



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

St. John's Lutheran Church: Serving God by Serving Others



Below are listed many (but not all) of the ways you can get involved in the ministries and outreach programs of St. John's Lutheran Church. If you would like more information on a program or ministry listed below, or have an idea for a new ministry, please feel free to call the church office.

**WORSHIP
MINISTRIES
DESCRIPTION**

MINISTRY

TIME COMMITMENT

Saturday & Sunday Worship

All of us are called to be ministers in Christ's church. Attending worship centered around Word & Sacrament equips us to bring the Good News to the world in word and deed.

Only 1 hour per week!

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is responsible for Altar Linens, Communion set up, Banners, Flowers, moderate at weddings & train the Acolytes. Training is provided.

We meet 1 hour during the months of Jan., March, May, July, Sept., & Nov. Each member is responsible one month for setting up communion.

Lector (Read the lessons)

The Lector reads one of the Readings and leads the congregation in a responsive reading of the Psalm.

Varies depending on the number of people who volunteer, but usually one Sunday/month.

Greeter

The Greeter is the first person people meet when they come to church! Greet them and make them feel they are welcomed.

Varies depending on the number of people who volunteer, but usually one Sunday/month.

Usher

Hand out bulletins and assist people as needed.

Varies depending on the number of people who volunteer, but usually one Sunday/month.

Video Camera Operator

Operates the video camera for live broadcast on the local cable station as well as copying VHS tapes to be used by care centers and the homebound. Training is provided.

Usually sign up for 1 month.

Elevator Operator

Assist people in operating of the elevator before and after worship.

Usually sign up for 1 month.

Sound System Operator

Operate the sound system to assist with overall quality of our worship service.

Usually sign up for 1 month.

Prayer Leader

Leads the congregation in prayers of intercession along with the pastor during Sunday worship.

Varies depending on the number of people who volunteer, but usually one Sunday/month.

Transportation	Using either your own vehicle or the church van, Pick-up and drop-off people who otherwise could not attend worship.	Varies depending on need and availability.
Choir	Our Choir greatly enhances our worship experience through their singing of hymns and songs of praise. All skill levels are welcome!	1 hr rehearsal on the Wednesday prior to the 3 rd Sunday of the month when we perform in church.
Handbell Choir	Ours is a music ministry enjoyed by players of all ages and abilities. We welcome new players at any time.	We meet twice a month on Wednesday evenings to rehearse and perform one Sunday a month (Sept.-May).
Special Music	If you play an instrument or would like to sing a solo or as a group, we would love to have you share your gift with us in worship.	Saturday evening or Sunday morning worship.

**OCCASIONAL
WORSHIP
MINISTRIES
DESCRIPTION**

MINISTRY

TIME COMMITMENT

Wedding Moderator	Attend the rehearsal to know the order of the service and assist the wedding party on the day of the wedding as needed.	1 hour on the day of the rehearsal and 2-3 hours on the day of the wedding. Wedding Moderates are compensated for their time.
Usher at Funerals	Hand out bulletins and assist people as needed.	Varies depending on number of funerals throughout the year.
Pianist for Worship at Care Center	Help provide a meaningful worship experience through the gift of music to our senior citizens.	One Friday/month. The service usually last about 30 minutes.

**CARING MINISTRIES
DESCRIPTION**

TIME COMMITMENT

MINISTRY

Stephen Minister

Provide one-to-one care to others in time of crisis or need, under the guidance and supervision of Stephen leaders and fellow Stephen Ministers. Training and support provided.

1 hr/wk spent with care receiver following 50 hr initial training and monthly continuing education with other Stephen Ministers. A 2 yr commitment is expected following their formal commissioning.

Stephen Leader

Provide co-leadership of Stephen Ministry, sharing responsibilities for Stephen Ministers' training, continuing education, supervision and publicity. Training and support provided.

Monthly meeting following 50 hr initial training (St. Louis, MO). A 2 yr commitment is expected following their formal commissioning.

Deliver Home Communion

Visit and serve communion to our homebound members.

1 or 2 days every other month.

Prayer Concerns

This group meets weekly on Thursday mornings @ 9:00am for devotions and to lift up those in need of prayer.

