



Rylie Louis, Grade 3

Prairie du Sac, WI

September 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I have to tell you, it has been one of those months. Last month's Visitor was focused on the gift of mentors, colleagues and others who walked (and continue to do so) in my faith journey. I reminded us that as we walked with Michaelo, we too would be counted as one of those important partners in his life's journey. I still believe we are and will continue to be, maybe just not in the way we envisioned.

People have asked about Michaelo, our intern program and what his leaving might mean for us as an intern site. I will speak to what I know. Wartburg believes us to be a VERY good internship site. Part of this has to do with their knowing Sally and I, part has to do with the nature of our congregation's involvement in the larger church and part of it, is believing that we are a wonderful place for interns to grow and learn. Thus, we will continue to be seen as a place where Wartburg will want to place future interns.

What I do not know, and I have said before, is whether or not we will get an intern next summer. The process unfolds like this. Intern sites apply in January, matches are made in February, interns are informed of the match early in March and are given a week to consider whether the match is a good one. If they agree, the congregation is then informed mid-March. Once the matches are made and agreed upon, most interns begin sometime in June/July. One question that has been asked is would we get another intern this summer. The answer is no. All Interns have been assigned and are in place.

Below you will find a letter from Michaelo that he emailed to me while I was on vacation. It is a reminder that while he may not be physically here, he is part of our story, our journey; and we, a part of his. I ask that you continue to keep him in your prayers as well as his candidacy committee and the seminary community.

Shalom,

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

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to say thank you for having me as an intern pastor in your congregation.

I enjoyed your hospitality and friendship. St. John's is a great place to do ministry. When I came to Prairie du Sac, I was very happy to be there and do my internship. I also love the people of St. John's in Christ but one of my struggles was English. I worked throughout the semester to keep up with school work when I was in seminary, but when I started internship I was trying very hard to finish the internship. But I came to the decision that I needed a break for my health and to keep up the seminary work. In general, it was a very hard decision to make but I want you all to know that I love you all in the love of Christ and I will keep you all in my prayers and as you will keep me in your prayers as well.

In Christ.

Michaelo Abasori



Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

The women's Lutheran World Relief congregational project for 2016 is personal care kits. We will collect small bath towels during September. 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	James Newman	512-7623
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 (h) 644-1359

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

Office and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines

linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 544-2409

Youth-Education: Abby Bennett abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org

(c)370-7148

Director of Music: Connie Burton connie@stjohnssaukprairie.org

(c)393-4291

Custodian: Jake Degenhardt jake@stjohnssaukprairie.org

(h)370-6158

St. John's Lutheran Church: 643-2439 www.stjohnssaukprairie.org

Like us on Facebook at St Johns Lutheran Sauk Prairie

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

St. John's Lutheran Church
100 Oak Street
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christ,
our strength
and refuge,
calling us
to serve

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Prairie du Sac,
Wisconsin 53578

FOOD DRIVE



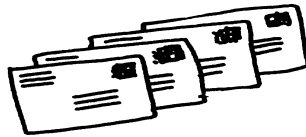
Food Pantry Sunday is September 11. Food, paper products and cleaning supplies may be brought to the table in the gathering area. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

Pancake Mix
Soup
Cereal

Syrup
Crackers
Toothpaste

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 September. The day is in parentheses.

Zona Roewer (12)
930 Prairie St., # 106
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



Congregational Meeting

On Oct 2nd, after the first service, we will have a congregational meeting to approve our 2017 budget (see insert), elect members to our Parish Planning Council and to elect three congregational members to serve on our Nomination Committee.

Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Next meeting is October 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Lydia Circle: Thursday, September 8, 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, Bev Clason Hostess

Martha Circle: Thursday, September 8, 9:00 a.m. at Ginny Nimmow's, 216 Washington St., Sauk City

Mary Circle: Tuesday, September 6, 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, Eunice Yanke Hostess

Ruth Circle: Monday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. at Marian DeGiovanni's, 295 Water St., Prairie du Sac

Sarah Circle: Tuesday, September 6, 9:30 a.m. at St. John's Library



Our Bible Study for our new series will be on When God Forgives the Guilty. The first lesson is "Jonah and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day". This lesson will be led by Fay Rentmeester, Marge Erlandson, Eunice Yanke, Kathy Lester, and Carolyn Gilbertson. **NOW** would be a great time to join a Circle and get in on these interesting studies!

