



Building the family of God by spreading
the Word of God to all people.

October 2025

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Address:

9193 Cleveland Avenue

P.O. Box 67

Baroda, MI 49101

Phone: 269-422-1449

Website: stjohnsbaroda.com

E-mail: stjohnsbaroda@hotmail.com

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
3PM-6PM**

Friday 9AM-1PM

**Sunday Schedule:
Worship 10 AM**

Rev. Kenneth Babcock - Pastor
Jill Resendiz, Council President
Amy Semenak, Office Manager



Find us on **Facebook!**

Page: **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Baroda**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Grapevine



**Celebration of the Harvest and Harvester
Sunday, October 5 at 3pm
Tabor Hill Winery Estate**

**CHH Sorting Event
Monday, October 6 at 9am
St. John's Fellowship Hall**

Trick or Treat Trail



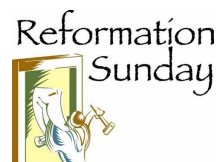
**Baroda Township Trail or Treat
Saturday, October 25 2-5PM
Hess Lake Park**



**CHILI
COOK-OFF**



**Pie and Chili Cookoff
Sunday, October 26 after worship**



Sunday, October 26 – wear red



Need a Ride? Transportation is available for all our worship services and events throughout the week. If you would prefer not driving yourself, especially amid weather conditions and darkness, we still want you to come and join us at St. John's! Transportation is available on an individual basis. So please call the church office 269-422-1449 for details or to schedule a ride.

Our Homebound Members:

Elaine Lochner
Woodland Terrace
8850 Red Arrow Hwy
Apt. 29
Bridgman, MI 49106

Jean Jasper
10370 Gast Road
Bridgman, MI 49106

Fran Konya
Royalton Manor
288 Peace Blvd
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Ginger Nitz
207 W. Spring Road
Baroda, MI 49101

Bob Schroeder
9452 Cleveland Avenue
Baroda, MI 49101

Pat Mattner
8821 Cleveland Avenue
Baroda, MI 49101

Barb Kinnison
8445 Hollywood Road
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Charles Krueger
11032 Lange Road
Bridgman, MI 49106

Darlene Crawford
11415 Baldwin Road
Bridgman, MI 49106

Memorial Funds

Memorial funds may be
designated to:

Altar/Worship Enhancement Fund



Our Church Leaders:

Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop, ELCA

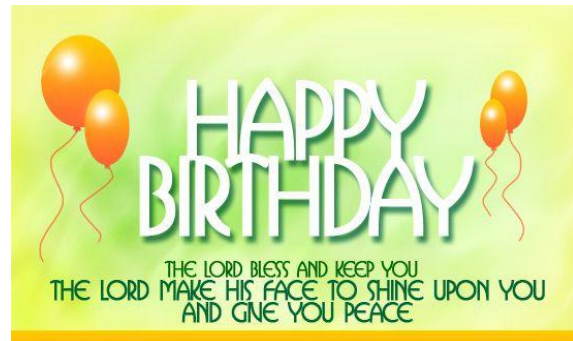
Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas
Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
PO Box 67, Holt, MI 48842-0067

Our Companion Synods:

Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

October Celebrations

6	Emma Stout	27	Greg Boos
7	Judy Nitz	27	Larry Klug
9	Remington Tilly	27	Bob Schroeder
15	Holton Bladecki	28	Theodore Villwock
16	Isla Frantz	28	Tyler Villwock
24	Tyler Hicks	29	Ashlee Tilly
26	Scott Fleisher		



If a birthday, anniversary and/or baptism is listed incorrectly, please call the church office so that we can correct our records.

7	Pat Mattner
10	Guy Tollas
17	Landon Cerecke
27	Lori Davis



If you need emergency pastoral care, for situations such as hospital admissions or a death in the family, you may contact: Pastor Ken Babcock 231-719-7741

Our service is being recorded and posted online to bring the Word of God to our church family who are unable to be here in person. View on St John's Lutheran Baroda, MI YouTube page or St John's Lutheran Church Facebook page.



Sunday, October 26th – St. John's is excited to welcome Ella Westerbeek. She is a violinist with the Lake Michigan Youth Symphony and plays in the orchestra at Upton Middle School.

Pastor's Message



Dear Parish Family,

Can you believe it's already October? The leaves are rapidly turning, the air is getting crisp, and there's a certain magic in the season that always makes us pause and reflect. We hope all of you are enjoying this beautiful time of year as much as we are.

