



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People of St. John's and Friends,

For some, the coming of September is the end of summer, and August 31 IS the end according to meteorology (or weather) folks. Astronomically, summer ends on September 22 this year. Culturally, the end of summer is Labor Day, eh? (No wearing white after Labor Day!) The seasons are about change – and even our understanding of the ‘boundaries’ of seasons can change, depending on our perspective.

The end of summer marks the beginning of autumn, though, and with that comes all sorts of ‘beginnings.’ School starts up – Sibling Jess is cranking up the fall campus ministry schedule - our Choral Scholars return – and the choir sings again starting September 13th!

Speaking of seasons... September 1 was the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and it is the start of the “Season of Creation” – lasting until October 4, the Feast of St. Francis. The Episcopal Church has provided approved resources for use during this time, and we will observe this Season of Creation using some of those resources in our Sunday liturgies.

On September 16, I will leave for Brazil – returning September 29. This is not another vacation, but a “mission trip” of sorts. You can find the tale of how this all came to pass below. This was not on my bingo card, or on my bucket list!

We'll once again have Worship in the Woods at Emmaus – on September 27 (Sibling Jess will be presiding) at 4 pm, with a potluck afterward.

Finally, September 30th is Orange Shirt Day - observed annually on September 30 to honor Indigenous children who survived residential schools and remember those who never returned home. The day was inspired by Phyllis Webstad in 2013. On her first day at St. Joseph's Mission residential school in British Columbia, her new orange shirt—given to her by her grandmother—was stripped away. Wear an orange shirt – and spread the word that EVERY CHILD MATTERS.

Please go through the rest of this month's Evangel. There are many things coming up – too many for me to mention all of them here – and I don't want you to miss any of them.

“Life is short. We don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind.”

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

Sr. Diane+

Minutes from June and August will be published in the October Evangel.

July 2026 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of July (58.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts\$ 128,803.78 (58.11% of budget)
 Unrestricted operating fund expenditures127,203.24 (59.18% of budget)
 Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures\$ (1,600.54)

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	73,792.87
Isabella Bank - Savings	200.02
Members First CU - Savings	98,622.55
Members First CU - CD 03-27-27	22,464.05
Members First CU - CD 10-22-27	91,867.51
Members First CU - CD 11-30-26	15,650.52
Endowment Fund	141,475.26
Total	<u>444,072.78</u>

Regards,

Sam



The third convention of The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes will be held October 23 and 24 at the Delta Hotels Muskegon Convention Center.

Bishop Candidate Meet and Greet

Meet and Greet are holy conversations to get to know candidates better and to get a sense of how the Holy Spirit is moving in our diocesan community.

Each session will last about 90 minutes and feature moderated questions selected by the Transition Committee based on community input.

Monday, September 21

9 – 10:30 a.m. St. Luke's Kalamazoo
6 – 7:30 p.m. Sudanese Grace, Grand Rapids

Tuesday, September 22

1:30 – 3 p.m. Grace, Traverse City

Wednesday, September 23

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon Transfiguration, Indian River
5:30 – 7 p.m. Trinity, Alpena

Thursday, September 24

4:30 – 6 p.m. St. Matthew's, Saginaw

Friday, September 25

10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Trinity, Lexington
3 – 4:30 p.m. St. Paul's, Flint
7 – 8:30 p.m. Zoom

For more information or to register, go to
<https://greatlakesepiscopal.org/bishop-search/meet-and-greets/>

OFF TO BRAZIL!



SR. DIANE AND
ISABELLA WHEN SHE
VISITED ST. JOHN'S IN
MAY 2025.

You may remember that in May 2025, Isabella Byrd came from Brazil for the last Sunday that the choir sang that spring. She came to see the place her husband, Peter Rodenbeck, spoke of so often and held dear. Peter had been a member of the St. John's Boy Choir in the 1950s and he apparently told all who would listen how those years at St. John's had affected his life. Peter died in October of 2024. – So Isabella came to St. John's to see us for herself – and she and Peter's best friend, Larry Fish, made a generous contribution to the music fund at St. John's.