The main things we will be working on during September are the various kits for Lutheran World Relief, which includes the quilts, personal care kits, sewing kits, baby care kits and school kits. On another page of this newsletter is a complete list of these kits and the supplies to make each one. We are hoping everyone will help as much as possible with supplies for any of these kits. The deadline for bringing things in is September 20th, so volunteers will have time to put the kits together for packing. Our quilters are always in need of material, so if you have sheets, drapes or other large pieces of fabric, bring them to the church at any time. Anything you can contribute for the kits will be greatly appreciated!

The Baraboo Conference Fall Gathering will be October 15 (note date change) at Bethany Lutheran Church of Wisconsin Dells. More information will be in next month's Visitor.

The South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Meeting will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-West Campus, 7291 County Road PD, Verona, on Saturday, September 24th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The morning program is called "The Cracked Pots". The writers invite us to join them as we walk with Jesus through the seasons of life and come to know God. We are cracked vessels among God's garden – but the Potter is not finished with us yet. During this Garden Getaway, we will look at what the Bible says about different seasons of life and explore what it means to walk with God through these seasons. See your life as a garden that God

created. He is the Master Gardener who has created our lives, and He is there with us every step of the way.

In the afternoon several workshops will be offered, including: Al-Anon, Lutheran Social Services Refugee Resettlement, Quilting and Lutheran World Relief, Human Trafficking, Everyday Yoga, and Mindfulness.

It promises to be a very interesting day. Call the church office (643-2439) if you would like to attend. Car-pooling will be offered. You can get registration forms from your Circle Chair or the church office. The cost of registration which includes continental breakfast and a box lunch is \$15. Make checks payable to Women of the ELCA. Return your registration form and payment by September 6th to the church office and we will send all of them together.

The ELCA Tenth Triennial Gathering will be held in Minneapolis on July 13-17, 2017. "All Anew" is the theme. The theme is supported by several biblical texts that speak of renewal. Because this Gathering falls during the observance of the **500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation** in 2017, the theme resonates with REFORMATION AND TRANSFORMATION images. At the Gathering, participants will explore ways in which the Holy Spirit changes us, acknowledging that reformation and transformation have happened and continue to happen within the community of women known as Women of the ELCA. This is something that would be very worthwhile and we have some time to think about attending.

Ruth Circle has been visiting Special Friends in August and September. Sarah Circle will visit them in October and November.

Remember to look in this [Visitor](#) for a Prayer for Peace to be read on September 20th.



Women's Book Club

Our September book will be [Wearing God](#) by Lauren F. Winner and we will meet on Tuesday, September 27 at 10am in the church library and 6:30pm at the Blue Spoon. All women of the church (and friends!) are welcome. See Pastor Williams for more information.



Pet Blessing Service

On Sunday, October 9, we will have our annual Pet Blessing Service outdoors after 10:30 a.m. worship. Pets hold a special place in our hearts, and this service is one way to remind us that God loves and cares for all of God's creatures, even the furry and feathered ones!

You are welcome to bring your well-behaved and social pet. In the past years, we have seen a variety of pets in attendance - dogs, cats, hamsters, and even horses! If your pet doesn't enjoy being around other animals or people, or has passed away, consider bringing a favorite photo.

The following are reminders for an "uneventful" event:

- Pets must be kept on a short leash or kenneled at all times.
- Bring domestic animals only; no "exotic" pets.
- Pets are to stay outdoors while on church grounds.
- Parents must be present to assist small children with their pets. We ask that parents tend to the pet during the service.
- Be respectful of other pets. Since pets can be nervous in group situations, respect a pet's "space" by not crowding around them. If you wish to approach a pet, ask the owner first.
- Do not bring pet food or treats with you to the service.
- You are responsible for your pet at all times. Please have clean-up bags with you (just in case...).

See you there! In the meantime, we invite you to share a favorite photo of your pet with us on the St. John's Facebook page!



Moving? Have a New Address?

Contact the church office if you or your post-high school student will be changing addresses. We like to keep in touch with you!

