

Natalie Ballweg, 3rd grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

June 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Last year at this time I was writing to let you know that Marlow was arriving to begin his pastoral internship with us. It is hard to believe that a year has passed. We have been blessed by his service and thankful for his work among us. We wish Marlow, Nikki and Sammie Jean all the best as they travel to Wartburg to begin the last year of Marlow's seminary education. On a personal note, I am grateful for the insights Marlow has shared with me and the growth that I have experienced because of our time together. I am privileged to have been his supervisor.

At our 125th Anniversary celebration, another intern and supervisor team was present, Don Burton and Eldor Fruehling. Don served as our intern in 1963. I was six years old then. As I reflect on our history, I think about how our lives overlap. There are members of our congregation who have experienced Marlow as their only intern. There are members that only know Sally and me as their pastors. Still others have memories of Jay Ford. Thirty years ago he baptized, among others, Abby (Schneller) Bennett. Her baptismal picture is on our time line. Still others have the experience of being members during the 35 years Eldor Fruehling served this

congregation. There are more than a few pictures on the time line of him marrying, baptizing and confirming members of St. John's.

If history teaches us anything, it should remind us that our life intersects the lives of others. This means you may be someone's 4th grade teacher, their bus driver, the pastor who married them, their high school basketball coach or choir director, their friend who took them out to celebrate getting their first job, their doctor who performed lifesaving surgery and the list goes on.

We also can just take a day and look at how our lives connect. You may be the one who says "thank you" when you get your mail delivered. You may be the one who answers the phone with a welcoming voice. You may be the one (and only one) that smiles at a clerk, not knowing that they have just experienced a death, are going through a divorce, or received bad news regarding their health.

Like I said, last year I was writing about Marlow and his family coming to join us. Their time with us reminds me to ask the question, "Who will come into my life today and will I consider how important my interaction with them may be?"

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Summer Worship Times

St. John's worship times for the summer will be 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship time remains at 9:00 a.m. These summer times will continue through Labor Day, September 4.



Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

The women's Lutheran World Relief congregational project for 2016 is personal care kits. We will collect metal nail clippers in June. You may place donated items in the appropriate plastic bin in the fellowship hall.



Parish Planning Council Members:

Executive Director	Mark Gilbertson	643-4395
Assistant Exec Director	Ken Carlson	644-9521
Secretary	Kathy Lovell	643-2075
Treasurer	Donna Nelson	643-4660
Evangelism Board	Gwen Ringelstetter	643-6922
Fellowship Board	Linda Lintl	370-7455
Lay Ministry Board	Ruth Lohr	225-8477
Member at Large	Jackie Frosch	963-7553
Member at Large-Youth	Ally Dunnum	644-0041
Parish Education Board	Susan Heide	356-8219
Properties Board	Roger Clason	576-0343
PR and Social Concerns	Kathi Risley	643-6892
Stewardship Board	Nancy Kaufman	963-0151
Women of/ELCA	Eunice Yanke	643-8289
Youth Board	Marvin Hupp	643-0653

The Staff:

Pastors: Fred Rilling fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org 644-1359 (h)

Sally Williams sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org 643-7810 (h)

Intern, Marlow Carrels marlow@stjohnssaukprairie.org 370-7392

Office: Linda Hines linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org 544-2409 (h)

Youth-Education: Abby Bennett abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org
370-7148(c)

Director of Music: Connie Burton connie@stjohnssaukprairie.org
393-4291(c)

Custodian: Linda Hines

St. John's Lutheran Church: 643-2439 (phone), 643-2430 (fax)
www.stjohnssaukprairie.org

Like us on Facebook at St Johns Lutheran Sauk Prairie

Mission Statement: Christ, our strength and refuge, calling us to serve



Food Pantry Sunday is June 12th. Food, paper products and cleaning supplies may be brought to the table in the gathering area. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

Fruit juices
Flour
Canned pasta

Pudding cups
Sugar
Peanut butter

Keep this list handy as you do your grocery shopping during the next few weeks.

Many parishioners find it easier to bring the items to the gathering area of the church at other times during the month. We appreciate the donations at any time.



Birthday Greetings

We hope you take a moment to send greetings to the following people who have birthdays in June. The day is in parentheses.

