



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

June 2026 Financial Report - 3

St. John's August Calendar - 12

Dear People of St. John's and Friends,

You'll see that the summer has had lots of goings-on for us at St. John's. Scroll through this issue and celebrate all the good things...

I feel myself grieving the loss of summer a bit, even though it's only August and autumn is still officially almost two months away. On the flip side, as we head into the last month of "summer vacation time," the stores and ads are full of "back to school" messages. Sometimes we can focus so much on getting ready for something in the future that we again lose sight of the present moment – the NOW. And so my words to myself this day – and to you, if you are listening – are these:

Pay attention. Be present to this present moment. Notice – really notice – how God is present in this moment. Choose to carry kindness this day – so that whatever may jostle you, kindness will be what spills out. "Spend" at least a part of the currency of time this day bringing joy or hope or mercy or love to someone else. Pay attention. Be present. God is.

Some dates to note during August and September:

- August 3-7, 9 AM - noon: Vacation Bible School – led by Sibling Jess, held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 320 S. Bradley.
- August 11-21: Sr. Diane gone on vacation. Sibling Jess will preside and preach on Sunday, August 16.
- Sunday, August 23: Vestry Meeting
- Friday, August 28 (Tentative), 7 PM: Jazz Vespers
- August 29-September 5: Sr. Diane gone on vacation – again! Sibling Jess will preside and preach on Sunday, August 30.
- Sunday, September 13: Choir's first Sunday back! (Rehearsals will start the week of Aug. 31)

Enjoy the month ahead. Enjoy it moment by moment. Share the treasure of your time with someone who needs you, but also take some time yourself simply to be present – to God and to yourself.

Remember that you are loved – and so is everyone else you will meet.

Sr. Diane+

June's minutes will be published in the September Evangel as Vestry did not meet in July.

June 2026 Financial Report – Evangel Enclosure

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of June (50.00%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts	\$ 110,841.02
(50.00% of budget)	
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures	127,203.24
(48.64% of budget)	
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures	\$ (16,362.22)

If you would like to financially participate in our mission. Please contact Pamela Dingman for an estimated giving card or give directly to a specific cause (e.g. Food Pantry, Youth Ministry, Rector's Discretionary Fund, etc.) via our giving page: <https://givingtools.com/give/3618>

Cash Balances

Isabella Bank - Checking	61,585.23
Isabella Bank - Savings	200.02
Members First CU - Savings	6.98
Members First CU - CD 03-27-27	22,396.71
Members First CU - CD 07-22-26	91,558.82
Members First CU - CD 05-30-26	15,601.62
Endowment Fund	141,475.26
Total	332,824.64

Regards,

Sam



**Sibling Jess is eager to welcome your young persons to
Vacation Bible School.**

August 3–7, 2026,

9am–12pm

Immanuel Lutheran

320 S. Bradley St. Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

Volunteers are needed for this wonderful outreach.

<https://immanuelmp.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3705984>





OUR MEMORIAL GARDEN IS NOW HOME TO "THE THREE SPIRITS" - A BEAUTIFUL SCULPTURE BY DAVID HEMMINGSON (JOAN KADLER'S SON-IN-LAW).

I FIND IT TO BE A CALMING PRESENCE...DRAWING INTO MEMORY ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE. THANK YOU, DAVID!





On Sunday, July 19, we gathered with five other congregations for our Sunday service – at Island Park! The smoky air (courtesy of the wildfires in Canada) cut back attendance somewhat from last year, but there were still over 150 people gathered.

This was an Ecumenical Service, which is a fancy word that means churches of different denominations working together to create one inclusive experience. We enjoyed music from a community band, and worship band, community choir, and, of course, Jim's flute. Revised Common Lectionary scriptures for the day were shared, as well as a homily provided by a panel of six pastors, and our traditional celebration of Eucharist.

After the service, food, fellowship, fun and games were enjoyed by all.



