



*'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'*



## A YEAR UNTRIED

As I write this it is still 2024. - When you read this, it will be 2025.

The passage of time is so quick; years pass by rapidly. But within each year there are those days that can seem to last forever. Those are the days of worry, frustration, fear, hurt and loss. The year 2024 for you, may have held many such days that seemed unending. You were totally unprepared to face what hit you in life; and your life seemed to plunge out of control. But hopefully you understood that as long as you remained in faith, your Lord Jesus was with you, and you would survive...and you have; at least in the sense that you have survived the year 2024.

But now we enter the year 2025 and you have to "go back at it and do it again." And who knows what we will have to face in this New Year ahead. – A poet writes these words:

### A YEAR UNTRIED BEFORE ME LIES

A year untried before me lies. What it shall bring of strange surprise,  
of joy, or grief, I cannot tell; But God my Father knows full well.  
I make it no concern of mine; but leave it all with Love divine.  
The sun may shed no light by day, nor stars at night illumine my way.  
My soul shall have no need of fright; since Christ is all my life and light.  
Though all the earthly lights grow dim, one walks in light, who walks with Him.  
No ill can come that He can't cure; His Word does all for good insure:  
He'll see me through the journey's length; for daily need, He gives me strength.  
Source Unknown.

Now before us lies the untried year of 2025. What the year will hold, we don't know...but God does. Place your trust in your Lord Jesus. Serve Him with all your life. And do not doubt, but have faith that no matter what, with Christ with you in life...there is no position you can get into, that He cannot get you out of.

*"The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you;  
He will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deut. 31:8)*

Christ be with you today...and tomorrow...and forever.

  
Pastor Jeff G. Gavin

# IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD - 2024

## The Year In Review

It was a "Year of our Lord" for St. John, as His presence was evident in so many ways.

### **2024 WAS FOR ST. JOHN, A YEAR OF:**

- + From January 7, and for the next seven months Pastor Jeff also served as caregiver to his wife Lynn, who suffered a stroke. We were very grateful to our very understanding St. John Family.
- + Recognizing the nearly impossible task of securing an organist, we continued our practice with which we became quite adept during seven months in 2023, conducting digital music services. Pastor locates, selects, downloads, edits, normalizes for volume, and prepares audio files from various sources and then transfers them onto a lap-top, hooked into our sound system for our "Digital Organists" to play during the service. A sizable and time-consuming task, but one which has resulted in a wide variety of music selections.
- + On Easter Sunday a new ministry item was introduced in the church, a wall mounted 85" large screen monitor. Since then every worship service now presents "Welcome Pictures". A welcome to St. John image, leads to carefully selected images that reveal the theme of the day and are designed to depict and enhance the spoken content of the day's sermon. – The ability to conduct a slide-show presentation has also been used for special sermons, funerals and the school tours of our church and cemetery.
- + At our neighbor: Mount Prospect Senior Living, Pastor conducts monthly Devotional Bible Classes.
- + Historical tours of our church and cemetery continued for two Mt. Prospect elementary schools. Over a month, 300+ students, teachers and parents attended these tours conducted by Pastor.
- + Thanks to Joe Schubkegel and others, we held our first Easter Breakfast since 2019, before the Covid Pandemic. It was very much enjoyed by all; and we hope set a precedent for future years.
- + Beginning in the summer, we began seeing a sizable number of returning visitors for worship every Sunday. Many have continued to regularly attend worship, and some of them have since joined as members.
- + On August 24, Pastor Jeff and Lynn quietly celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Lynn's health concerns negated any hoped-for overseas travel. But they enjoyed a brief four-day vacation to the small resort community in Northern Wisconsin where they had not been for at least a decade, but where they had spent their honeymoon 50 years earlier.
- + After the worship service on Thanksgiving Day was considered to be an appropriate time to offer our thanks to Cathy Schubkegel, in recognition of her 25 years of service to us as our St. John Church Secretary. Cathy started her position with us all the way back in the last century, in August 1999. A large, specially etched, crystal display piece was awarded her for having to put up with Pastor as her boss over those 25 years.
- + So many other day to day tasks, varied ministries, challenges and prayers were faced by your Pastor and your church leadership in 2024.
- + Our leaders, board members, our St. John Family members and many willing volunteers worked together to keep the ministries of our church going. We are grateful to everyone who aided, assisted and supported St John during this past year.