15 min/wk on Thursdays.

Homebound Friendly Visitor

Visit and establish a caring relationship with our homebound members to maintain their ties with their congregation and bringing them weekly worship bulletins.

Flexible schedule.

**ADULT EDUCATION
MINISTRIES
DESCRIPTION**

TIME COMMITMENT

MINISTRY

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Pastor led Bible Study group meets weekly to explore various books of the Bible and the intersection of faith and life.

~1.5 hr/wk

Faith Matters

Stand-alone classes and series (consisting of 3-5 sessions) that explores various faith topics. Past topics have included; "The Authority of the Word," "Small Catechism for Adults," & "Living Well-Ending Well."

~1.5 hr/ class or session scheduled Sept. – May on Wednesday or Thursday evenings.

**YOUTH EDUCATION
MINISTRIES
DESCRIPTION**

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	TIME COMMITMENT
Sunday School (Sept.—May)	A wonderful opportunity for youth in pre-K—8 th grade to study the Christian faith in a fun and interactive learning environment that will help them find meaning in worship.	Sunday School is 1 hour (Sept.—May) although we encourage all families to stay for worship.
Sunday School Teacher	Work with youth in teaching them the fundamental stories of the Bible and how faith intersects life. Monthly teacher’s training and support meetings are offered.	1 hr/week teaching (Sept.—May) 1 hr/month training (Sept.—May)
Sunday School Substitute Teacher	A wonderful way to be introduced to youth education ministries.	Varies depending on need and availability.
Sunday School Helper	Help teachers with craft projects, chaperone on field trips, etc.	Varies depending on Scheduled activities.
Piano/Guitar Accompanist	Provide music for our Sunday School opening and accompany them in learning new songs (during Sunday School) to sing during worship.	1/2 hr/week (Sept.—May)
Music Helper	Help the Sunday School kids when they sing in church by acting as an usher, holding up placards, or helping with motions that accompany the songs they are singing.	1 Sunday/month (Sept.—May)
Christmas Program Helper	Provide general assistance to insure a great Christmas program	1-2 hrs/day ea. Week for 4-5 weeks to help with rehearsal and 1 day for the program.
7th—8th Grade Confirmation Mentor	1-1 Mentoring is a sacred opportunity to come to know a youth, experience God’s grace and walk with them in their faith journey. Many mentors have developed lasting and meaningful relationships with the ones they mentor. Mentoring aids are available.	3 church sponsored events (1 in the fall, 1 in the winter and 1 in the spring). We would hope that the mentor would take the initiative to do other events with the youth throughout the year as applicable.
7th-8th Grade Confirmation Guide	The primary role of the Confirmation Guide is that of caregiver, advocate, mentor and small group facilitator.	4-5 Guides are needed each year to commit to ~2 hours each Wednesday (4:30-6:15pm) Sept.—May.

Community VBS	A collective effort of several community churches to teach our young people through a week of concentration in learning, singing, fellowship, and crafts. Community Vacation Bible School receives high raves and a great response.	1 week
VBS Coordinator	Provides general oversight of the program, verify that there are enough volunteers and helpers assigned for each day as well as facilitate communication and organization among the churches that participate in our ecumenical community Vacation Bible School.	5-6 hrs/week for 2-3 weeks prior to VBS and 5-6 hours/day during VBS
VBS Teacher	VBS uses a customary rotation model, so you are only responsible for your portion of the overall teaching for the day.	4-5 hours/day during VBS week
VBS Helper	Assist teachers and students with whatever they need help with, including leading games, walking the kids among the various churches and simply being there to support them.	4-5 hours/day during VBS week
VBS Music	Typically, the music for VBS is provided on a CD or PowerPoint with images projected on a screen. This person operates the computer/CD player.	4-5 hours/day during VBS week
VBS Crafts	Organize and set up daily craft projects, help with ordering required materials and assist kids in doing the crafts.	4-5 hours/day during VBS week
Muppet Ministry	The role of St. John's Muppet Ministry is to "tell the old, old story in new & imaginative ways" whether in Sunday School, VBS, Worship, hospitals or care centers. We are dedicated to sharing the Good News of Christ Jesus to the young and old alike in a way that brings people to a better understanding and appreciation of the gospel.	Varies depending on schedule but typically includes 1 hour/month for rehearsal for each performance (usually 10-12 throughout the year).