The words of one of the songs used best capture it:

Togetherness-
Joe L Barnes, Tiffany Hudson
- CCLI #7179866

We don't always see eye to eye
 And I've been asking for quite some time
 Why does that cause such a big divide
 Why oh why

All accusations
 But no conversations
 Way too busy
 Burning down bridges
 Forgot how to build 'em
 Lord bring us back to this

Chorus: You bless You bless our togetherness
 Pour out Your Spirit upon all flesh
 We've come we've come for nothing less
 You bless You bless our togetherness



We're different in more than a million ways
 Beautiful colors that bleed the same
 A long way to go but we're on our way
 We're on our way
 Brothers and sisters
 In need of forgiveness oh
 Lead us back to holy religion
 Bring death to division
 We're ready to listen
 Lord bring us back to this

One heart one people
 One hope one gospel
 One mind one body
 One church crying holy
 One faith one baptism
 One truth one commission
 One Lord one Spirit
 One God we will worship

We will worship
 We will worship
 We will worship



The Little Free Pantry

On July 26th, during coffee hour, we spent time loving our community by making the Meal-in-a-bag kits for the little free pantry. 60 meal bags were made, which will be stocked in the Little Free Pantry.

Thanks to all the helpers! We'll be doing this the 4th Sunday of every month now.

The Little Free Pantry was created for an alternative place for people in need to get food and care items. No questions are asked. No qualifications are needed.

St. Johns received a grant earlier this year from the Mt Pleasant Area Community Foundation to help fund this project. Keeping it 'running' means work on our end, also. Some folks bring in food and other needed items, some serve as a "shopper," some restock the pantry regularly. Contact the office if you're interest in helping out.



HELPING DETAINEES



North Lake Detention Center in Baldwin

In June, several folks from St. John's attended a gathering in the Veteran's Memorial Library Annex to hear a presentation by Bonnie and Cliff DeMos from the Coalition Against Baldwin ICE Facility. The presentation was sponsored by Indivisible Central Michigan and included information about the facility and those detained there, as well as practical things one might do to care for these people who are detained. Bonnie and Cliff help set up visits for folks, as well as helping connect the detained individuals with legal assistance and resources so they can contact their families.

Another way to care for these folks, though, is to assure them they are not forgotten, that they are seen, and to help give them hope, by sending them cards. We have lists of names and many blank greeting cards to aid you in engaging in this ministry of "respecting the dignity of every person." Contact Sr. Diane or the office.





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

Carol Lauffer
P.O. Box 125
Spofford, NH 03462

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

Margaret Kuhn
Serene Gardens of Clarkston
Room 108
5850 White Lake Rd
Clarkston, MI 48346

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



August Birthdays

Misha Proctor	08/04
Roger Hatch	08/05
Emery Flanders	08/07
Jessica Vinciguerra	08/08
Patricia Thurston	08/14
Christopher Benn	08/15
Zachary Leslie	08/17
Mary Stewart Kiesgen	08/19

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.



August Anniversaries

David & Nancy Kinney	08/01
Jim & Patricia Thurston	08/05

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 10AM: [Church School by Zoom](#)

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

Coffee Hour Schedule:

August 2	Christi Brookes and DJ Proctor
August 9	Shron Bolton and Linda-Susan Beard
August 16	Pamela and Ford Dingman
August 23	The Eichinger Family
August 30	Jen and Dave Dingman

Greeters Schedule:**Director:**

August 2	The Davidson Family	Jim Thurston
August 9	David and Nancy Kinney	Jerry Mey
August 16	Jen and Dave Dingman	Jerry May
August 23	Laura Cochrane and TBD	Jim Thurston
August 30	Jen and Dave Dingman	Christi Brookes

Lay Ministers:

	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Prayers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
August 2	Linda- Susan Beard	Brenda Rau	Adam Baker
August 9	Derek Rivard	Jeanne Maxon	Adam Baker
August 16	Jim Thurston	Jen Dingman	Adam Baker
August 23	Mary Stewart Kiesgen	Denise Keeler	Peyton Eichinger
August 30	Brenda Rau	Pat Thurston	DJ Proctor

August Calendar

**Sundays: 08/03, 08/10, 08/17,
08/24, 08/31**

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

**Mondays: 08/04, 08/11,
08/18, 08/25**

6:30PM GA

**Tuesdays: 08/05, 08/12,
08/19, 08/26**

11am Tai Chi with Judy

**Wednesdays: 08/06, 08/13,
08/20, 08/27**

10am Church School via Zoom

**Thursdays: 08/07, 08/14,
08/21, 08/28**

11am Tai Chi with Judy
8pm Compline via Zoom

**Fridays: 08/08, 08/15,
08/22, 08/29**

Nothing on these days
Office Closed



There will be no Supper Church in August, but we will be having the first Jazz Vespers on August 28th. More details to follow.