Jan Floeter (7)
722 Risley Court
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Lyla Schabacker (12)
Maplewood of Sauk Prairie
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Wanda Gorsuch (13)
Pine Villa
950 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Anita Key (21)
890 Water Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Myrna Engh (23)
Maplewood Village
1425 Hemlock Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Erna Dieterle (27)
Maplewood of Sauk Prairie
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Women of the Church News



Hannah Circle: (will not meet in June)

Lydia Circle: Thursday, June 9, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, Diane Elsing, Hostess.

Martha Circle: Thursday, June 2 at 9:00 a.m. at Ruth Dresser's, 1011 Eagle View Court., PdS.

Mary Circle: Tuesday, June 7 at 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, Shirley Anding and Eunice Yanke, Hostesses.

Ruth Circle: Monday, June 13 at 9:00 a.m. at Marcia Thompson's, W13492 State Road 60, PdS.

Sarah Circle: Tuesday, June 7 at 9:30 a.m. at St. John's Library.

38 ladies attended Circle meetings in May. The Bible Study, "Mary and Elizabeth, Sisters Across the Generations" was led by Pastor Williams, Diane Elsing, Marge Erlandson, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester. In June the study will be led by Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Eunice Yanke, Carolyn Gilbertson and Jeannine Robertson.

As we have done in other years, we will not have individual Circle meetings in July. Instead, we will have a combine Circle "picnic" at the Blue Spoon restaurant on Wednesday, July 20th at 5:00 p.m. We will each order our own food as we come in then proceed to the River Room where we will eat in the fellowship of our friends. Marge Erlandson has graciously consented to lead the Bible Study for us. The study is "The Heart of the Matter". This is always a very enjoyable event so be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend and bring a guest.

Most Circles will not have regular meetings in August. Many of us, for the past few years, have attended the St. Claire Hospital Auxiliary salad luncheon which was held in the Al Ringling Mansion in Baraboo last year. Would you be interested in doing this again or are there other ideas? Maybe each Circle would like to do their own thing. We will have more information in the July Visitor.

During September, October and November, the studies we have will be on the subject of "When God's Not Fair".

There will be a Synod-wide women's event on September 24, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Good Shepherd West Church (Verona).

Martha Circle visited Special Friends during April and May. Ruth Circle will be visiting them in June and July.

Remember to look in the Visitor for A Prayer for Peace to be read on June 20th.



Women's Book Club

Book club will meet on Tuesday, June 28 at 10am in the church library or 6:30pm at the Blue Spoon. We will be reading Jerusalem Maiden by Talia Carner. A copy is in the church library and you can find it in the greater library system as well. If you are interested in reading ahead, the summer schedule is as follows:

July 26 – World's Strongest Librarian by Josh Hanagarne

August 30 – Art of Arranging Flowers by Lynne Branard

September 27 – Wearing God by Lauren F. Winner

Hannah Circle

Hannah's Circle will not meet over the summer months. Please enjoy time with your families and join us again on October 4.

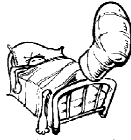
Outreach Ministry

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help deliver communion to our homebound members. It is easy and fun to do! It is a great chance to build new friendships while showing others Christ's love and caring. All you need is one of our communion kits, which contains the wafers, cups and wine, and about 20 minutes of time. If you are interested please contact Deb Westphal at 544-4022 or Pastor Fred at 643-2439.

Thank You!

The Good Neighbor Clinic of Sauk Prairie wishes to extend our appreciation for the generous donation of \$1,730.76 from St. John's to support our medical services. Thank you for your kindness.

(a portion of Lenten offerings and Good Friday's offerings.)



In the Hospital

St. John's reports many of the names of our hospitalized and recently discharged members in the monthly newsletter. We include only those who have given us permission to print their names. You may send cards or telephone them and pray for their improved health.

Hospitalized/Recently Discharged

Marge Erlandson
Almay Nelson



Thank you so much for the gift of food for our food pantry!
Your generosity continues to amaze our organization!
Sincerely, your friends at St. Vincent's

(This is acknowledging our food donation from February's food collection contest.)

Thank
You!

Thank you so much for again remembering the Sauk Prairie School District's Homeless children with your Lenten offerings.

