



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

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Dear People of St. John's and Friends,

I am particularly aware of the beginnings of autumn this year, having just spent two weeks in another hemisphere where spring was just ahead! I haven't fully processed the trip to Brazil yet, but I will write about that in next month's Evangel.

Meanwhile, fall has always been my favorite time of year, I think. The colors are splendid – and they speak to me about the diversity God loves. The air has a special smell and feel to it – and it reminds me to breathe. As the trees shed their leaves, they give me a lesson in letting go. It's all good.

A lot will be happening this month:

- The Blessing of the Animals on the 4th (1 pm St. John's garden)
- Putting the Good News Garden to bed later that same afternoon – 2-4 PM.
- Indigenous Peoples Day and Canadian Thanksgiving on the 12th (Eucharist and potluck in the Parish hall – 4 pm)
- A showing of the documentary Bad River on Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m. on the CMU campus in Anspach Hall rooms 161 and 162.
- Diocesan Convention on the 23rd and 24th (in Muskegon)
- Kick-off of our Stewardship Campaign on the 25th perhaps?

More information about some of these can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Autumn most strikingly gives us the chance to see that, yes, there is grace in change, and in letting go. This year's leaves will provide the base for new life to come. May it be so in our own lives.

Sr. Diane+

Minutes from June and August vestry meetings will be published in the November Evangel.

August 2026 Financial Report – Evangel Enclosure

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

Unrestricted operating fund receipts\$ 145,336.56 (65.57%of budget)
 Unrestricted operating fund expenditures 164,482.91 (67.08% of budget)
 Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures \$ (19,146.35)

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	70,315.00
Isabella Bank - Savings	158.11
Members First CU - Savings	98,622.55
Members First CU - CD 03-27-27	22,531.59
Members First CU - CD 10-22-27	92,143.72
Members First CU - CD 11-30-26	15,899.57
Endowment Fund	141,475.26
Total	440,945.80

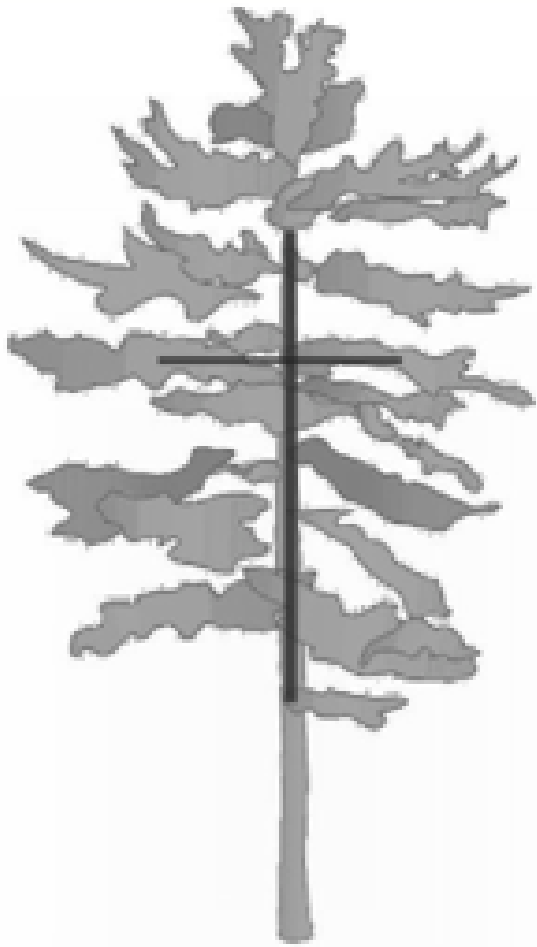
Regards,

Sam



On September 27, Sibling Jess led Worship in the Woods at Emmaus Monastery.

God of unchangeable power,
when you fashioned the world
the morning stars sang
together and the host of
heaven shouted for joy; open
our eyes to the wonders of
creation and teach us to use all
things for good, to the honor of
all your glorious names. Amen.
(adapted from: A New Zealand
Prayer Book, p. 569)



KAIROS-EARTH

Sr. Diane was on a mission trip to Brazil from Sept 16-Sept 29.

Later this month, we'll have the opportunity to hear all about this experience.



Sr Diane with Patricia and Julianna in the Japanese neighborhood having fresh coconut water.



Bronze statue of Deolinda Madre, a foundational matriarch of São Paulo samba, located in Praça da Liberdade in São Paulo, Brazil.



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.