The other day, we had a wonderful chat with one of our members. They told us about a small act of kindness from a neighbor that completely turned their day around. It got us thinking about how these little moments of gratitude and kindness can have such a big impact on our lives.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, we're reminded to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." It's a powerful reminder, isn't it? This month, let's all try to find those little moments to be thankful for and to share that gratitude with others. Whether it's a simple thank you, helping someone out, or saying a prayer for a friend, these small gestures can really make a difference.

We're so grateful for each and every one of you. Your unique gifts and the love you bring to our church family are truly a blessing. Let's keep supporting and uplifting each other as we walk this journey of faith together.

God's richest blessings,
Pastor Ken Babcock & Sue

For the Kids

**Trail or Treat
at Hess Lake Park
Baroda Township**

**Saturday, October 25th
2-5PM**

Trick or Treat Trail



SAVE THE DATE

**Chili and Pie Cookoff
Sunday, October 26th
after worship**



CELEBRATION *of* THE HARVEST AND HARVESTERS



Each year, Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan celebrates the Celebration of the Harvest and Harvesters—an annual event honoring the invaluable contributions of migrant workers. This year's celebration will be held on Saturday, October 5 at 3:00 p.m. at the Tabor Hill Estate Tent in Baroda, MI.

In the lead-up to this event, we invite you and your faith community to launch a September collection drive for items most needed by migrant workers. **This year's requested donations include:**

Dry pinto beans Shampoo (*no conditioner*)
Dry black beans Sunscreen
White rice Men's t-shirts (sizes S, M, L)
Bar soap Men's long-sleeve shirts
Toothbrushes Hooded sweatshirts
Toothpaste Towels
Sunglasses Blankets
Baseball caps

Volunteers Needed!



Celebration of the Harvest and Harvesters Sorting Event @ St. John's

Volunteers Needed – Lunch provided.
Many hands make light work

Monday, October 6th at 9AM



Ladies Breakfast

Saturday, October 18th at 9:30am at
Roma's, 9673 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman



VancoPayments.com/eGiving
Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving!

St. John's wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Online Giving lets you go to **stjohnsbaroda.com** at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

Vanco is trusted by more than 22,000 churches to provide eGiving solutions that allow members and visitors to give how and when they want. Our suite of eGiving tools include online, mobile, text, card reader and kiosk options. Vanco also maintains the highest level of PCI-compliance to ensure the security of donations and payments processed through any of our eGiving tools.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

October Stewardship – VANCO is an electronic giving site that St. John's members have used for many years without issues. It is easy to use.

- Complete the Enrollment form with the amount you wish to give and when. Then attach a voided check or if you prefer a credit card can be used.
- Your information will be entered directly into the VANCO payment site. Your donations will be automatically taken out of your account precisely when you requested it to be.
- Need to change the amount or cancel the donation, call the church office and changes/cancellations will take place next business day.
- Your payments go directly into St. John's Honor Checking Account.
- Your current contributor number will be your VANCO number.
- You will continue to receive your yearly contribution statement for tax purposes.

A form is enclosed with this newsletter or there will be a VANCO sign-up station Sunday, October 26th during the Pie and Chili Cookoff.

Financials*	Attendance
August 2025 Beginning Balance: \$ 38,347.55	September 7: 48
August 2025 Contributions: 7,978.48	September 14: 43
August 2025 Expenses: (13,873.14)	September 21: 45
August 2025 Ending Balance: \$ 32,452.89	September 28: N/A
Variance: \$(5,894.66)	
Imagine Learning Lab Income 1,500.00	

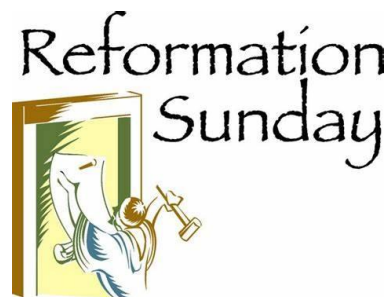
*Beginning January 2025 – Beginning and Ending Balances will be as they appear on the Honor Bank Statement. These numbers are unreconciled numbers. The ending balance will include outstanding checks that haven't been cashed yet.