I have some good news our homeless numbers are a bit lower this year. We are currently at 70 students, and last year we were at 84 students. That decrease is good to see! Your donation came at a good time as I am out of deodorant, feminine products, hoodies and sweatpants. Your donation will also allow those children to go to the end of the year trip to Noah's Ark. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Sincerely, Susan Baumann-Duran, Social Worker and Homeless Coordinator

125th Anniversary “Now Thank We All Our God”

We celebrated our 125th anniversary on May 22. It was a wonderful day and we are grateful to all who made it possible. We thank:

* Kathy Lester and the Anniversary Committee; Mark Gilbertson, Eldor Fruehling, Fred Rilling, Marlow Carrels, Arthur Ness, Roxann Grinde, Loretta Landerman, Linda Lintl and Linda Hines.

* Alec Rilling for taking pictures to remember this day.

* Linda Lintl and the Fellowship Board for the wonderful food.

* The staff and especially Linda Hines for all the work this event required in her dual role as secretary and custodian.

* Mark Gilbertson, Linda Hines and Loretta Landerman for their work on the timeline and to Jack Berndt and the Sauk Prairie Historical Society who found some lost footage of the placing of the steeple and corner stone.

* Tom Schneller for being the MC (which he also did at our 100th anniversary).

* Dale Clason and our Sunday school youth who decorated the close pin refrigerator magnets (and the many adults who hot glued to the clothes pins the magnets and decals) as well as the youth who sang for those who have been members for 50 years or more.

* Connie Burton and the hymn she wrote for the anniversary, “Christ, Our Strength and Refuge.”

* Our Senior Choir and trumpet players, Jeff Williams and Tom Olmstead.

* The Messengers for singing during the afternoon program

* Eldor Fruehling, Sally Williams, Jay Ford, Don Burton and Marlow Carrels, for their stories, prayers and memories.

* Bishop Mary Froiland for celebrating with us, preaching and being Sally’s internship supervisor.

* Kathy Lester and Linda Hines for compiling and creating our Anniversary booklet.

* Kathy Lester, Nick Lester, Loretta Landerman, Linda Lintl and Linda Hines for assembling the Anniversary booklets.

* The many members who donated toppings and salads for the meal, cookies for fellowship and the many volunteers who helped serve and clean up.

* And for those who gathered on May 24, 1891, and began the congregation we call St. John’s.

Special Anniversary Offering

During the next few weeks we will happily continue to receive offerings in celebration of our 125th anniversary. Half of the offerings will be given to the Fruehling Family Scholarship at Wartburg Seminary. These funds will be used to help students at Wartburg cover the cost of seminary. The other half will be giving to the synod to help promote the growth and vitality of congregations. Please write 125th anniversary funds on any gifts given for this purpose. We collected \$730.00 on May 22.

Anniversary Timeline

Our anniversary timeline will remain on the fellowship wall for a while. You are invited to continue to add pictures to it in the coming weeks. All pictures/items will be returned once we take it down. Look for some new photos taken on the anniversary day.



Affirmation of Baptism

The following students celebrated their Affirmation of Baptism on May 15, 2016.

Sara Bradley
Rachel Collins
Julia Jones
Sawyer Ladd
Cameron Manning
Elisabeth Miller
Noah Schoepp
Joshua Schweitzer
Taylor Tompkin
Jacob Vieth
Katie Yanke

Mariah Chao
Bethany Johnson
Kyle King
Chris Leatherberry
Madison Marshall
Grace Sandeman
Emily Schutt
Jordan Small
Joe Treinen
Craig Wernsing

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they move forward in their spiritual life.



Happy June Birthday!

