

## **Listen, Listen God is Calling!**

A gift that I have that I am continually thankful for is listening. Not that I am perfect at it...far from it! I continue to hone my listening skills so that my attention and focus will follow. One other form of listening I cultivate is listening to God through the movement of the Spirit. That's definitely a tricky thing to do, even for people who work in ministry!



As a new year begins, we have an opportunity to listen for the ways that God is calling us in 2025. Where is God calling us to reach out into our community? What places around us are in need of God's love? What new things will God work in and among us? Asking questions like these and listening with curiosity to the response helps to guide us forward together. One of the unique parts of being church is that we discern the Spirit's movement as a group. It's not one person's listening to the Spirit, but a collective listening.

Which is both a beautiful and difficult reality of our life together. Beautiful because it means that we get a larger picture and more ideas to help us move into the future. Difficult because it requires all of us to be listening and sharing. None of us can "check out" and expect others to do it for us. As we experience often at St. John, when we're working together it may not be the most efficient or easiest situation, but it is more fun and we go farther.

The good news is that God is constantly speaking in Jesus Christ through the power of the Spirit all around us. Though there are times when it can be difficult to hear, God never stops calling. Never stops speaking. So we continue to listen for God. If you are in a spot where it's hard to hear God, I definitely understand. I encourage you to keep connected to community so we can all help to support and remind you. If you are in a space where you feel like you can listen, that's great! We definitely need to learn from you about what you're hearing. I am looking forward to what God is planning to do among us in this coming year. The places God is planning to be active. I'm getting my listening ears ready. I hope you are too!

**In Christ, Pastor Jonathan**

## Lessons & Carols Worship

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am

We'll sing Christmas hymns together and hear scripture celebrating Jesus' birth.



## Noisy Offering

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>,  
beginning of worship

Bring noisy coins or quiet bills  
to donate toward our outreach ministries.



## New Year's Eve Family Party

Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 6:30pm

All ages are invited to celebrate the arrival of 2025!

Bring **Finger Foods** to share. We'll be playing

**White Elephant Bingo**, so bring **White Elephant**

**Prizes** either wrapped or in a bag. We plan to give out nice **Door Prizes** so your help donating one would be very appreciated. Our Doubles & Singles group looks forward to celebrating with you with food, fun, & fellowship!



## Poinsettia Donations

Thank you to those who brought poinsettias to add beauty to our sanctuary. They can be taken home after our Lessons & Carols service on December 29<sup>th</sup>.



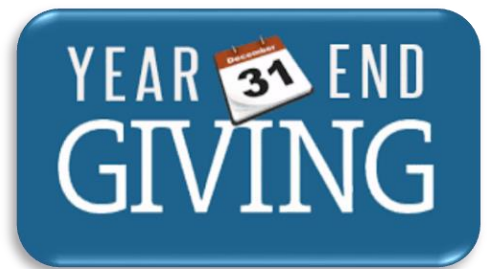
## Church Office Closed

Monday - Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> - January 1<sup>st</sup>  
for New Years.



## Year End Giving

As you consider your year-end giving, please keep St. John in mind and ensure any gifts are given by December 31<sup>st</sup>. This will help us close out our books for this year in a timely manner as we get ready for 2025! Thank you.



## Board Directors' 2024 Annual Reports

are due Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> to Lauren. This will give her time to prepare and publish the 2024 Annual Report two weeks before the January 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting. Thanks!



## Lys Family Traveling

Pastor Jonathan and his family are traveling from January 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. The Church Office will be covered by members while Lauren is gone, and Pastor Jonathan will announce on January 5<sup>th</sup> who to contact in case of a Pastoral Emergency.



## Christmas Decoration Clean Up

**Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**

Join us on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am to help us clean up Christmas decorations around the church. Many hands make the work light!



## Ladies Bible Study

**January 14<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30am**

Bring your sack lunch. Drinks will be provided. Desserts will be provided by Nola Gustafson and Mary Sue Scheible.



The study will be on "The Woman with an Issue of Blood", page 175 in *Women of the Bible* by Jean E. Syswerda, and led by Peggy Butler.

In January, please come for quality God/good time with your sisters in Christ.