October Birthdays

Sr. Linda Susan Beard	10/03
Isla Eichinger	10/05
Rod Leslie	10/17
Anne Alton	10/29



October Anniversaries

Frank and Diane Benn	10/10
Christi Brookes and DJ Proctor	10/12
Miranda Ley and Everett Bradshaw	10/21

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**

October 4	The Davidson Family	Jerry May
October 11	Nancy and David Kinney	Jerry May
October 18	Jen and Dave Dingman	Jim Thurston
October 25	Pamela and Ford Dingman	Alice Ciccu

Greeters**Lector**

October 4	Laura Cochrane and Sharon Bolton	Pat Thurston
October 11	Ford and Pamela Dingman	Denise Keeler
October 18	DJ Proctor and Christi Brookes	Mary Stewart-Kiesgen
October 25	Pat and Clancy DeLong	Derek Rivard

Prayer**Acolyte****Chalice**

October 4	Sharon Boltonn	Adam Baker and Byron Davidson	Adam Baker
October 11	Jim Thurston	Adam Baker	Adam Baker
October 18	Jen Dingman	Dj Proctor	Pat Thurston
October 25	Linda-Susan Beard	Adam Baker	Adam Baker

October Weekly Calendar

Sundays:

10/04, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25

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

4pm Tea and Tarot

Mondays:

10/05, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26

Office Closed

6:30PM GA

Tuesdays:

10/06, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27

Office open 9am-2pm

6pm Recovery 360

Wednesdays:

10/07, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28

Office open 9am-2pm

10am Bible Study via Zoom

6pm Choir Practice

Thursdays:

10/01, 10/08, 10/15, 10/22,
10/29

Office open 9am-1pm

6:00pm Tai Chi

6:30pm Holy Shift Evening Prayer

8pm Compline via Zoom

Fridays:

10/02, 10/09, 10/16, 10/23,
10/30

Office Closed

October Monthly Calendar

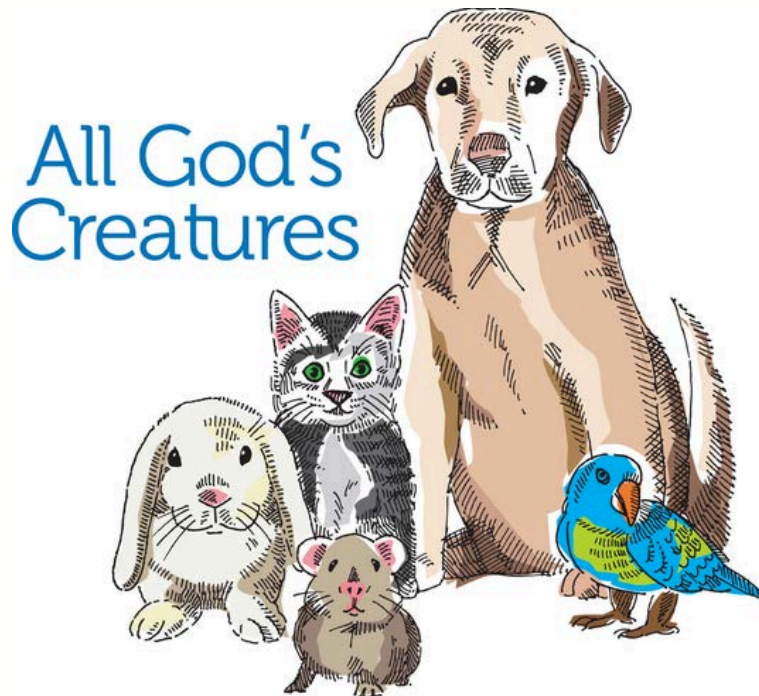
October 2026						
SUN 27	MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
10am Holy Communion 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Tea and Tarot (Holy	- Office closed 6pm GA	6pm Recovery 360 Paris	1:30pm Violin Classes in 6pm Choir practice undi	6pm Tai Chi in Parish Ha 6:30pm Evening Prayer- 8pm Compline via Zoom	- Office Closed 10:15am Ethan - piano le 3pm Violin Classes in Pa	
10am Holy Communion 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Tea and Tarot (Holy	- Office closed 6pm GA	6pm Recovery 360 Paris	1:30pm Violin Classes in 2pm CM Indivisible Bool 6pm Choir practice undi	6pm Tai Chi in Parish Ha 6:30pm Evening Prayer- 8pm Compline via Zoom	- Office Closed 10:15am Ethan - piano le 3pm Violin Classes in Pa	12pm Silent Auction-Par
10am Holy Communion 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Tea and Tarot (Holy	- Office closed 6pm GA	6pm Recovery 360 Paris	1:30pm Violin Classes in 6pm Choir practice undi	6pm Tai Chi in Parish Ha 6:30pm Evening Prayer- 8pm Compline via Zoom	- Office Closed 10:15am Ethan - piano le 3pm Violin Classes in Pa	
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10am Holy Communion 11am Coffee Hour 1:30pm PFLAG Meeting 4pm Tea and Tarot (Holy	- Office closed 6pm GA 6pm PFLAG GLB Book cl	6pm Recovery 360 Paris	1:30pm Violin Classes in 6pm Choir practice undi	6pm Tai Chi in Parish Ha 6:30pm Evening Prayer- 8pm Compline via Zoom	- Office Closed 10:15am Ethan - piano le 3pm Violin Classes in Pa	
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Contact the church office for
details on renting or using any
St. John's facilities.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4 at 1pm
in the St. John's garden