Our Youngest:

Owen Louis (7)

Reese Bletsch (21)

Samuel Krueger (8)

Chloe Graber (29)

Our Sunday School Students:

Kya Pickarts (1)

Gavin Goetsch (4)

Sophia Vest (4)

Austin Keyser (7)

Alexis Graber (9)

Jenna Shimpach (9)

Natalie Ballweg (12)

Mason Ramirez (15)

Alyssa Himebach (16)

Dylan Quayle (16)

Ava Shimpach (19)

Alia Schlimgen (20)

Amelia Breunig (22)

Gabriel Harter (22)

Charles Lueck (24)

Cameron Ederer (28)

Jenna Pistono (29)

Olivia Wiese (30)

Sara Francour (4)

Gracyn Hehenberger (4)

Jacob Lins (6)

Collin Lins (8)

Liam Hart (9)

Elizabeth Vetter (9)

Sam Hohenstein (14)

Tori Breunig (16)

Michael Jolicoeur (16)

Braylin Breunig (19)

Dominick Desso (20)

Jameson Tepe (20)

Brody Ballweg (22)

Carson Lohr (24)

Dominick Potter (26)

Wesley Himebach (29)

Lee LaVigne (30)

Our Youth:

Cora Dunnum (7)

Cole Douglas (8)

Evan Schmit (9)

Lauryn Froehlich (12)

Chris Leatherberry (13)

Jack Baldwin (15)

Tyler King (16)

Trevor Harms (18)

Jacob Braxton (27)

Corbin Potter (7)

Jace Elsing (9)

Alexis Andrews (12)

Allana Frey (13)

Gracie Koenig (14)

Zach Guentherman (16)

Leah Froehlich (17)

Emily Sauer (21)

College and Career-age Young People:

Ryan Cone (3)

Jackson Sailor (3)

Tim Garman (5)
Mikayla Wheeler (25)

Tyler Ederer (14)
Lauren Kraemer (26)

Serving in June

Ushers:

June 5

8:00 a.m.

Rob Risley
Vi Bohler
Don Bohler
Samantha Johnson

9:30 a.m.

Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Ed Nimmow
Emily Caflisch

June 12

Rob Risley
Vi Bohler
Don Bohler
Michael Endres

Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Ed Nimmow

June 19

Rob Risley
Don Bohler
Vi Bohler
Alex Kinnamon

Grace Fauerbach
Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Ed Nimmow

June 26

Rob Risley
Don Bohler
Vi Bohler

Lillian Jones
Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Ed Nimmow
Leanna Niesen

Acolytes:

June 5

8:00 a.m.

Michael Endres
Scott Graves
Cayden Wernsing
Megan Small

9:30 a.m.

Summer Acker
Jacob Schweitzer
Tarren Nimmow
Gavin Tompkin
Leanna Niesen

June 19

Emma Kinnamon
Ava Roach
Ashley Pape

Malea Niesen
Max Sailor

June 26

Readers:

June 5

8:00 a.m.

Megan Small
Marilyn Herschleb
Marilyn Straub
John Hines

9:30 a.m.

Claire Thiede
Dale Haroldson
Becki Braund
Nancy Kaufman

June 12

June 19

June 26

Cantors:

June 5

8:00 a.m.

Chris Stephan
Dennis Fisher
Janis Baun
Jeff/Kathy Ochsankehl

9:30 a.m.

Melani Wheeler
Cathy/Katie Yanke
Doris Lohr
Marv/Janelle Hupp

June 12

June 19

June 26

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

June 5 Cayden Wernsing
June 12 Anne Klinkner
June 19 Janis Baun
June 26 Roxanne Small

9:30 a.m.

Jordan Chao
Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Doris Lohr

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

June 5 Bob Wilson
June 12 Kathi Risley
June 19 Marv Hupp
June 26 Bev Clason

9:30 a.m.

Bob Wilson
Kathi Risley
Marv Hupp
Bev Clason

Communion Set Up/Clean Up 8:00 a.m.

June 5 Nadine Lauer
June 12 Ainsley Apel
June 19 Linda Meyer/Patty Passehl
June 26 Linda Hines

9:30 a.m.

Deb Loht-Foster
Grace Fauerbach
Deb Westphal
Pat Sweet

Nursery Staff:

June 5 Ella Schad
Summer Acker
June 12 Grace Fauerbach
Aimee Maasch
June 19 Molly Ballweg
Olivia Joyce
June 26 Claire Thiede
Megan Small

9:30 a.m.

Scott Graves
Lauren Wideen
Leanna Niesen
Malea Niesen
Lauren Wideen
Jordan Chao
Drew Marshall

Coffee Set-Up/Clean-Up: 7:30 a.m.