## St. John Food Pantry

**Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 11:00 am**

Third Wednesday of Every Month

*Thank you to those who serve!*



## Doubles and Singles

**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**

in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a covered dish. If you have any questions, you can contact Mona Fay 361-387-2383.



## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> after worship

Please attend to hear about our 2024 and so we reach quorum. *The agenda will be shared in the 2024 Annual Report.*



## 2024 Annual Report

The 2024 Annual Report with the agenda for the January 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be available mid-January. It will be emailed to the congregation, mailed to those on our mailing list, and available in paper form in the narthex.



## 2024 Contribution Statements

2024 Contribution Statements will be available in the narthex beginning mid-January.

*Those not picked up from the narthex will be mailed at the beginning of February.*

Please contact Lauren in the front office if you have questions about your statement.



## Sunday School

**8:30am – Children’s Sunday School** is held in the Sunday School classrooms (first door on the left as you go down the hall toward the Fellowship Hall).

*On break December 29<sup>th</sup> & January 5<sup>th</sup> for Christmas & the New Year.*

**Following Worship – Adult Sunday School** in the Fellowship Hall.



## Thank You for Staff Christmas Gift

Thank you all for your generosity to us as a staff for Christmas! It was wonderful to receive your gift. We are blessed to serve with you in Jesus’ name. Happy New Year! From Pastor Jonathan, Lauren, Frank, and Nola.



## Some December Snapshots:

Quilt Blessing on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Quilts were donated to CASA of the Coastal Bend. A representative joined us for that worship to share more about CASA’s advocacy work in our area.



The Children’s Christmas Program on December 22<sup>nd</sup> was a joy to behold! We’re grateful to our young disciples for presenting it, and the adults who helped plan it and make it a reality. Thank you!



Cold Weather donations were gathered and shared with three of our local nursing homes on December 15<sup>th</sup> when a group of our members went caroling at each location.



## Evangelism Benevolence in 2024

Thanks to *your* continued generosity during 2024, St. John's Evangelism Board was able to make the following monetary and physical donations to the following non-profits organizations!



<b>Date</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Source</b>
April 2024	St. John's Food Pantry	\$200.00	Noisy Offering
April 2024	St. John's Quilting Ministry	\$100.00	Noisy Offering
April 2024	4/28/24 Homeless Blessing Bag Service Project	\$100.00	Noisy Offering
May 2024	Calallen HS Wildcat Project Graduation	\$150.00	1% Special Benevolence*
July 2024	Upbring Foster in Texas Backpacks	\$450.00	Direct donations
August 2024	Local ISDs School Supplies Donations	\$113.95 and physical donations	Direct physical & monetary donations
September 2024	Adult Protective Services Care Baskets	\$953.63 and physical donations	Direct physical & monetary donations & 1% Special Benevolence
December 2024	The ARK, Calallen	\$300.00	1% Special Benevolence
December 2024	The Salvation Army, Corpus Christi	\$300.00	1% Special Benevolence
December 2024	CASA of the Coastal Bend	\$150.00	1% Special Benevolence
December 2024	Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, CC	\$150.00	Noisy Offering
December 2024	The Bridge, Robstown	\$300.00	Noisy Offering
December 2024	3 Local Nursing Homes	Cold weather donations	Direct physical donations
December 2024	Church Staff Donations	Direct monetary donations	Direct monetary donations

*\*1% Special Benevolence: Each month, our congregation sets aside 1% of our General Fund offerings for local benevolence.*

## January Birthdays

1	Karen Duplantis	6	Paula Campbell
11	Javona Karnei	14	Abby DeLeo
18	Brent A. Beverly	19	AshlyAnn DeLeo
20	Dee Hornung	31	Karen Boyd



## January Wedding Anniversaries

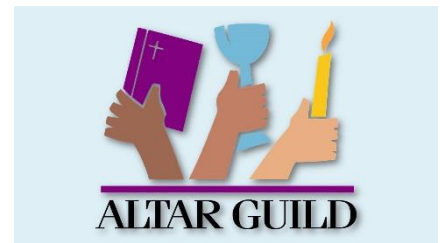
<i>Names</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Years</i>
Don & Paula Kennedy	1/30/1982	43



## Altar Guild Volunteer Schedule

Call Nola Gustafson at 361-215-3388 if you can volunteer.