About two months ago, "Isa" called me – out of the blue – and asked me to come to Sao Paulo, Brazil. I asked her to email the details to me, and this is what she sent:

"As I mentioned the invitation to come to Brazil arriving at a SÃO PAULO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, so you could participate in a beautiful service and visit to an education institution that has children from a very poor community.

Plus we would take a small trip to the historic town of TIRADENTES, state called MINAS GERAIS. The city is from the period of our colonization by Portuguese people.

We will be a group of 12 people. It's a selected group of friends of Peter that participate with me at CASA BYRD HOUSE, a philanthropic group that I created since Peter passed. It will be a meeting, a lunch and dinner for 1 year of formation of the group CASA BYRD HOUSE.

In São Paulo the idea is for you to visit the institution of the Anglican Cathedral - a day care for 1500 children from 0 to 5 years old. And participate in the Sunday service at the Anglican Cathedral."

I checked with Sr. Linda-Susan and with Vestry before accepting the invitation – and everyone encouraged me to go. And so I will!

It turns out that I will be celebrating the Eucharist at the 10 AM (ENGLISH) service at the Episcopal Anglican Cathedral in Sao Paulo on September 20. This was not on my bucket list!



ISABELLA AND PETER
IN APRIL 2024.

Keep us all in your prayer.

On August 28th, we held our first Jazz Vespers



Jazz Vespers has its roots as a ministry to the night people in New York City. In the early 1960s, John Garcia Gensel, a pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran Church on Lexington Avenue in Manhattan, began a remarkable ministry to the jazz community of New York City. It was a 9 to 5 gig but very different from most in one important respect — Gensel began at 9:00 p.m. and ended at 5:00 a.m.!

Since then, Jazz Vespers has found its place in Episcopal, Anglican, and other churches around the world. It is a wonderful example of opening the doors of the church to recognize that prayer has many expressions. Rev. Andrew K. Barnett, founder of the Theodicy Jazz Collective explains: "Jazz brings freedom into structure so there's room for the Spirit to move. It's finding a middle path between freedom and structure. That's an Anglican idea." (Theodicy's commissioned five-movement "Canterbury Jazz Mass" was premiered at Canterbury Cathedral in 2012.)

Musicians

Vocal – Victoria Offutt

Guitar – Jordan Cuneo

Drums – Aaron Hartshorn

Piano – Ethan Kindle





PFLAG ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

Bad air quality on July 19 moved our annual summer picnic indoors to First United Methodist, but the quality of the conversation and fellowship was excellent. We enjoyed a lavish array of food and desserts. Music for the afternoon was provided by Fat Henry. President Tom Brubaker gave updates on various activities and as always, thanked the many volunteers who keep PFLAG GLBR running.

Certificates of appreciation were given to

- **The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier**, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Mount Pleasant in recognition of the church's welcome of the LGBTQ+ community and for hosting the new PFLAG satellite;
- **Pat & Jim Thurston**, for their efforts in starting the new Mt. Pleasant satellite;
- **Rev. John Soyster**, for helping with the newsletter and advocacy efforts.



Little Free Pantry

The Little Free Pantry committee has been hard at work improving and streamlining our ministry! We have an 8-week rotation of meals-in-a-bag and a plan in place for regular pantry stocking! If you're wondering how YOU could help! Please consider:

- donating loose change/bills on the last Sunday of each month to benefit our fund
- attending the last Sunday of the month Coffee Hour to help assemble the meals-in-a-bag
- donating any extra items - pop-top soups and pastas, breakfast cereals & breakfast bars, water, individually wrapped toilet paper rolls (Sam's Club), any "grab and go" type snacks - or anything else you think folks might like that are easy-open and bringing them to the narthex. Consider adding one or two extra items to your shopping list each week.
- volunteer to pick up the Meals in a Bag shopping list at Aldi (it can be ordered online. Volunteers are just needed to pick up and bring to the Lantern) Commitment is once every two months.