June 5 Ashley Pape
June 12 Linda Yanke
June 19 Alex and Emma Kinnamon
June 26 Linda Yanke

 **THANK** you!

On behalf of the Fruehling family, I would express our heartfelt appreciation to the members of St. John's congregation for the support of the family's foundation, by sharing of the Anniversary offering. Scholarships from this foundation are awarded to seminary students at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

Eldor Fruehling

Greeters:

8:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

June 5 (Sanctuary)	Dan/Kathy Lovell	Christina Leaf
(Front doors)	Shirley Anding	Tom/Cheryl Schneller
(Side doors)	Bob Nelson	Norma Newman
June 12 (Sanctuary)	Jeannine Robertson	Dustin Hanson family
(Front doors)	Cindy/Cliff Thompson	John/Ellen Mast
(Side doors)	Shawn Ballweg family	Sally/Jake Degenhardt
June 19 (Sanctuary)	Samantha Johnson	Jacob Schweitzer
(Front doors)	Olivia Joyce	Alex Kinnamon
(Side doors)		Emma Kinnamon
June 26 (Sanctuary)	Dan/Janis Baun	Chris Stephan family
(Front doors)	Craig/Penny Johnson	Deb/Gerry Westphal
(Side doors)	Sylvia/Claire Richardson	Aletha/John Ballweg



Milestone Ministry Celebrations

Anniversary Blessing!

This month we will celebrate Milestone Anniversaries on **Sunday, July 17th** at both services. We will lift up in prayer all marriages and relationships and have special recognition for those who have been married 20+ years! We hope you can join us!

Retirements and Job Transitions Blessing!

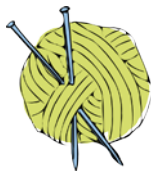
Did you recently retire from a job or perhaps will be retiring soon? Are you transitioning to a new job or new position? Are you looking for employment? Please join us on **Sunday, August 7th** for a special prayer and blessing as you journey into this new phase of life and all of the new adventures that come with it. We will offer the blessing at both worship services.

Thanks

Thank you for the donation of \$176.91 for needs to be fulfilled in the Sauk Prairie area.

My Neighbor in Need

(A portion of the Lenten offerings.)



To all Prayer Shawl makers - we received the following note and want to share with all of you.

"Dear Awesome Prayer Shawl Creators!
Thank you for the beautiful shawl. It is my constant companion at home and at the hospital. Knowing that each stitch was knitted with our Lord's love in mind gives me great comfort and strength. Thank you especially for your prayers. God has answered them with His healing grace and in so many other wonderful ways. Praise be to God. Blessings to you."

Your prayer shawls are comforting and do make a difference. The next prayer shawl blessing will be June 12th. If you have any that are finished, drop off at church office before then. Thank you again for all of your work and prayers.

Sunday School News

Sunday School	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
May 1	63	\$17.87
May 8	72	\$11.54
May 15	68	\$ 6.00
May 22	73	\$52.00

St. John's Vacation Bible School – August 1-4

Registration for Vacation Bible School is still open! Bible School is August 1-4 (Monday through Thursday), from 9am-2:30pm. We will have counselors from Lutherdale Bible Camp here through the week leading games, worship, arts and crafts, and Bible studies. The cost is \$35 for 1 child, not to exceed \$80 a family.

We also offer a preschool option for 3 & 4 year olds from 9am-11:30am for \$10/child. Sign up in the church office, or see Abby Bennett for more information. Registration forms will be accepted through June 15th.

Middle and High School News

Mt. Olympus - June 24th, Middle and High School & Families

Kids in grades 6-12 are invited on an outing to Mt. Olympus on Friday, June 24th. We will take a bus from church at 9am and return at 5pm. The cost will be \$20 per person, which includes water park admission, lunch and transportation. We will collect money on the 26th (checks are to be made out to St. John's) Bring a towel, sunscreen and money for snacks. Sign up is on the Youth Info Board and we need 15 kids to sign-up for us to be able to go. Friends are welcome to attend!

Families are welcome to take advantage of our group rate as well by following the bus up to Mt. Olympus in your car and entering with our group. Cars will have to pay separate parking this year, but you still get the group rate for admission. Not only is lunch included, but we establish a "home base" that is always staffed, so you can leave personal belongings behind!