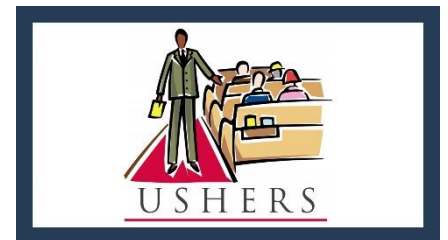
Jan	Paula C., Shotzie A.	Feb	Nola G., <i>vacant</i>
Mar	Cindy R., Janice K.	Apr	Amelia S., Karen B.
May	Nola G., Karen B.	June	Paula C., Shotzie A.
July	<i>vacant</i>	Aug	Priscilla J., Amelia S.
Sept	Paula K., Cindy R.	Oct	Lauren M., Karen D.
Nov	Sally F., <i>vacant</i>	Dec	Stephanie V., Monica B.



## January Ushers

Capt. Don Kennedy	Capt. Steve Miller
Howard Fels	Randy Emshoff
Jimmy Kimball	Donnie Schwirtlich
David Marion	Steven Tenpenny

## February Ushers



## Yard Care – Help Needed

Call Howard Fels at 361-877-9618 if you can join the volunteer lawn crew rotation. Many hands make the job light!

Dec – Jan	30-4	Mando Vasquez
January	6-11	Howard Fels, Terry Signor
January	13-18	Don Kennedy
January	20-25	Don Thigpen
Jan – Feb	27-1	Mando Vasquez



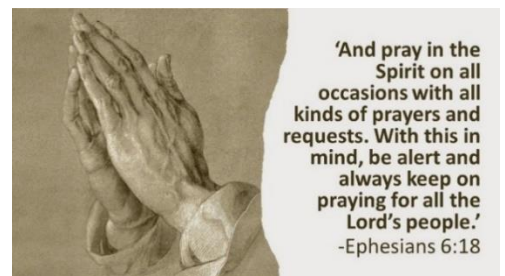
# PRAYER CONCERNS FROM THE MONTH

## Members

Richard Alvord	Roy Grossman	Steve Tenpenny
Kathy Baca	Priscilla Johnson	Don Thigpen
Regina Baca	Diane Keller	Cyndi Tyler
Verne Benson	Paula Kennedy	Eddie Vasquez
Darlette Brandon	Jimmy Kimball	
Joseph De Leo	Jennifer Klostermann	
Terra De Leo	Chris Knetig	
Regina Emshoff	Robert Puente	
Cindy Fair	Loleta Riley	
Margie Fair	Doris Scholz	
Mike Fair	Roxey Scholz	
Ellen Fox	Donnie Schwirtlich	

## Family & Friends

Gloria Adami	Denise Drawe	<b>Cindy Graham Payne</b>	Ken Travarez
Wayne Albert	Jeanne Ellis	Travis Peeler	Andy Vasquez
M/M Rick Anderson	Glenda Fleming	Tara Perry	Fox Vasquez
Brett Baker	<b>Jim Gerdes</b>	Sonjia Peterson	Waylon Wallace
M/M K. Bettis	Mark Geyen	Sharon Polansky	Ronald Wardak
Diana Beverly	Richard Gillespie	Trey Quezada	Ruthie Weathersby
Susan Bickam	Raymond Grote	Lisa Reaneu	Pansy White
E. L. Brashear	Blanca Hale	Robert Redding	
<b>Rita Bryant</b>	Penny Hanson	<b>Barry Reed</b>	<b>Glory to God!</b>
Charles Burgess	<b>Callie Mae Haug</b>	Austin Riley	<b>Praying for rain</b>
Frank Cain	Paula Heider	Gail Riley	<b>Merry Christmas!</b>
Ruthie Mae Casebolt	Will Henderson	Rory Riley	
Jay Cassidy	Jennifer Hornung	Shane Riley	
Bobby Chesnutt	Michael Hughes	Dee Rojas	
Cookie Chesnutt	Carol Lindquist	Jerry Rychetsky	
Lauren Cook	Carole Locker	Glenda Scheible	
Pat Scheible Cook	David & Liz Lourash	Linda Schuenemann	
Shawn Cook	Mary Jo Matlock	Connie Simpson	
Michael Cowan	Vernie Miller	Barbara Steagall	
Vera Crawford	Priscilla Minter	Matthew Stebbins	
Joyce Davidson	Junior Nash	Harry Stout	
Link Davidson	Sandra Neitch	Petra Tobon	
Pat Denny	Gloria Owens	Dee Travarez	