Please contact Nancy Hartshorne if you'd like to volunteer!

Harts1ns@cmich.edu 989 289-7372



**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
Crestwood Village
2378 S Lincoln Rd
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

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.



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.



September Birthdays

David Shirley	09/03
Anna Rau	09/04
Emma Dingman	09/04
Clancy DeLong	09/05
Laura Cochran	09/10
Christine Dyer	09/15
Sharon Bolton	09/20
Elizabeth Brockman	09/20
Paul Rose	09/28
Frank Benn	09/29



September Anniversaries

Dan and Jasmine Eichinger	09/01
Randi and Barbara L'Hommedieu	09/11
Donald and Janice Schurr	09/18
Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane	09/28

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

Director:

September 6	Lynn L'Hommedieu and Liz Brockman	Jim Thurston
September 13	The Eichinger Family	Jerry Mey
September 20	Ford and Pamela Dingman	Jerry May
September 27	Jen and Dave Dingman	Jim Thurston
		Christi Brookes

Greeters

Lector

September 6	Christi Brookes and DJ Proctor	Pat Thurston
September 13	Ford and Pamela Dingman	Pat Thurston
September 20	The Davidson Family	Kevin Davidson
September 27	Jen and Dave Dingman	Mary Stewart Kiesgen

Prayer

Acolyte

Chalice

September 6	Jim Thurston	Adam Baker	Adam Baker
September 13	Denise Keeler	Peyton Eichinger	
September 20	Derek Rivard	Adam Baker	Monica Bird
September 27	Jim Thurston	Dj Proctor	

September Calendar

**Sundays: 09/06, 09/13, 09/20,
09/27**

10am Holy Communion (In
person, Facebook, & YouTube)
4pm Tea and Tarot

**Mondays: 09/07, 09/14,
09/21, 09/28**

Office Closed
6:30PM GA

**Tuesdays: 09/01, 09/08,
09/15, 09/22, 09/29**

6pm Recovery 360

**Wednesdays: 09/02, 09/09,
09/16, 09/23, 09/30**

6pm Choir Practice

**Thursdays: 09/03, 09/10,
09/17, 09/24**

6:00pm Tai Chi
6:30pm Holy Shift Evening Prayer
8pm Compline via Zoom

**Fridays: 09/04, 09/11,
09/18, 09/25**

Office Closed

Free Breast Screening

Screening for breast cancer will give you your best chance to identify cancer early. Women 40 years and older, without health insurance, and who have not had a mammogram in the past 12 months are eligible to participate in the free screening. The screening includes a clinical breast exam conducted by Stephanie Leslie, FNP, and a free digital Mammogram.

Friday, October 9 | 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

McLaren Central Michigan (Mammography West Entrance)

1221 South Drive. Mt. Pleasant

Appointment required.

Call (989) 779-5606 to schedule an appointment.

Free Prostate Screening

Men 50+ and high-risk men 40-49 can benefit from this simple blood test. Complete a health questionnaire, get your blood drawn, and receive results within two weeks. Test results can be shared with physicians as requested. Pre-registration is required.

Friday, September 25 | 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Karmanos Cancer Institute at McLaren Central Michigan, Morey Cancer Center

1221 South Drive, Mt. Pleasant

Appointment required. Call (989) 779-5606 to schedule an appointment.

Free Stroke Screening

Strokes do not discriminate; they affect people of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds. Fortunately, many strokes are preventable, and you can take steps to reduce your risk. Begin by understanding the risk factors and find out how you stack up. Make your appointment today...it could save your life! You will leave the screening with your results and a plan of action provided by Grant McConaughy, FNP-BC

Screening includes:

- Diabetes Screening
- Blood Pressure and pulse
- Body Mass Index
- Risk-reduction plan
- Results Counseling
- Full lipid profile. including total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, and triglycerides.