YOUTH MINISTRIES

MINISTRY

DESCRIPTION

TIME COMMITMENT

Luther League

A youth group that is run by and for Senior High students with a focus on where faith intersects life. They get together for conversation, food and to plan and carry out service projects and yearly mission trips or ELCA National Youth Gathering trip.

1-2 hours / month (meets after church on Sunday mornings)

Luther League Sponsor

Help coordinate and offer direction to the Luther League youth, act as chaperone on trips.

1-2 hours / month (meets after church one Sunday a month)

Young People Events Helper

Help out with youth events such as, Rally Sunday, Bike Rodeo, Carnival, Roller skating, hayride and Halloween party in the fall.

2-3 hours per event, you may want to help out at one or all of our events.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

MINISTRY

DESCRIPTION

TIME COMMITMENT

WELCA

Activities of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America include: Feb. soup luncheons, Lenten luncheons (prepared by Parish Fellowship), women donate bars for desert, Bingo and Fargo parties at the Care Center, Scenic Acres service in April. We donate to the heat fund, give blankets or throws to the seniors on graduation and have a luncheon for the graduates and their immediate family on graduation Sunday. A Mother Daughter event is held in May. We donate food to the new member supper. Donations are given to the After Prom Party, camperships for summer camp, quilt auctions at EWALU in Sept., Shepherd of the Hills "back to school" program and their Christmas Shoppe. Several help at the senior meal site, attend and help at the World Day of Prayer, thank-offering service, Halloween party, luncheons for funerals, assist with health kits and school bags for Lutheran World Relief, We welcome any and all help that any ladies can give us. Please attend and learn what we are doing for the glory of God.

We meet 3 times a year—usually in January, May, and September. All ladies of St. John's are members.

Ladies Aid

We start each meeting with a Bible study, and then plan our upcoming activities, which include: helping with Bingo at the Care Center four times a year, serve funeral luncheons when asked or if we are the host for that month. Some of our members attend Cluster gatherings. We help with the Mother's Day event, donate food for the graduates luncheon, and help at the thank-offering service. We have a summer outing in August and a Christmas outing where we eat at a restaurant and go back to the club room for a Christmas Party where we play games and sing carols. Any lady from our parish is welcome to attend, visit and enjoy a meeting with us.

We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month in St. John's club room.

Dorcas Circle

At each meeting there is a Bible study with discussion and prayer. We discuss business, schedules and fellowship and refreshments. We have several activities including Care Center Bingo, food shelf delivery, funeral planning and a prayer chain. Monetary offerings are contributed to the church and community.

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Sarah Circle

The Sarah Circle is a fellowship of the women of St. John's church. Any woman being a member of St. John's can participate. We are lead in Bible Study from the Lutheran Women Today magazine and hold a short meeting. We help give to others in the church community by holding fundraisers and dispensing the funds where needed. We also activate a prayer chain when those in our church need special attention in prayer. We enjoy meeting with other women and talk about our faith. The fellowship is shared outside of the church walls by planning spring and fall outings. We look forward to having you as part of our circle.

We meet the 2nd Monday of every month @ 7:00pm

Sewing Group

We get together to piece together quilt tops from various materials that have been donated. One person assembles the quilts. After they are tied, the edges are finished, and they are weighed, labeled, and taken to the Lutheran World Relief Distribution Center. We welcome anyone who would like to spend a few hours tying quilts. We can always use more help.

We meet the last Wednesday of the month at 9:00am at St. John's club room.

Kitchen Committee

This committee is responsible to keep the cupboards clean, dishes off the countertops, etc. If we are in the kitchen and something needs to be done, we are the ones who will get the job done.

We meet once or twice a year.

MINISTRY

**SERVICE
MINISTRIES
DESCRIPTION**

TIME COMMITMENT

Mobile Food Pantry Helper

Help distribute food for the Northeastern Iowa Mobile Food Pantry at the church.