'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'  
-Ephesians 6:18



# STEWARDSHIP

SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE



*Thank you for your continued support of St. John Lutheran Church and its ministries.*

<b>General Fund</b>				Special Fund Bal Nov 30, 2024	<u>29,202.54</u>
Cash at October 31, 2024		72,412.84			
Current Benevolence	12,043.24				
Less: Monthly Expenses	<u>(13,024.72)</u>				
	(981.48)	(981.48)	Mem Fund Bal Nov, 2024	<u>21,318.27</u>	
Change in Short term liabilities		387.42			
Cash at November 30, 2024		<u>71,818.78</u>			
<b>Year To Date General Fund Cash</b>					
Cash at Jan 1, 2024		77,646.02			
Cash at November 30, 2024		<u>71,818.78</u>			
Decrease in cash 2024		<u>(5,827.24)</u>			

## December Worship Attendance

Sunday, Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	45		
Sunday, Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	64		
Sunday, Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	61		
Sunday, Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	70	Christma Eve	86
Sunday, Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>		<Will report next month	



## St. John Contribution Options:

### Online or Through a Mobile App

If you would like to financially support St. John, you can do so through your smart phone by downloading the Vanco Mobile app from your phone's app store.

Or you can give online by visiting our website:

[stjohnrobstown.org](http://stjohnrobstown.org). Click Donate Now. You will be directed to our own secure online donations page where you can choose your donation type, one-time or recurring donation, and payment method.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of St. John! ~Stewardship Board



# CHURCH COUNCIL

December Council Meeting was on break for the Christmas holidays.

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## Not Able to Attend Worship in Person?

Our 9:00am Sunday Worship is always available to view on St. John's YouTube & Facebook pages:

[youtube.com/@stjohnrobstown](https://www.youtube.com/@stjohnrobstown)

[facebook.com/stjohnrobstown](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnrobstown)



## Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

stjohnrobstown@gmail.com



## St. John's Quilters

On Christmas break, returning January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Extra hands appreciated! *No experience necessary.*  
Join for a time of fellowship & service.



## 2025 Altar Flower Sign-Up

is available on the narthex bulletin board. If you'd like to add beauty to our Sanctuary, please print your name and your celebration or remembrance on the sign-up sheet on the Sunday when you can bring an altar flower.



Updates to calendar after publication of newsletter will be made on [stjohnrobstown.org/calendar](http://stjohnrobstown.org/calendar)

St. John Lutheran Church 3316 Hummingbird Lane, Robstown, TX 78380-6067		January 2025					Office Phone: (361) 387-9481 Pastor Jonathan: (979) 255-4148	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
			1 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 6:00pm Stewardship	3	4		
5 9:00am Worship 10:15am Adult Sunday School	6 7:30pm Church Prop	7 6:00pm Worship Board	8 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm Christian Ed	9	10	11 9:00am Christmas Decoration Clean Up		
12 8:30am Children's Sun. School 9:00am Worship 10:00am Evangelism Mtg. 10:15am Adult Sunday School	13	14 11:30am Ladies Bible Study 2:00pm Lay Ministry	15 9:00am Food Pantry 9:00am Quilters	16	17	18		
19 8:30am Children's Sun. School 9:00am Worship 10:30am Adult Sunday School 4:00pm Doubles & Singles	20	21 6:00pm Church Council	22 9:00am Quilters	23 Newsletter Deadline	24	25		
26 8:30am Children's Sun. School 9:00am Worship/Noisy Offering 10:00am 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting 10:30am Adult Sunday School	27	28	29	30	31			