Free Guidance for Long-Term Care and Future

Planning Person-Centered Options Counseling (PCOC) provides free, one-on-one support to help individuals and families understand long-term care options, navigate caregiving decisions, and plan for future needs.

PCOC Can Help You:

- Explore long-term care options
- Navigate caregiving decisions
- Understand available community resources
- Simplify program services, eligibility, and paperwork
- Plan for future care needs with unbiased guidance

Free support for adults 18 and older regardless of income or disability status.

Free Medicare Help From Trusted Local Counselors

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides free, confidential one-on-one Medicare counseling to help you understand coverage, compare plans, lower costs, and make informed healthcare decisions.

SHIP Can Help You:

- Understand Medicare benefits, options, and costs
- Compare and choose Medicare Advantage and Part D plans
- Apply for programs that help reduce Medicare expenses
- Enroll in or change plans Recognize and report Medicare scams or fraud

Free support for anyone age 65 or older regardless of disability status, with no income or asset requirements.

No diagnosis or disability is required to access these services.

Call (989) 835-4041 or email nwd@dnmm.org.

Learn more at www.dnmm.org/mi-options

Good News Garden



The Good News Garden is growing! Please consider volunteering on Thursday mornings at 10 am. Thank you to Maureen, Evans, Diane and all who have put in so much work already this season!

We grow organic produce for the Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. We worked with both organizations to know what to grow, when to deliver to them, and it is fun learning how they used the fresh vegetables.

We are in need of lots of help during the harvest months, as well as plastic, clam-shell containers meant for produce.

If you are interested in helping with the garden this year, please email saintjohnsmp@gmail.com.

Would you like a St. John's shirt?

You can order one from Wino Mommy Boutique on Facebook, or let Brenda know what you would like (her niece is making them).

The cost is \$20 for sizes S-XL, or \$25 for extended sizes.



**The Clean and Bright laundry and Clean and Bright Showers
are recruiting new volunteers.
Please consider making a difference in someone's outlook.**

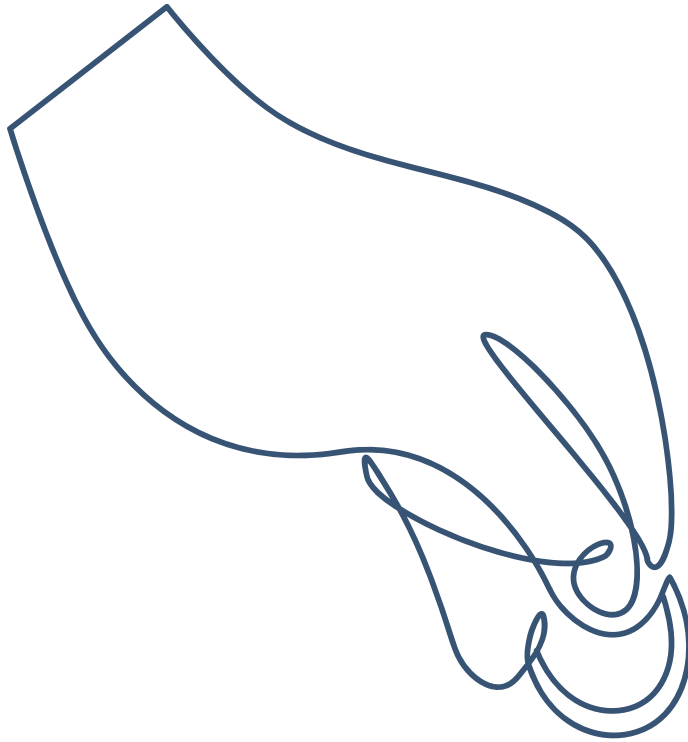
**Contact Jim Thurston for details.
retired0216@gmail.com**





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!



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
Kevin Davidson
Lara Raisanen
Dan Eichinger
Jerry May
Rev. Sr. Diane Stier