



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People and Friends of St. John's,

This month of April begins in Holy Week... We will celebrate the Triduum – the three sacred days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. When we gather together to pray on these days, we come as we are...weary, broken, fearful. And we are met by a God who – through Jesus the Christ – washes and soothes our feet... feeds us... forgives us... grieves with us... and then shows us that the power of Love is indeed stronger than death.

I invite you – I encourage you – to “come as you are” to as many of these services as you are able. Just as the movement toward spring somehow brings life out of the seemingly barren soil, praying through these holy days together will change you... and that is the prayer with which we began Lent: that we might be changed more and more into the likeness of Christ.

Then, when Easter comes and we proclaim “Alleluia! Christ is Risen!” – we can ask ourselves this: “How is the risen Christ-life budding in me?”

There are seven Sundays of Easter (counting Easter Day) before we celebrate the feast of Pentecost. It will take us all that time, perhaps, to take in, absorb, and process what Easter means for us – much like how the soil takes time to warm up with the coming of spring and the flowers dare to stick their noses out of the earth, and the trees dare to bud again. When you see the spring flowers, the budding trees, ask yourself this how God is springing forth in you. It's a question for us all... and the answer may be as quiet and unassuming as a crocus, or as loud and stirring as a spring thunderstorm. But keep asking yourself that question. “How is the risen Christ coming to life in me?”

(Continued on next page)

This issue of the Evangel is packed with information and reminders. There are lots of things coming up that we don't want you to miss. Get a cup of tea or coffee, settle into a favorite chair, and have a good read!

Christ is Risen indeed – and is risen in YOU. Alleluia!

Remember that you are loved – and pass it on.

Sr. Diane+

Minutes, January 2026 Vestry Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Vestry Meeting

Meeting in person

Present: Liz Brockman, Kevin Davidson, Clancy DeLong, Dan Eichinger, Jerry May, Lara Raisanen, Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Jim Thurston

Meeting called to order: 1:15 p.m.

Administrative Business

- Reappointed the slate of Vestry officers - Senior Warden Dan Eichinger, Junior Warden Jerry

May, and Clerk Lara Raisanen via acclimation.

- Appointed Samuel Raisanen Treasurer. Motion Thurston, second Davidson. Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion to approve housing allowance of \$12,000 for the newly hired Campus Minister. Motion

Davidson, second DeLong. Motion passed unanimously.

Notes

- Meeting schedule has conflicts for some members; Vestry will discuss possible schedule changes as needs arise.

- Junior Warden May's tenure on Vestry is coming to an end; Vestry must discuss a succession plan for the work necessary to maintain our physical spaces.

Closing prayer: Stier

Meeting adjourned: 1:21 p.m.

Next meeting: 15 February 2026; 11:30 a.m. tentative

Respectfully submitted by Lara Raisanen, Clerk

Minutes, February 2026 Vestry Meeting

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Vestry Meeting

Meeting in person and via zoom

Present: Liz Brockman, Kevin Davidson (via zoom), Dan Eichinger, Jerry May (via zoom), Lara Raisanen (via zoom), Sam Raisanen, Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Jim Thurston

Absent: Clancy DeLong

Meeting called to order: 11:54 a.m.

Opening Prayer by Stier

Administrative Business

- Amended agenda approved via acclimation.
- Approval of prior meeting minutes tabled until March.

Pastoral Report - Stier

- Pastoral Report submitted by Stier prior to meeting. (This facilitates efficiency of meeting time and allows Vestry to prepare questions in advance. We will continue this practice as long as it is helpful to both Rector and Vestry.)

- Highlights:

- Need to organize a parish carpool for Ordination of Deacon Jess Hart
- Have begun the new pilot program for community aid with Listening Ear; will monitor efficiency and efficacy over the next few months.
- Little Free Pantry is popular.
- St. John's now has an active grants committee. Vestry recognizes Liz Brockman, Jillian Davidson, Nancy Hartshorne, and Brenda Rau for their commitment to this work.
- Planning and preparation for Good News Garden is in the works. Announcements for volunteer opportunities will be in upcoming Evangel issues as well as in the This Week newsletter.
- Jim Thurston has volunteered to help with digital sign updating and training new service streaming volunteers for online worship.
- Parish volunteers are assisting with pastoral care.

Committee Reports

A. Building and Grounds -May

1. Architect report has been received. Will present to grants committee Thursday and send to Vestry for review. The April Vestry meeting will dedicate time for in-depth discussion.
2. It's time to enter our summer lawn care contract. May will collect bids for review.

B. Worship - no report

C. Human Resources - no report

D. Administration & Finance -S. Raisanen

1. January was a good month financially.
2. Note that Quickbooks, snow removal, and altar supplies were outsized expenditures for January, but it is not a budgetary concern.
3. September 2025 motion to grant S. Raisanen bank account access was not enacted. See New Business for updated resolution.

