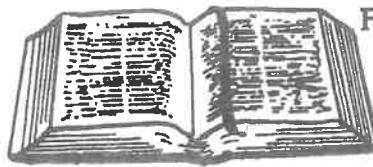


'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'

A Message
From
the Pastor



As we end the year 2025 and look ahead to 2026, I share with you this poem
as my New Year's message to you...

Looking Back And Looking Ahead

This year is ending but that's okay, A brand new year is on the way.
So many memories some good, some bad,
Some make me happy, some make me sad.

But every day my GOD was there, I felt His presence everywhere.
He never left me on my own, It was great knowing I was not alone.

As the new year starts I humbly pray, That I'll be obedient every day.
I want to listen for His voice, And always make His will my choice.

I don't know what the year will hold, But I know His arms will me enfold.
I know I'm safe in His loving care, No power on earth can harm me there.

The year may bring sorrow or pain, But my God will use it for my gain.
He won't forget me, He'll see me through, I'm thankful for all that He will do.

If you haven't met my Savior and friend, Meeting Him is an event that I recommend.
It will be the best decision you've ever made,
Then you, too, can face the New Year unafraid.

(Bob Hefner)

" Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." *Phil 4:5-9*

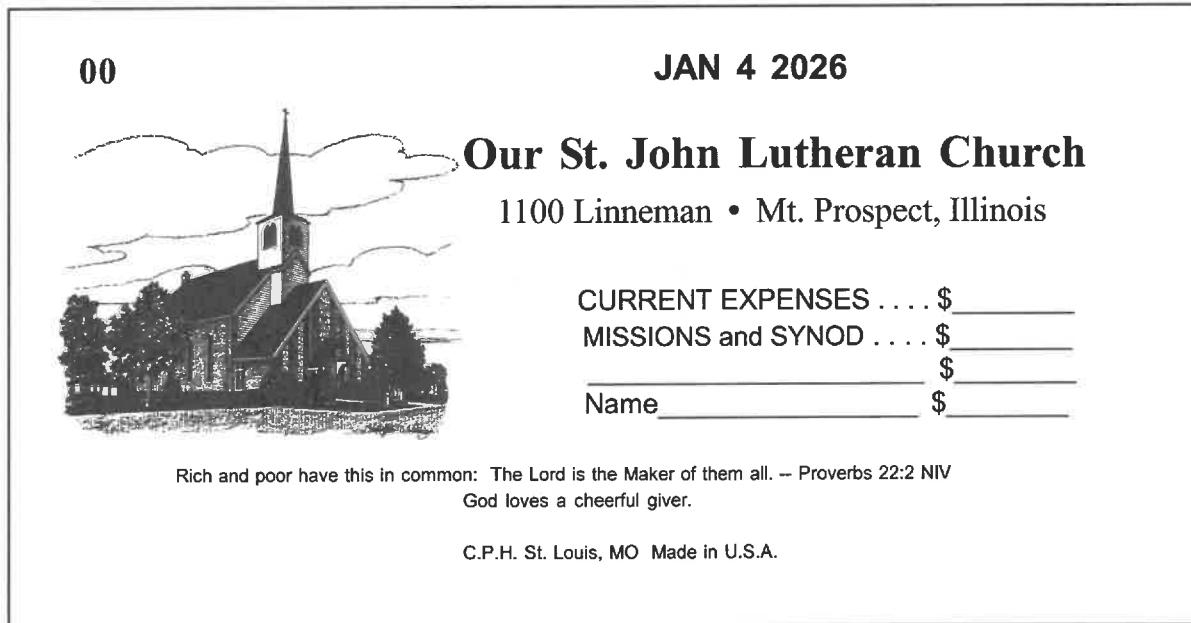
Wishing God's presence and blessings to you this New year,


Pastor Jeff G. Gavin

<> <> <> <> <> **COMMITMENT** <> <> <> <> <>

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.



- * 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 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!**



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 and Jon Tertel for their fine work. A thank you also to Jon Tertel who assisted Pastor in so many ways.

Thanks to Joe Schubkegel; George Jensen 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 26 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



| | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Carmen Hetrea | January 1 | Michael Koeppen | January 10 |
| Leslie Raygor | January 6 | Chuck Glen | January 10 |
| Thomas Kijak | January 6 | Christopher Klatka | January 23 |
| Joe Nather | January 10 | 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

IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD - 2025

The Year In Review

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

2025 WAS FOR ST. JOHN, A YEAR OF:

- + Resigned to the nearly impossible task of securing an organist, and with the advantage of the array of available music, we have continued our practice of using "Digital Music" for our worship services and funerals. Pastor selects, locates, 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.
- + We are into our second year using our newest ministry item within the church, a wall mounted 85" large screen monitor. 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.
- + Our neighbor: "Mount Prospect Senior Living" underwent a change of ownership to: "American House". New staff and leadership provided a lack of support for Pastor's monthly Devotional Bible Classes already in late 2024, which ended this ministry for 2025.
- + 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. MP School District 57 produced in their media a "Thank You" to Pastor for his years of conducting these tours, complete with color pictures taken during the tours.
- + Additional improvements were made to the lower level of our 1101 Building. The hallways, kitchen, restrooms, and Bible Study Room were professionally painted. Thanks to Joe Schubkegel, who also installed new lighting fixtures in the hallways and restrooms; and to Jan Anderko, who added "the woman's touch" to enhance the restroom's looks.
- + What started in 2024, continued throughout 2025, with a sizable number of returning visitors for worship and Bible Class every Sunday. And we welcomed those who joined our St. John Family.
- + The year 2025 also brought much more personal sadness than usual, as we lost some very loved Family members through death. Seven of our members were welcomed into Heaven. Their contributions to our congregation will be remembered and greatly missed.
- + So many other day to day tasks, varied ministries, challenges and prayers were faced by your Pastor and your church leaders in 2025.
- + 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 2025 was a: "Year of our Lord" at St. John.

2025 STATISTICS

Deaths: 8 / Transfer In: 1 / Baptisms: 1

Membership

Baptized Souls: 328 / Communicants: 196



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 **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.



VOTER'S MEETING . . .

The next Voters' Meeting will be on **Monday, February 23 at 7:30 PM IN THE CHURCH.**

The Agenda for this Voters' Meeting will be:

1. Board and Committee Reports

OUR WELCOME PICTURES

Each Sunday you are 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 |