3 hrs, 1 day ea. Month (usually the 3rd Saturday, (9:00-11:00am)

Prepare Care Packages

Prepare and mail care packages to our members who are away at college.

1 time per year.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner Helper

Every year we prepare a Thanksgiving meal for those members in our community who otherwise may not be able to celebrate this holiday of thanksgiving with the traditional meal. People volunteer to make a turkey, mashed potatoes, salad, desert, etc. at home and bring the dish in to serve.

A couple hours on Thanksgiving.

**ELECTED &
APPOINTED
MINISTRIES*
DESCRIPTION**

MINISTRY

TIME COMMITMENT

Parish Board of Education

This committee oversees and reviews existing organizations to determine whether all groups and special needs are being met by recommending revisions and additions if needed. Our main focus is Sunday School and Confirmation. We approve curriculum for Sunday School and Confirmation, arrange mentors for the confirmands.

We usually meet 8-10 times per year after church for about an hour.

Evangelism Committee

Our objective is to bring the Gospel to the un-churched, enlist all God's people in spreading of the Gospel and deepen the faith and activity of the members of our congregation. We also help orient and new members into the congregation.

We usually meet a few times a year before the monthly council meeting.

Lay Ministry Committee

The basic objective of this committee are the spiritual welfare of the pastor and congregation members, individually and corporately, and the supervision of everything pertaining to congregational worship. We also organize special worship services including hymn sings and the Western Service.

We meet monthly usually on the 2nd Thursday before council meeting.

Parish Fellowship Committee

When a meal is needed, we are called. We do Lenten Luncheons every Wednesday during Lent and on Good Friday. We have also helped with the Seder meal for Maundy Thursday evening. Every year we have pizza, pop and chips for the confirmation class on their last Wednesday before they are confirmed. We fix a noon lunch on graduation day for the graduates and their immediate family. When new members join the church, we have a supper for them and any council member who is able to attend on the Wednesday before new member Sunday, and we also help organize the meal for the Western Service.

We meet just whenever there is something to be discussed.

Property Committee

We make annual inspection of the church properties and equipment and recommend needed repairs, improvements or replacements. Check the adequacy of all types of property insurance, enlist work crews for special repairs and improvements as well as check all property for fire hazards and fire extinguishers.

We meet just when there is something to be discussed.

Public Relations Committee

We maintain an on-going program of publicity for the congregation and its activities, by placing ads in the local paper and flyers around town to invite the community. We also maintain the sign on the outside of the church with service times.

We meet a few times a year.

Stewardship Committee

We discuss any monetary problems that we might have or foresee having and make recommendations to the council.

We meet about four times per year.

Young People Committee

We plan fun outings for the youth of the church and their families. Some of our activities include the carnival in February, roller-skating, a hayride and Halloween party in the fall.

We usually meet once a month.

Endowment Committee

We oversee the management of accumulated, inherited and appreciated resources given to the church to enhance mission and outreach.

We meet at least semi-annually.

EWALU Representative

Attend the annual meeting of our denominationally sponsored Bible camp as a voting member and report back to our congregation items that were voted on or discussed.

Attend the annual 1-day meeting in the spring.

NE IA Christian Retirement Community Representative

Attend the annual meeting and report back to our congregation items that were voted on or discussed.

Attend the annual 1-day meeting in the spring.

NE IA Synod Assembly Voting Member

Attend the annual Synod assembly as a voting member and report back to our congregation items that were voted on or discussed.

The Synod Assembly is in the Spring of the year from Friday evening to Sunday morning.

Shepherd of the Hills Conference Representative

Attend the annual meeting and report back to the congregation any items of interest.

The Conference usually meets for one half-day (Sunday) in February.

South Campus Management Team

Oversee the building and lease agreements.

We meet whenever there are items to be discussed.

Assistant Treasurers (counters)

Four assistant treasures sort, count and deposit the Saturday and Sunday offerings along with other special services (including Sunday School offerings).

Usually we meet every Monday morning.

***These ministry positions are held by voting members of the congregation as defined by our constitution.**