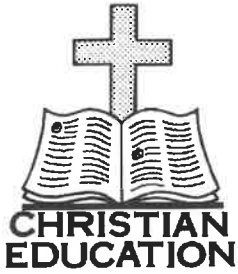
It was a year of joys and sorrows, Bible classes, meetings, special worship services, programs and ministries and countless blessings from our Lord. It was all of this and more, for 2024 was a "Year of our Lord" at St. John.

### 2024 STATISTICS

Deaths: 1 / Adult Confirmations: 2 / Transfer In: 2 / Baptisms: 2 / Transfer Out: 2

### Membership

Baptized Souls: 333 / Communicants: 202



We hope you will come and join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM** for our **ADULT Sunday Bible Class** in the lower level of the school building . . . ***open question forum.***

Please join us for our **Mid-Week Bible Class** on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the school building.

**PASTOR** . . . has resumed taking Fridays as his "Day Off". Even though he may sometimes be in his office, he is scheduling no work; so Please do not Visit him, or Phone him on Fridays. If there is a true Emergency, call him on his Cell: (630) 776-2382. Thank you.

**ALTAR FLOWERS . . . ALTAR FLOWERS CAN COST AS LITTLE AS \$20.**

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, (*or confirm your "standing order"*) please contact please call the **CHURCH OFFICE** at **(847) 593-7670** or email Pastor at [jeffgavin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffgavin@sbcglobal.net) **NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE PRIOR TUESDAY!**



**Please Note:** When you donate flowers for our worship services, you are welcome to bring the flowers home after the 10:30 service.

**OUR WELCOME PICTURES**

Each Sunday you are now welcomed with a slide show of pictures on our large screen monitor. We hope you do look at these pictures; as they are not just random images, but carefully selected images that reveal the theme of the day, and are designed to depict and enhance the spoken content of the day's sermon.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Along with "Birthday Greetings", we also wish a "Happy Anniversary" to those couples who were married during each month by printing their marriage date.

If you are unsure if we might have a record of your wedding date . . . please contact the church office (847-593-7670, ext 1) with this information. We would like to include all of our married couples and wish to them . . . ***"Happy Anniversary"***:

Armando & Marsha Hernandez	January 6
John & Brittany Coleman	January 8
Matthew & Elizabeth Welsch	January 13
Santiago & Laurel Marin	January 14

**VOTER'S MEETING . . .**



The next Voters' Meeting will be on **Monday, February 4 at 7:30 PM** **IN THE CHURCH.**

The Agenda for this Voters' Meeting will be:

1. Board and Committee Reports



**ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild is always looking for additional volunteers who would enjoy preparing and maintaining the altar for worship at St. John. Volunteers are assigned to set up for communion, change altar paraments, and to refill the altar candles as needed. Our thanks to Jan Anderko for all she does as Head of our Altar Guild.



**Another Year is Dawning**

Another year is dawning,  
Dear Father, let it be,  
In working or in waiting,  
Another year with Thee.

Another year in progress,  
Another year of praise,  
Another year of proving,  
Thy presence in all the days.

Another year of mercies,  
Of faithfulness and grace,  
Another year of gladness,  
The glory of Thy face.

Another year of leaning  
Upon Thy loving breast,  
Another year of trusting,  
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service,  
Of witness for Thy love,  
Another year of training  
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,  
Dear Father, let it be,  
On earth, or else in heaven,  
Another year for Thee.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU . . .**

To all who did so much to aid our church this past year. Thanks to Kristi Brockie, arnie Johansen, Jon Tertel, and Jan Anderko for their fine work. A thank you also to Jon Tertel who assisted Pastor in so many ways.

Thanks to Joe Schubkegel and all who maintained our properties. Thanks to our elected officers and Board members and Committee members who helped direct our ministries.

A Thank You also to one who works hard but is often forgotten, our Secretary: Cathy Schubkegel for her 25 years of service.

**A PERSONAL THANK YOU:**

"Lynn and I would like to express our deep appreciation for all the lovely cards, thoughtful gifts and good wishes which we have received from you . . . our St. John Family, during the past Christmas season.