E. Christian Formation - no report

F. Hospitality - no report

G. Outreach - see New Business

H. Senior Warden - no report

Executive Session

- At request of Thurston, Davidson moved Vestry enter Executive Session. Brockman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Outreach: Shower Ministry is staffed by non-parishioner volunteers who need access to the shower for guests. A secure lockbox will be placed outside the Lantern with a Lantern key inside for this ministry's use. Vestry will work out details to affix an air tag to the key to prevent its loss.

- Banking Resolutions: Motion by Thurston, Davidon second

- Vestry authorizes Samuel Raisanen as signatory for all accounts at Isabella Bank and Members First Credit Union, including online access to all accounts. Furthermore, Vestry authorizes opening a statement savings account at Isabella Bank.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Loons Game: 12 July 2026; 1:00 pm. Northern Lights Pavilion, same as last year.

Tickets are \$27 per person. Event will be advertised throughout the parish.

- The “new diocese” Diocese of the Great Lakes canons and constitution outline procedures parishes must follow in governance. St. John’s notes that the Rector is a full, voting member of Vestry and has authority to both preside over meetings or delegate someone to preside. Currently, Stier designates Sr. Warden Eichinger as meeting presider. This will continue. Vestry recognizes Stier’s voice and vote.
- Additionally, the Canons and Constitution require Parish treasurers to be fully bonded. Vestry will ensure this happens in a timely manner.
- Approval of Parochial Report: Motion by L. Raisanen, second by Brockman: Vestry approves the 2025 Parochial Report and thanks David Shirley for his contributions to data collection and preparation of this report. Vestry authorizes and approves the electronic signatures of Sr. Warden Eichinger and Clerk L. Raisanen to this report for submission. Motion passed unanimously.

Closing prayer: Stier

Meeting adjourned: 12:54 p.m.

Next meeting: 15 March 2026; 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lara Raisanen, Clerk

February 2026 Financial Report – Evangel Enclosure

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of February (16.66%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 43,923.73 (19.82% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	43,625.33 (17.79% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ 298.40

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](#).

Year End Balances

Cash Balances	
Isabella Bank - Checking	48,686.73
Members First CU - Savings	6.98
Members First CU - CD 03-27-27	22,133.63
Members First CU - CD 07-22-26	90,293.69
Members First CU - CD 05-30-26	15,410.64
Endowment Fund	129,734.35
Total	306,266.02

Sam



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

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

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

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



April Birthdays

Adam Baker	04/03
Ethan Kindle	04/04
Ezra Hart	04/05
Tom Cochrane	04/12
Margaret Kuhn	04/13
Jennifer Dingman	04/14
Peggy Pickler	04/14
Ardent Hart	04/16
Pamela Dingman	04/29

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.



April 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:

April 5	Jen and Dave Dingman
April 12	David and Nancy Kinney
April 19	The Davidson Family
April 26	Lynne L' Hommedieu and Laura Cochrane

Lay Ministers:

	Lector	Prayers	Acolyte
April 5	Linda-Susan Beard	Jim Thurston	Adam Baker
April 12	Pat Thurston	Barb Sheperdigian	Peyton Eichinger
April 19	Brenda Rau	Derek Rivard	Adam Baker
April 26	Mary Stewart Kiesgen	Linda-Susan Beard	Peyton Eichinger

Greeters

April 5	The Davidson Family
April 12	Pamela and Ford Dingman
April 19	Laura Cochrane and Sharon Bolton
April 26	The Eichinger Family

April Calendar

Sundays:

04/05, 04/12, 04/19, 04/26

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

11am Coffee Hour

Mondays:

04/06, 04/13, 04/20, 04/27

6:30pm GA

Tuesdays:

04/07, 04/14, 04/21, 04/28

6pm Recovery 360

Wednesdays:

04/01, 04/08, 04/15, 04/22,
04/29

10am Lectio Zoom

6pm Tai Chi with Judy

7pm Weekly Connection via Zoom

Thursdays:

04/02, 04/09, 04/16, 04/23,
04/30

4pm Choir practice

8pm Compline via Zoom

Office Closed

Fridays:

04/03, 04/10, 04/17, 04/24

Nothing on these days



ZIBIWING CENTER
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

Support Our Cultural Center *Now Easier Than Ever!*

**** Donate Online with a Simple Scan!****

We are excited to announce a new way to support our vibrant community — online donations via QR code!

How It Works:

- Just use your phone or computer to scan the QR code to the right. →
- Quickly and securely make your donation — no need for cash or checks!
- It's fast, convenient, and contact-less.

Why Donate Online?

- ▶ **Instant Giving:** Your support helps Zibiwing host events, preserve our culture, and grow our programs.
- ▶ **Safe & Secure:** Our technology safeguards your personal information.
- ▶ **Eco-Friendly:** Reduce paper use and effort — do good for the environment!
- ▶ **Accessible Anytime:** Donate whenever it's convenient for you, 24/7.