Parish Planning Nominees

The following have been nominated to stand for election to the Parish Planning Council for the following open positions: Ken Carlson, Executive Director; Jon Sandeman, Assistant Executive Director; Butch Passehl, Treasurer; Lori Hegge, Fellowship Board Chair; James Newman, Parish Education Board Chair; John Schmidt, PR and Social Concerns Board Chair, and Linda Lintl, Member at Large. The remaining members have agreed to continue their terms or serve another term as allowed by our constitution. If you would like to be considered for one of the open positions, please submit your name to the office no later than three weeks prior to the election. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Executive Director, Mark Gilbertson or Pastor Fred.

Faith Day Center

Faith Day Center is a community resource that helps meet the healthcare, personal care and socialization needs of the elderly, chronically ill and disabled in the Sauk County area. They provide a quality of life for adults who might otherwise not be able to be cared for at home. Their two main goals are to help individuals maintain their independence and highest functional level, and to provide families with respite and reassurance that their loved ones are in a safe and caring environment. They are located at 431 Water Street, Suite 103, Prairie du Sac. If you are interested in more information call 608-370-8488.

Hannah Circle

Hannah's Circle bible study will meet again on **Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30pm** in the church library. Women of the church who are not already members of another circle are welcome to join us for a bible study and fellowship. While the bible study is continuous, attendance is not required every month. If you like to laugh, talk, and learn more about God this is a great place for you! Nursery is provided.

Thanks

Thank you for your donation of \$100.00 to the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry. Every donation helps us work toward our goal of helping feed families in the Sauk Prairie School District.

Sincerely, Carol Gagnon

(given from monies collected the second Sunday of each month)

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Creator, open our hearts
to peace and healing between all people.
Creator, open our hearts
to provide and protect for all children of the earth.
Creator, open our hearts
to respect for the earth, and all the gifts of the earth.
Creator, open our hearts
to end exclusion, violence, and fear among all.
Thank-you for the gifts of this day and every day.

native american - micmac - alycia longriver - 1995



Sunday Evening Bible Study

Starting September 18 at 6:00 p.m. we will begin another year of Adult Bible Study. We are a casual group of men and women meeting at St. John's to get to know more about the Bible. We use discussion to learn, share, laugh and support each other. We are not experts, just a group willing to search for answers and understanding together. Come and join us on the third Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome!

John and Linda Hines

Fall Adult Education Schedule

Our regular Sunday adult education schedule will start up again on Sunday, September 18 at 9:15 in room 1. This year our studies will include topics such as health and wellness, conversations on racism, and studies on the Gospel of Matthew just to name a few!

Beginning September 14th at 6pm, Wednesday evenings we will gather to study the Gospel lesson that will be read the following Sunday. All are welcome to come at 5:20 and enjoy a home cooked meal. Cost is only \$1 with a maximum of \$5 per family.

There are no prerequisites for our adult education classes. All are welcome!



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

Tom Luetscher
Erna Dieterle
Scott Uttech
Jill and Ellen Krueger



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Gloria and Jim Pierce and family on the death of June Koenig, Gloria's sister-in-law.

Deb and Gerry Westphal on the death of their sister-in-law, Iris Westphal.

Dorothy Halverson and family on the death of her husband, Jerry Halverson.

Patti and Kevin Key, Brian and Kira Key, Alaina and Brent Herbrand and their families on the death of Pattie's mother Florence "Frene" Janney.

The many family and friends of Martha Nelson.

Kim, Duane, Brian and Brandon Larson on the death of Kim's mother, LaVonne Stuetngen.

Amy, Chris, Christian, Reagan Chrisler, and James and Taylor Wixom on the death of husband and father, Jeff Chrisler



St. John's is very grateful to receive monetary donations in memory of the following people: Wayne Schulz, Ewald Hanson and Jane Royston. We thank the family and friends for their kind generosity.



BAPTISM

We conferred the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on two young members of our congregation this past month. Please keep them in your prayers so they may grow in faith as they grow in stature.

Eleanor Marie Muehrer was baptized on August 14, 2016. She is the daughter of Michael and Lydia (Haug) Muehrer. Eleanor was born on June 3, 2016. Her sponsors are Becky Haug and Sarah Haug and her Congregational sponsor is Diane Jolicoeur.