May the Christ of Christmas remain with you throughout this year and continue to bless all aspects of your life.

*Pastor Jeff & Lynn*

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**I AM YOUR CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPE**

- \* I would like to talk with you,  
for I am part of your faith life.
- \* I may not be familiar to you,  
but I can help you be a better Christian.
- \* I like to go to church every Sunday,  
for I help you to be a partner with Christ.
- \* I am very small, but I am vital to the  
ministry of your church.

<b>00</b>	<b>JAN 5 2025</b>
	<b>Our St. John Lutheran Church</b> 1100 Linneman • Mt. Prospect, Illinois
	CURRENT EXPENSES . . . \$ _____
	MISSIONS and SYNOD . . . \$ _____
	_____ \$ _____
	Name _____ \$ _____
<p>Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all. -- Proverbs 22:2 NIV God loves a cheerful giver.</p> <p>C.P.H. St. Louis, MO Made in U.S.A.</p>	

- \* I challenge you to be as kind to God as He has been to you.
- \* I am only paper, but I carry the full gift of a generous heart.
- \* I am the only "pocketbook" you need to take to church on Sunday.
- \* I am not a burden, but the joy of the faithful believer.
- \* I am your chance to preach, for I am a silent sermon of your devotion.
- \* I am your way of a showing trust and love to your Lord.
- \* I am . . . **YOUR CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPE.**

**\*\*\* PLEASE REMEMBER . . .**

The surest and easiest way to solve any church financial situation is to . . .  
Fill and bring YOUR Church Offering Envelope to worship . . . every Sunday!

JANUARY

BIRTHDAY  
GREETINGS

Carmen Hetrea January 1

Leslie Raygor January 6

Thomas Kijak January 6

Joe Nather January 10

Michael Koeppen January 10

Chuck Glen January 10

Christopher Klatka January 23

Curt Gerlitz January 26

*If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the Church office for a correction... Thank You!*

*May God Bless You on your Birthday*

*The Contact* NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1101 LINNEMAN ROAD  
MOUNT PROSPECT IL 60056

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

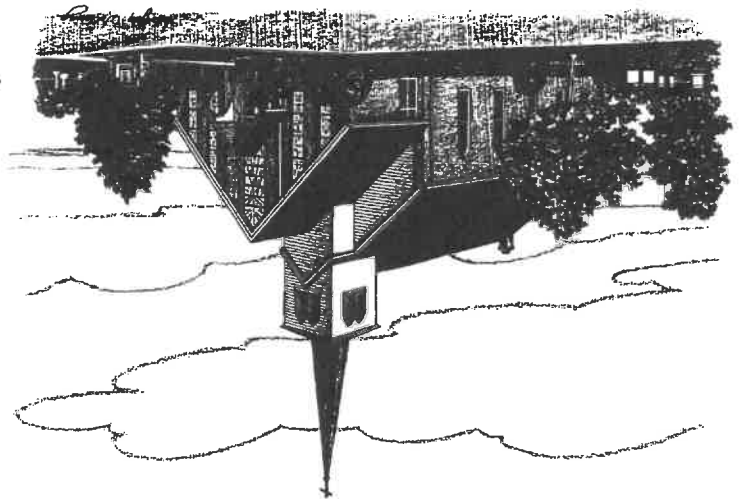
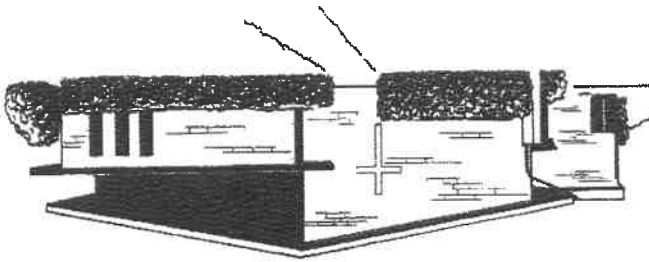
**FIRST CLASS**  
**MAIL**

*JANUARY 2025*

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1100 South Linneman Road  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Sunday Services: 8 & 10:30 AM  
Sunday Bible Classes: 9:15 AM  
Mid-Week Bible Class: Wed. at 10 AM

Telephone: (847) 593-7670  
www.stjohn-mpil.org



*"Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love"*

*St. John Lutheran Church*