A 12 hour fast is required for accurate results. Even though this is a fasting blood test, please take any morning medication as usual with unflavored water. Do not eat or drink anything other than unflavored water. this includes no coffee to prevent results from being inaccurate.

Tuesday, September 15 | 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

McLaren Central Michigan (East Entrance) 1221 South Drive. Mt. Pleasant

Appointment required Call (989) 779-5606 to schedule an appointment.



**This fall, St. John's choir
will be practicing on a new
night.**

**Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm
starting September 2nd**

**Contact Eric if you would like more information
about joining the choir.**



Holy Shift

Holy shift is an ecumenical campus ministry led by Sibling Jess and supported by First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Immanuel Lutheran (ELCA) and St. John's Episcopal Church.

S Tea and Tarot
4pm
St. John's Chapel

M Sibling Jess' Day Off

T Office Hours

W Community Lunch
11:30-1:30
Wesley Center
• Office Hours
1:30-4pm

Th Evening Prayer
6:30pm
St. John's Chapel

Scan to schedule
a coffee and chat!



Scan me!

Did you know that St. John's has weekly Tai Chi?

Every Thursday night, 6 to 7:30pm in the Parish Hall





What is Compline?

Compline is the final Christian prayer service of the day, also known as **Night Prayer**.

The word comes from the Latin word *completorium*, which means completion. It marks the end of the waking day and prepares people for sleep and peace.

Every Thursday night, Compline meets on Zoom from 8-8:30pm.

Contact the church office if you would like to receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting.

Good News Garden



Harvest season is coming! Please consider volunteering on
Thursday and Saturday mornings at 10 am,
or Sunday afternoons at 4pm.

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.

Worship in the Woods

On September 27th, join us at Emmaus Monastery
for a Eucharist in the woods at 4:00pm,
Sibling Jess presiding
Potluck following.
10154 N Pine Grove Road
Vestaburg, Michigan 48891



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4 at 2pm
in the St. John's garden

Please contact Sr. Diane if you would like more
information.

All God's
Creatures



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!

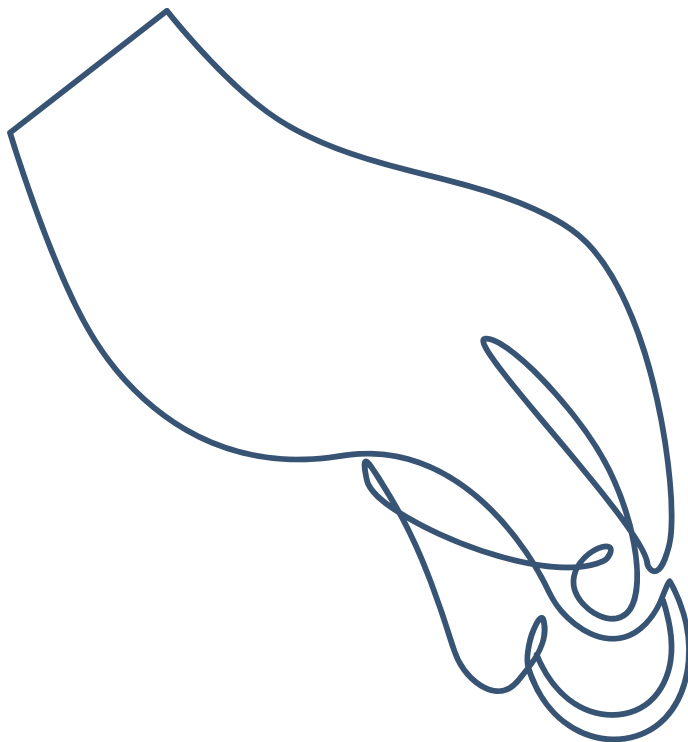
Current Sundays available:

September 6, 13, 20

October 18

November 8, 15

December 6, 13, 20, 27



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