Graduation Recognition

The following students are graduating high school in 2016:

Alexis Andrews	Paige Beattie
Ryan Caflisch	Olivia Chao
Katelyn Ederer	Allana Frey
Erik Gilbertson	Alissa Grauvogl
Vincent Graves	Jacob Harter
Brooke Herschleb	Keisha Janisch
Jacob Jones	Chad Keller
Tyler King	Samantha Kreutzmann
Ivan Lohr	Sarah Peterson
Sydney Peterson	Tessa Pierce
Austin Powell	Jordan Powell
Alison Roach	Nicholas Sailor

Kami Schoepp
Leah Spurgeon

Hannah Schutt
Jacob Treinen

Keep them in your prayers as they go through this life transition and face an exciting future.

We also have post-high school graduations to celebrate! We congratulate the following on receiving their degrees:

JaTame Carden graduating from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science with a Physician Assistant degree.

Krista Grinde graduating from medical school at the A. T. Still University in Kirksville, MO. Krista will spend the next three years completing a residency in Pediatrics in Philadelphia, PA.

Lori Klitzke completed her Masters of Science degree in Management and Healthcare Administration this past December.

Jaime Sawle graduated from UW-Madison with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ag Business Management.

Mikayla Wheeler graduating from UW-Oshkosh with her Bachelor of Science degree in Science with emphasis in Psychology.

Derek Carden graduating from UW-Baraboo with a degree in Music.

Anna Thums graduate of UW-Eau Claire with a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration. Anna will work as Assistant Nursing Home Administrator in Golden Valley, MN.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Paul Oetzman and sons, Arlyn and Rene, on the death of Paul's sister-in-law, Juanita Oetzman.

Marvin and Gloria Beuthin, on the death of Gloria's sister, Larine Niehoff.

Eleanor Ferry on the death of her son, Peter Ferry.

John and Patty Schmidt on the death of grandson, Rylan.

Walter Sprecher, Ray and Rhonda Bolton, and Ryan, Rory, Reyna Bolton on the death of wife, mother and grandmother, Beulah Sprecher.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have to say that it is strange to think about being away from you for ten weeks while I'm on sabbatical, and yet I am excited for the opportunities that lay before you and me.

While I am gone you will have the opportunity to meet our new intern. Others will step forward to fill in some of the gaps while I am gone, which means opportunities for more people to live out their baptismal promises. New members will join our church. Some will get married, some will be baptized.

There are fantastic things that are happening throughout June, July, and August that remind me how much God is at work within all of you. I give thanks for the Spirit moving among us!

While I am at home and traveling, I will keep you in my prayers. And I will eagerly await my return to serve you as pastor. What a blessing it is to be your pastor!

May your ears be open to God's Word.

May your eyes be open to Christ among you.

May your hearts be open to the working of the Spirit.

I leave you with the words of one of my favorite hymns:

*Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go;
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.*

*Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.*

*As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.*

*I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of your journey.*

(Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song ELW 808)

Blessings,

Sally

Adult Education

This summer we will have adult education classes on Thursday mornings at 10am and on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. We will begin the Thursday morning class on June 23rd. Our Wednesday 6pm class will begin on June 29th. See the Visitor and bulletins for more information in the coming weeks.



New Member Exploration

Every year we are delighted to welcome new members to our congregation. As part of our new member process, we feel it is important that our new members (as well as our current members) have the opportunity to learn more about our history as the Lutheran Church, how it is structured, and what it means to be stewards and members of God's Church as well as of St. John's.

Please plan on attending our Wednesday evening sessions on June 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 6:30pm. (We will have a Vespers worship service outdoors at 6pm on June 8. We encourage you to attend that before class!)

The official New Member Installation and Reception will take place on Sunday, June 26 at the 9:30am service.

We hope you will take seriously our invitation to engage in this congregation as though you are already members. You are welcome to attend adult education classes, get involved in the work of one of our boards, volunteer to help with worship, and attend any congregational events.

Please contact Pastor Williams with any questions or concerns.

HELLO
my name is

INTERN

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.
Psalms 90:12

Brothers and sisters, we have known since the day we came here that we would be leaving. And our time has come to an end. This congregation has been a wonderful place to call home, a place of learning, a place of humbling, and place where we have been welcome since the first day. Over the year you have helped teach me how to be a leader in the church, and for that I am thankful.