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



**Afterwards, join us at Emmaus Monastery
from 2-4pm to “Put the Garden to Bed”**

We will be enjoying a meal together
afterwards.



Sonny Smart on the shores of the Bad River. © Richard Schultz 2022. Courtesy of 50 Eggs Films



The Kakagon Sloughs. © Richard Schultz 2022. Courtesy of 50 Eggs Films



Jingle dresses at the Bad River Powwow. © Richard Schultz 2022. Courtesy of 50 Eggs Films



Mary Mazzio and Joe Grasso on location at the Bad River Reservation. © Richard Schultz 2022. Courtesy of 50 Eggs Films



Father and Son sitting at Waverley Beach on the shores of Lake Superior. © Richard Schultz 2022. Courtesy of 50 Eggs Films

You are invited to view a 2024 documentary, ***Bad River***, which chronicles the Wisconsin-based Bad River (Chippewa) Band's struggle for sovereignty and its fight to protect Lake Superior from the threat of an aging pipeline. It describes the Bad River Band's present-day activism with deep historical context and highlights resilience, environmental stewardship, and a David-vs-Goliath legal battle to save Lake Superior. The story will take you through a series of shocking revelations, devastating losses, and a powerful legacy of defiance and resilience which are the basis for one tribal leader's declaration: "We gotta protect it... die for it if we have to." As a community interwoven with native culture, it is important that we understand this important perspective on an issue that is still pertinent to our collective future.

Bad River will be shown on Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m. on the CMU campus in Anspach Hall rooms 161 and 162. Parking is free after 5 p.m. This event, free and open to the public, is sponsored by the CMU Social Sciences Department with support from The Welcome Table, a community-based, multi-faith group that brings people together to learn about and give hope and help to each other. The Welcome Table is an action-pod of Indivisible Central Michigan, a local affiliate of Indivisible.org



NEWS

The PFLAG GLB Mt Pleasant Satellite meeting will occur on Sunday, October 18th, from 2:00 - 3:30 P.M. at the Parish Hall of St. John's. The topic for this meeting is "Sharing Our Stories with Purpose." Writers will read their advocacy letters written for elected officials. We will discuss how PFLAG advocates for civil rights using our own stories from allies and from the LGBTQ+ community. The October meeting will include a confidential support group session. Light refreshments will be provided.

The GLB Chapter's Richard S. Resource Library has come to Mt Pleasant having 500 LGBTQ+ themed books. Helpful booklets from PFLAG National will also be available. Books will be rotated to Mt. Pleasant. Check out the book cart and select one to check out for a month at a time at our regular meetings.

Book Club Soirees:

The second Mt Pleasant Book Club Soiree will meet Monday, October 19th, at 6 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church in the Undercroft (the basement). This month's conversation and book discussion is on "Is This a Cry for Help" by Emily Austin (fiction). Contact Pat Thurston at pattt1246@gmail.com to find out how to get a copy. Light refreshments are served.

Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience, Nov 15th, 2-3:30 pm, St John's Parish Hall. This service is a commemoration of those we've lost and a celebration of those still living their truth. The service will be live streamed (not zoomed) from the First United Methodist Church, Saginaw, MI. There will be a support session afterward.

PFLAG <https://www.pflagglb.com/>
 MP Pride <https://www.mppridecenter.com/>
 Visit the websites for more information



Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes Convention October 23-24

The third convention of The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes will be held at the Delta Hotels Muskegon Convention Center. The theme for the gathering is “How Firm a Foundation,” reminding us that as we embark on this new chapter in our diocese that our foundation, as ever, is set deeply in the love and example of Christ.

