

Pastor Sarah October 2023

A month of busyness and business – that’s what October felt like. With several funerals and lots of meetings, it was a month that in a lot of ways was overwhelming and very tiring. But just as always, we got through it together and were able to do good ministry together.

Meetings about many different subjects were had, some one on one types and some with teams and groups. It is always wonderful to have the chance to gather and do the work of the church, though it can be overwhelming how much work there really is to do. We spent time together this month preparing for our annual meeting, looking at our finances and resources and doing the every day work of the church – all important things.

We also spent time together grieving this month. Two very large funerals as well as a funeral in my family make it feel like the month was a sad one, but we also rejoice in the lives of the saints that have gone before us.

We tried to spend time playing together this month, but the weather did not do our Fall Festival any good this month. A lot of work went into the day, but when shifting for the weather happened, we really lost a lot of our momentum and people. Those who attended still had an enjoyable time, but it would have been nice to have better weather for more to join us. We will be looking at plans for next year and perhaps shooting for earlier in the fall to hopefully have nicer weather.

Plans for the holidays are well underway – please note the new worship times for Christmas Eve, which happens to fall on a Sunday this year. We will worship at 10am, 4pm and 8pm. I’m sure it will be a joyous day!

A few things to look at together. I will attaching an employee handbook for the council to look at. I know that we might not be ready to do much with it in November, but my hope is that questions might be asked at that meeting and then perhaps a vote at the December meeting so that we can implement it beginning January 1. We do not have any employee standards written down anywhere, and it is just not good practice to have nothing to go on. This would at least give us somewhere to start and make improvements to as we go forward.

Also, I would like us to discuss a change in logo for St. John’s Right now we use this:



It is quite boring and static and it is also hard to print on some promotional materials as it is usually very small.

We would like to consider this as our new logo:



St. John's Lutheran Church

Grow in Faith. Share God's Love. Serve Others.

The biggest change if the SJ – this is meant to look like flames of the Holy Spirit – it would give us a more unique logo to build on instead of just a date. Please consider this and we will discuss at council.

Other things to consider:

1. What do you reflect as positives and negatives for this year on council? If this is your last year, how would you describe your experience serving on council? Would you serve again if asked?
2. For those staying on council, what is your personal goal for the coming year? How do you see your gifts being used on council and in the greater church?