CHURCH FINANCES

*2025 Church Budget as approved by the congregation \$156,059 divided by 12 = \$13,005				
	Monthly Contributions	*Monthly amount needed to support the budget	Variance +/-	YTD Variance
January	9,976.00	13,005	-3,029.00	-3,029.00
February	10,449.39	13,005	-2,555.61	-5,585.61
March	16,682.84	13,005	+3,677.84	-1,907.77
April	15,264.57	13,005	+2,259.57	+ 351.80
May	8,034.99	13,005	-4,970.01	-4,618.21
June	8,936.49	13,005	-4,068.51	-9,038.52
July	13,702.75	13,005	+697.75	-8,340.77
August	7,978.48	13,005	-5,026.52	-13,367.29

**Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 26**

Wear Red





**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes September 2025**

9/18/25, called to order at 7:03 pm

Council Present: Amanda Barker, Jill Resendiz, Bruce Nitz, Tina Cramton and Paul Kasten

Absent: Steve Nitz

Also Present: Pastor Ken Babcock

Opened with Prayer: Pastor Ken

Finance/ Treasurers Report

- Bruce has motioned to move the savings account money to an interest bearing account, 2nd by Tina, all in favor.
- Reviewed the August financials; everything is squared away with Tri-County.
- Discussion around holding an emergency meeting regarding finances and not meeting our monthly budget this year. We need to ask the congregation to approve Council using dedicated funds in case of an emergency. Amy, please send a letter to each member / household to attend the meeting October 5th.

Pastors Report

- Pastor reviewed his report with events and weekly hours.

Property and Grounds

- Murdock Glass coming back out September 20th - 27th to finish the windows
- Capital Campaign items will remain on hold
- LRS has been contacted to replace the trash bin with a broken wheel
- Snow removal - we need to hire someone to do the church sidewalks, lot and parsonage

New Business

- Comcast - Bruce has spoken with them regarding the monthly bill of \$503 for 1.25G which includes a landline and voicemail, with no contract. There are 2 year contracts we can sign for the same service for \$280/ mo. Bruce motioned to sign the 2 year contract with Comcast for the same service at \$280/ mo, Jill 2nd. Unanimously in favor.
- Vanco electronic giving push - all it requires from the donor is to fill out a consent form and bring a voided check. If we could get most people to switch to electronic giving, it will bring a consistent donation every month.

Old Business

- Imagine Learning Lab – we need the proof of insurance papers signed before the school starts. Bruce heading this up.

Church News

- Church directory should arrive in October
- September 28: Chaplain Don Bennett and his wife Shay from Reach the Forgotten will speak to the congregation as part of the Mission Endowment Series.
- October 5: Emergency Congregational Meeting after worship
- October 5: Celebration of the Harvest and Harvester at Tabor Hills Winery.
- October 6: CHH Sorting Event starts at 9 AM. Mary Anne Anselmino will be providing a soup luncheon for all the volunteers.
- Ladies Breakfast, Saturday, October 18th at Roma's in Bridgman
- October 25: Baroda Township Trail or Treat at Hess Lake Park. Elaine Starbuck is the lead. She is going with a scarecrow theme.
- October 26: Ella Westerbeek will be playing her violin during service.
- October 26: Pie & Chili Cook off after church service

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by:
Amanda Barker

Mark Your Calendars

**Annual Congregational Meeting
November 2nd after worship**



Mark your calendars for next month....

Daylight Savings Time Ends, November 2nd.

Seeking someone to lead the Thanksgiving Potluck – might this be YOU? You are not responsible for bringing all the food. The congregation is terrific about bringing a dish to pass. You are needed to organize it (pick the date/tell Amy what you wish to have written on the clipboard sign-up sheet), and set up a time to meet with decorating crew (church has loads of tablecloths and decorations). Members are great about helping with clean-up. Please call the office if you can help. Thank you!





This letter is to officially inform you that an **Emergency Congregational Meeting** has been called by the Church Council of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and its chairperson, Jill Resendiz. **This meeting will be held Sunday, October 5, 2025** immediately following the Sunday Worship Service in the sanctuary of Saint John's Lutheran Church.

As a "Called Congregational Meeting" only those who are confirmed members of this local church will be allowed to speak and vote. Others may attend and observe but will not be able to speak and/or vote.

This meeting is being called to deal with one item. Here is the item that will be voted on:

RESOLVED: Approval by the congregation to appropriate Restricted Funds to the General Operating Funds, as needed, to cover expenses.

The 2025 budget that was approved by the congregation has not been met with consistent member offerings to support the budget. At our current contribution rate, our reserve will be depleted before our Annual Congregational Meeting in November.

If you are a confirmed member, please plan to attend and vote. You must be present to vote. Votes may not be cast in writing, by proxy, or by any other means.



Sunday, October 26
Sunday, November 2
Sunday, November 23
Sunday, November 30
Wednesday, December 24
Thursday, December 25

Reformation Sunday
All Saints Sunday
Christ the King
First Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

Building the family of God by spreading the Word of God to all people!



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Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.