Our third diocesan convention will be the electing convention for the first bishop diocesan of The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

Deadline for registration is Oct. 8th

**For more information, please visit
<https://greatlakesepiscopal.org/convention-iii/>**

October 12, 2026



Indigenous Peoples' Day stands as a testament to the growing global recognition of the need to honor and uplift the voices, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples.

Mid Michigan College, in partnership with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Central Michigan University, is pleased to host a community event celebrating the cultural traditions of Native peoples.

Mt. Pleasant Campus | Community Room

Agenda

- 10am - Opening by Blue House Singers & Drum Circle
- 10:10am - Welcome
- 10:30am - Keynote Address Focused on Indigenous Song & Dance

This year we are taking a deep dive into song and dance, including men's and women's traditional dances, men's grass and fancy feather, and women's jingle dress and fancy shawl. Performances coordinated by The Ziibiwing Center.

- 11:30am - Indigenous Food Sampling by Indigenous Chef Sam Anglin
- Noon - Closing by Blue House Singers & Drum Circles

There will be a special Eucharist in the St. John's Parish Hall at 4pm, with a potluck following



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN YOUTH CHOIR, A COMMUNITY WORSHIP CHOIR OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12 WHO ENJOY SINGING AND WOULD LIKE AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THEIR MUSICAL GIFTS.

REHEARSALS WILL BE ON SUNDAYS FROM 5:00-6:00 P.M. AND WEDNESDAYS FROM 4:30-5:45 P.M. OUR SCHEDULED PERFORMANCES FOR THE 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR ARE:



OCTOBER 25, 2026
DECEMBER 20, 2026
FEBRUARY 14, 2027
MAY 16, 2027

We would love to have you
join us at the 2nd Annual

St. John's Episcopal Church
Midland, MI

Ladies Prayer Breakfast

**Fundraiser for
Independent Community Living**

Sponsored by St. Martha's Guild

**November 7, 2026
9-11:00 am**

Tickets: \$85 individual, \$200 for a table of six

Sisters in Christ! We would love for you to join us at St. John's Episcopal Church, Midland, MI for the 2nd Annual Ladies Prayer Breakfast fundraiser where we come together to celebrate faith, friendship, and community.

Start your day with inspirational prayers and a delicious upscale brunch surrounded by uplifting women. This event is a fantastic opportunity to connect with others and to support Independent Community Living, a local organization that supports men and women with physical and intellectual disabilities to live independent lives in their own homes.

We strongly believe in giving back to our community, and the qualified, compassionate staff at Independent Community Living provide the exact level of support each individual requires while helping participants live healthy, safe and socially active lives.

Contact Deneé Koonce for more information deknee@me.com



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!



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.

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

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





**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.**



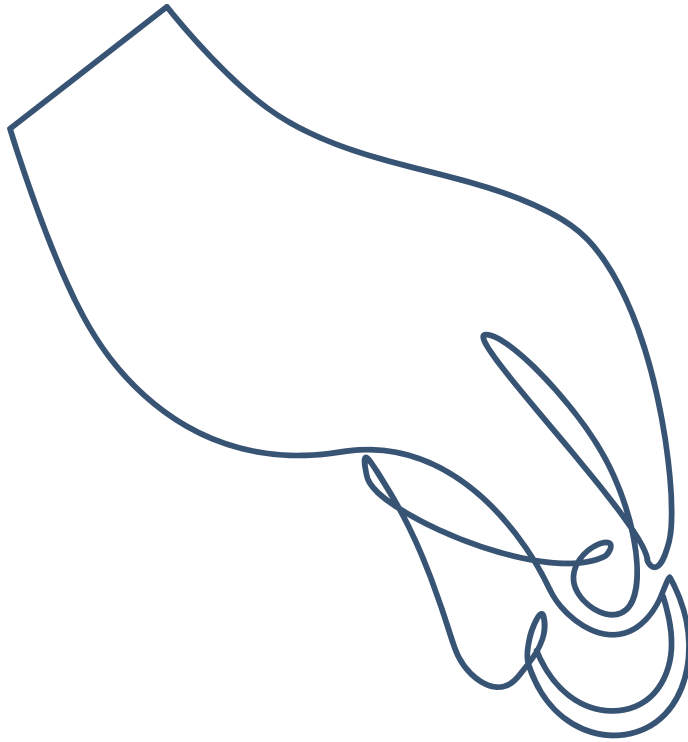
The 2026 Altar Flower Calendar is posted in the Lantern across from the elevator. Please consider a Sunday that is a good date for you to honor or remember a loved one and sign up to provide altar flowers. Flowers are a wonderful addition to worship! You may use flowers from your garden or a store and 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:

November 8, 15

December 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