As the tune in the Broadway Musical Rent says a year is “525,600 minutes, 525,000 moments so dear. 525,600 minutes - how do you measure, measure a year? In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee.” In those moments, those cups of coffee, we have seen so much. We watched our daughter chase fireflies. We painted our RV. We watched the leaves change for the first time. We watched fireworks over a river. We fell in love with the Mad City. We watched this community come into its call as a teaching parish, and as your most recent student I thank you. I thank you for letting me visit you in your most anxious moments, for talking with me over a cup of coffee, for discussing the finer points of the Creed and Adiaphora, for laughing at my jokes from the pulpit (and for not tackling me when I poked fun at the Packers). Thank you for doing what you could to mold me into a worthy servant in this place.

I am leaving, Nikki and Sammie Jean are coming with me (no matter what Pastor Sally says!), but that does not mean that our jobs are through. I need to go back to Wartburg and finish my seminary career and take a call and somewhere in there I need to complete some Drills with the Army Reserve, but that is my mission. This place has its own mission now. After we leave a new year begins, you will have another five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes to work with a new intern, a new person who will need to learn to walk with you when you need, a new person who needs to learn how to teach, preach, and live in this place. You are good teachers and he is likely a good student. But remember, Michaelo is not me, he has strengths that I don't have. Look for them and help him grow just like you helped me grow. Let us all learn to count our days... In hopes of wiser hearts.

Godspeed to you all,

Marlow, Nikki, and Sammie Jean



Celebrating the Carrels

One way to celebrate and give thanks is by giving gifts. As you may remember, the Good Gifts program of the ELCA directs money toward the purchase of a variety of items/ministries. They include: farm animals, wells, school supplies, congregational support, as well as seminarian tuition support. As Marlow has reminded us, in the next few years the church will need more pastors than are currently being prepared. Seminary costs are one reason for this discrepancy. The Good Gifts program is one way to help bridge this gap. I encourage you to consider a gift in honor of the Carrels to the Good Gifts program. You can find the website at community.elca.org/elcagoodgifts.

SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray for peace on the 20th day of each month. On June 20, please repeat the following prayer:

Father, Thank you for your presence during the hard and mean days. For then we have you to lean upon. Thank you for your presence during the bright and sunny days, for then we can share that which we have with those who have less. And thank you for your presence during the Holy Days, for then we are able to celebrate you and our families and our friends. For those who have no voice, we ask you to speak. For those who feel unworthy, we ask you to pour your love out in waterfalls of tenderness. For those who live in pain, we ask you to bathe them in the river of your healing. For those who are lonely, we ask you to keep them company. For those who are depressed, we ask you to shower upon them the light of hope. Dear Creator, You, the borderless sea of substance, we ask you to give to all the world that which we need most—Peace.



maya angelou



Relay for Life

Relay for Life is an event that is held all over the country to raise money for research and other programs to aid in the recovery and support of patients and family members affected by cancer. St. John's has formed a team for Sauk Prairie's Relay for Life on **August 5, 2016, 5pm-11:45 pm** at Sauk Prairie High School's track and we hope you will join us. There are four ways to participate in Team St. John's:

1. Sign up to walk the track for an hour (or longer if you want). We need to have someone (or everyone!) from St. John's on the track throughout the entire event. You can sign up on the kiosk or on our team page at

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/?team_id=2039317&pg=team&fr_id=75105.

2. Make a financial donation. Donations can be given to the church office or in the offering plate on Sundays. Just be sure to note that it's for Relay for Life. Checks should be made out to St. John's. Donations can also be made online on our team page.

3. Sign up to pray during the event. Yes, we need prayer warriors just as much as we need walkers and donations! See the sign ups on the kiosk or contact Kathi Matthews-Risley at katmatris@gmail.com for more information.

4. Purchase a luminaria that will be lit during the event to honor and remember loved ones. These can also be purchased online on our team page or contact Kathi.

It is a fun event with lots of kids' activities, music and ceremonies throughout the night. We will have food, kids games, a bounce house, music and lots of time to spend with fellow community members all while fighting back against cancer.

We hope you will join us!

Jackie Frosch & Kathi Matthews-Risley

Team Captains