**Join Our Community
of Supporters!**



Every contribution makes a difference. Whether big or small, your generosity keeps our doors open and our community thriving.

Scan the QR code now and be part of something special!

Thank you for your continued support and dedication!



ZIBIWING CENTER
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM
6650 EAST BROADWAY, MT. PLEASANT, MICHIGAN 48858
989.775.4750 • WWW.SAGCHIP.ORG/ZIBIWING



The first satellite meeting of PFLAG GLB will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church on Sunday April 19, 2026 from 2PM - 3:30 PM. We will be in the parish hall on 516 S. Washington Ave. next to the church. PFLAG: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is an inclusive Ally to the LGBTQ+ community.

Everyone is invited to this advocacy, educational, and supportive safe space gathering. Refreshments will be served while we tune into a Zoom meeting transmitted from the PFLAG GLB location in Saginaw to listen to a featured speaker. Afterwards we will break into groups to discuss the presentation, support each other and explore our concerns.

Please come!



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



Join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship and baseball as we head to a Great Lakes Loons game on Sunday, July 12, 2026 at 1:05 PM at Dow Diamond in Midland, MI! This is a wonderful opportunity for members of our church family to spend time together enjoying America's pastime.

We will again be seated in the Northern Lights Pavilion, where tickets are \$27.50 per person. Each ticket includes entrance to the game and a picnic-style meal with your choice of hot dog, hamburger, or pulled pork sandwich, along with unlimited picnic sides such as potato salad and soft drinks. A cash bar will also be available in the pavilion for those who wish to purchase additional beverages.

Whether you're a big baseball fan or simply looking forward to a relaxed afternoon with friends from church, we hope you'll join us for this enjoyable outing. If you would like tickets, please email saintjohnsmp@gmail.com and/or djdingman@charter.net. Final headcount is due by Monday June 15th so please reserve your spot now!



Episcopal Relief & Development

Working Together for Lasting Change

Wondering how you can help folks in need
in far away places?

Episcopal Relief & Development is a way
to do that!

Episcopal Relief & Development has local
people who can deliver aid funded through
ERD. You can contribute here:



St. John's is currently seeking volunteers to help keep our Sunday services welcoming, organized, and running smoothly. Many aspects of our worship each week are made possible only through the generous gift of time and service from members of our parish community. We are deeply grateful for those who already serve and would love to welcome additional volunteers to share in this important ministry.

At this time, we are especially looking for individuals who would be willing to serve in a few key roles during our Sunday services. These include Acolytes, who assist with the progression of the service, Lectors, who read the Scripture lessons, volunteers to lead the Prayers of the People, Greeters, who warmly welcome parishioners and visitors as they arrive, and Coffee Hour Hosts, who help set up and host the fellowship time following the service.

If you would like to learn more about any of these volunteer opportunities or would like to add your name to the volunteer list, please feel free to email saintjohnsmp@gmail.com and/or djdingman@charter.net. Thank you for your willingness to serve and for helping make St. John's such a vibrant and welcoming community!



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



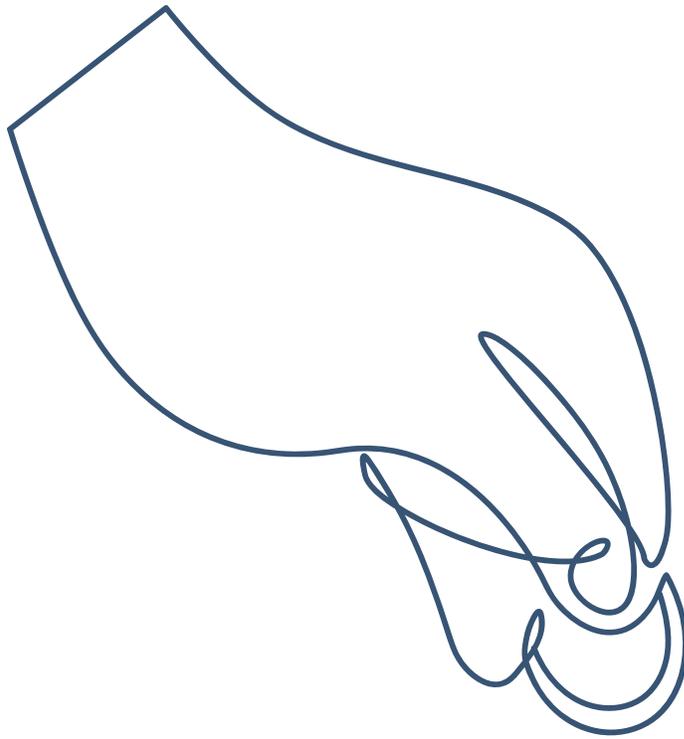
St. John's Choir

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, Assistant Priest
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
Rev. Sr. Diane Stier