasant will be providing snow removal for the upcoming winter.

Next meeting; The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for Dec. 21, 2025. Dan will send out a Doodle Poll to determine an alternate date.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry May

January 2026 Financial Report – Evangel Enclosure

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of January (8.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 24,672.49 (11.13% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	21,362.80 (8.17% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ (3,309.69)

Through January income is up, as expected for this time of year. We are looking forward to an exciting new year, especially in the areas of campus and youth ministries.

If you would like to financially participate in our mission. Please contact Pamela Dingman for an estimated giving card.

Please confirm that your estimated giving amounts are up to date. To give online, you may link to our giving page via our website or [Click Here to Give](#).

Below are the year-end cash balances:

Year End Balances

Cash Balances	
Isabella Bank - Checking	53,404.24
Members First CU - Savings	6.98
Members First CU - CD 03-27-27	22,073.68
Members First CU - CD 07-22-26	90,005.77
Members First CU - CD 05-30-26	15,367.14
Endowment Fund	129,734.35
Total	<u>310,592.16</u>

Clancy



Remember Our
Homebound Members
Drop a card to our parish
members who are homebound.

Emelia Parker
(Alex's House)
616 Boothbay Ct.
Beavercreek, OH 45430

Margaret + Harry Kuhn
temporary address
Serene Gardens of Clarkston
Room 108
5850 White Lake Rd
Clarkston, MI 48346

Nancy Rivard
Comfort Care
1945 Churchill Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Martha Rarick
362 E. Baseline Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



March Birthdays

Jeanne Maxon	03/06
Richard Mower	03/06
David Kinney	03/09
Charlotte Ozment	03/11
Alan Robards	03/15
Nancy Kinney	03/20

St. John's Prayer Group

If you wish to add or remove names from the Prayer List, please call Sr. Diane Stier, 989- 807-0215, the church office, or email Pamela Dingman: pamela.dingman@gmail.com. Thank you.



March Anniversaries

Pastoral Care

Just a reminder: you should let the parish office know if you are ill and wish to receive a call from the Rector.



Weekly Schedule:

Sunday 10AM: Holy Communion: In Person or [Facebook](#)
or [YouTube](#)

Wednesday 10-11AM: [Lectio via Zoom](#)

Wednesday 7PM: [Connections Conversations by Zoom](#)

Thursday 8PM: [Compline \(Night Prayer\) by Zoom](#)

Coffee Hour Schedule:

- March 1 The Davidson Family
- March 8 Sharon Bolton and Lynne L’Hommedieu
- March 15 Liz Brockman, Laura Cochrane, and Matt and Erica Johnson
- March 22 The Eichinger Family
- March 29 Dave and Jen Dingman

Lay Ministers:

	Lector	Prayers	Acolyte
March 1	Jen Dingman	Derek Rivard	Matthew Kinney
March 8	Kevin Davidson	Pat Thurston	Adam Baker
March 15	Dan Eichinger	Linda Susan Beard	Peyton Eichinger
March 22	Denise Keeler	Ulana Klyyshyn	Adam Baker
March 29	Mary Stewart Kiesgen	Jen Dingman	Adam Baker

Greeters

- March 1 Dave and Jen Dingman
- March 8 The Davidson Family
- March 15 Clancy and Pat DeLong
- March 22 Pamela and Ford Dingman
- March 29 Sharon Bolton and Laura Cochrane

March Calendar

Sundays:

03/01, 03/08, 03/15, 03/22,
03/29

10am Holy Communion (In
person, Facebook, & YouTube)

11am Coffee Hour

Mondays:

03/02, 03/09, 03/16, 03/23,
03/30

6:30pm GA

Tuesdays:

03/03, 03/10, 03/17, 03/24,
03/31

6pm Recovery 360

Wednesdays:

03/04, 03/11, 03/18, 03/25

10am Lectio Zoom

6pm Tai Chi with Judy

7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays:

03/05, 03/12, 03/19, 03/26

4pm Choir practice

8pm Compline via Zoom

Office Closed

Fridays:

03/06, 03/13, 03/20, 03/27

Nothing on these days



GLOW IN THE DARK EGG HUNT

Friday, March 27th

7pm @ Wesley Center

Contact Siblingjess@gmail.com



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Sunday, March 8,
2026

SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD
ONE HOUR AT 2AM





Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes – Search for a BISHOP

With great hope and joy and with the prayers of our diocese, we are thrilled to announce that the application window for our search for our first bishop diocesan is open!

Click [here](#) for details!

Holy Week Schedule

April 2-5, 2026

Maundy Thursday – 7PM

Holy Eucharist with foot washing;
stripping of the alter

Good Friday - Noon

Good Friday service (Book of
Common Prayer)

Good Friday – 3PM

Stations of the Cross - adapted from
Nancy Casey Fulton

Easter Vigil – 8PM

Great Vigil of Easter – lighting of
the New Fire – with Baptisms

Easter Day – 10AM

Holy Eucharist



BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND WITH THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE

THE RIGHT REVEREND
ANNE HODGES-COPPLE

WILL ORDAIN

JESSICA ANN HART,
JULIANNE S LARK,
&
CATHERYN ANN STEVENS

TO THE SACRED ORDER OF PRIESTS
IN CHRIST'S ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, KALAMAZOO

ON
THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF MARCH
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX
AT ONE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON.

YOUR PRAYERS AND PRESENCE ARE REQUESTED.

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
247 W LOVELL ST
KALAMAZOO, MI 49007

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.

FOR THOSE JOINING US ONLINE, THE LIVESTREAM DIRECT LINK WILL BE SHARED VIA THE DIOCESAN FACEBOOK PAGE ON THE DAY OF THE SERVICE.

CLERGY ARE INVITED TO VEST AND PROCESS IN CHOIR DRESS OR ALB AND RED STOLES.



The 2026 Altar Flower Calendar is posted in the Lantern across from the elevator. Please consider a Sunday that is a good date for you to honor or remember a loved one and sign up to provide altar flowers. Flowers are a wonderful addition to worship! You may use flowers from your garden or a store and arrange them yourself, or arrange with Elliot's or Norm's Florist to do arrangements and they will deliver to the church.

Thank you!

FEED THE NEED

Food Insecurity Community Response

HOST A COLLECTION

Host a nonperishable food collection at your organization or business and we'll help you get connected with your local food pantry for a pickup or dropoff.

Dropoff items at one of our United Way offices or directly at a food pantry.

Montcalm/Ionia Office:
110 E. Main Street, Stanton

Isabella Office:
524 E. Moster Street, Mt. Pleasant

Gratiot Office:
525 N. State Street, Alma

MAKE A DONATION

Scan the QR code, visit our website (unitedwaygcm.org) to donate, or text UNITEDWAY to 26989.



NEED HELP? CALL 211 TO BE CONNECTED WITH FOOD ASSISTANCE RESOURCES NEAR YOU.





Has anyone noticed the new website!?! I am very excited to announce that we were awarded a Grant from the Diocese’s Digital Ministry Taskforce to upgrade our outdated website! The Digital Ministry Grant is designed to “help congregations deepen our digital presence – to make it more engaging, accessible, and sustainable. To remain relevant, accessible, and invitational for generations to come, our congregations must continue to invest in digital platforms as vital spaces for ministry.”

We won one last year that we used to install a speaker in the nursery so people who need to use it during the service can still hear everything in the sanctuary.

This year it came around again, and I submitted a grant to upgrade our website. It was in bad need of a refresh and the current platform it is on is not being actively supported. We used the grant money for a web developer to move to a better technical platform and give us an improved design.

We can still make changes, so if you have any input on the design or for additions, please let me know!

www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com

Alice Ciccu



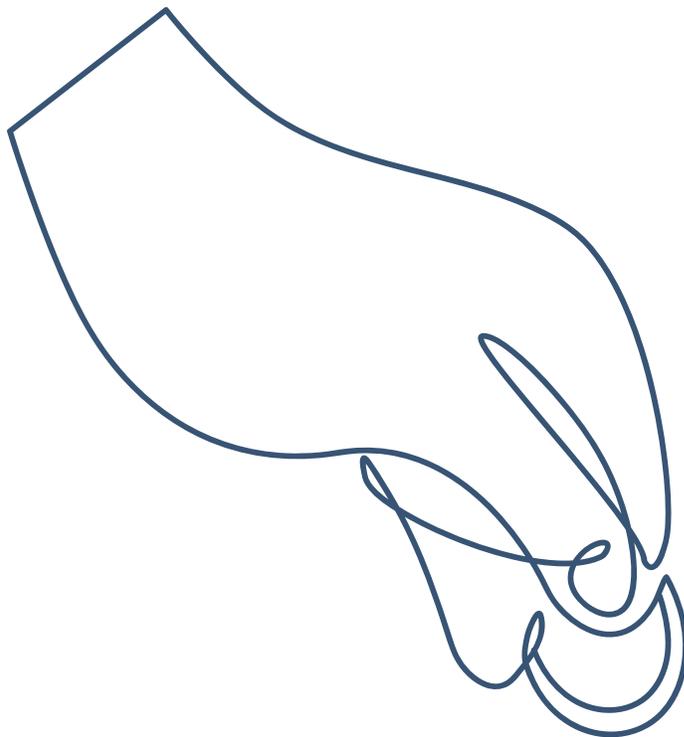
St. John's Choir

Sing for Sunday morning service, September through Pentecost (May),
with a weekly rehearsal.

Practices will be on Thursdays from 4-6pm.

New voices welcome!

Contact Sr. Diane if you are interested in any of the ministries!



Different ways to give...

We now have four different ways to give back to the church. You can now drop off at the church, mail your offer to the church, or give through “Giving Tools.” Here are the details on how to give:

1. You can come to the Church office and drop it through the mail slot.
2. You can mail your offering to the Church, 206 W Maple, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
3. You can give online by visiting the Giving Tools link on our website, or by scanning the QR code below.



Saint John's Episcopal Church
206 West Maple Street Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: 989-773-7448
E-mail: saintjohnsmp@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com
Facebook: [St. John's Mount Pleasant](#)

St. John's Mission:

St. John's Episcopal Church, with God's help and in the Episcopal Church tradition, lives to proclaim the Gospel of Christ by ministering through worship, outreach, fellowship and education. We welcome all who enter our doors, and we support the diverse callings of each member as we seek to serve Christ in every person.

Rector:

The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, 989-807-0215
The Rev. Jessica A Hart, Deacon
Organist: Ethan Kindle
Choirmaster: Eric Vinciguerra

2026 Vestry Officers

Sr. Warden: Dan Eichinger
Jr. Warden: Jerry May
Treasurer: Clancy DeLong + Sam Raisanen
Co-Treasurer: Lynne L'Hommedieu
Vestry Clerk: Lara Raisanen

2026 Vestry Members

Clancy DeLong
Elizabeth Brockman
James Thurston
Kevin Davidson
Lara Raisanen
Dan Eichinger
Jerry May