Cashton John Suchla was also baptized on August 14. He is the son of Brett and Jessica (Roth) Suchla. Cashton was born on August 9, 2012 and his sponsors are Brandon Suchla, Brian Suchla and Jill Maier. Brandon and Danielle Lohr are his Congregational sponsors.



St. John's sends a great big "Thank You" to the following people who helped move furniture or clean, strip, wax and shine the floors in the Sunday School hallway. We thank you for all your hard work, and a job well done. Thanks!

John Ballweg
Roger Clason
Jake Dagenhart
Dan Baun
Dale Haroldson

Jeff & Patti Ballweg
Matt Passehl
Bryce Lauer
Aletha & Matthew Ballweg
Dale Clason & grandchildren



Thank You!

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the American Cancer Society, I sincerely thank you for your recent contribution. We truly appreciate your gift of \$275.00 through Relay For Life.

David J. Benson, Executive Vice President

Happy September Birthday!

Our Youngest:

Olin Frey (4)	Olivia Stephan (9)
Elliot Harms (10)	Corbin Colby (13)
Callie Lohr (17)	McKayla Peterson (24)
Easton Udelhofen (25)	Caleb Anderson (27)

Our Sunday School Students:

Ramona Blau (2)	Emma Rhyner (2)
Grady Sass (3)	Audrey Sandberg (3)
Malania Hitchcock (4)	Reagan Chrisler (7)
Jena Jones (8)	Masen Schmidt (8)
Evelyn Fritsch (9)	Gavin Sawyer (9)
Annika Braund (10)	Lucas Muehrer (12)
Isabelle Skowronski (12)	Austin Urban (12)
Emily Cook (13)	Cannon Esser (15)
Claire Hartman (15)	Ryan Jager (16)
Brooke Braund (17)	George Colby (18)
Lauren Endres (18)	Kyra Manning (18)
Micah Boerger (19)	Ellery Apel (20)
Erelyn Apel (20)	Michael Blau (21)
Carly Coy (22)	Matthew Johnson (24)
Alaina Kraemer (26)	Micael Louis (28)
Rylie Louis (28)	Malea Schonenberger (28)
Jaycie Riha (29)	Jaylyn Riha (29)

Our Youth:

Benjamin Chao (2)	Briar Lohr (2)
Claire Meixelsperger (3)	Gavin Tompkin (4)
Chris Kepler (5)	Vincent Wanta (6)
Cynthia Flores (7)	Samantha Johnson (7)
Kyle Johnson (10)	Jackson Gorsuch (11)
Lizzie Hupp (12)	Sean Collins (16)
Ashley Pape (17)	Kalyn Schmit (17)
Grace Fauerbach (18)	Madie Hohenstein (18)
Carmen Decorah (19)	Kaitlin Graves (20)
Katie Yanke (22)	Dawson Evert (27)
Madison Stronach (27)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Brooke Herschleb (9)	Lucas Johnson (10)
Sabrina Yanke (14)	Luke Tilkins (17)

Matthew Ballweg (26)

Nicholas Sailor (28)

Serving in September

Ushers:

September 4

8:00 a.m.

Dale Haroldson
Dan Baun
Donna Knickmeyer
Drew Marshall

9:30 a.m.

Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Ed, Ginny Nimmow
Chris Kepler

September 11

8:00 a.m.

Gary Tomter
Dan Baun
Donna Knickmeyer
Megan Small

10:30 a.m.

Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Ed, Ginny Nimmow
Claire Thiede

September 18

Gary Tomter
Dan Baun
Donna Knickmeyer

Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Ed, Ginny Nimmow
Tarren Nimmow

September 25

Gary Tomter
Dan Baun
Donna Knickmeyer
Ainsley Apel

Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Ed, Ginny Nimmow
Ashley Pape

Acolytes:

September

8:00 a.m.

Megan Small
Alia Schlimgen

9:30 a.m.

Drew Marshall
Tarren Nimmow

September 11

8:00 a.m.

Michael Endres
Sam Beattie

10:30 a.m.

Max Sailor
Jordan Chao
Summer Acker

September 18

Lauren Wideen

September 25

Olivia Joyce
Gavin Tompkin

Max Sailor
Jordan Chao

Readers:

September 4

8:00 a.m.

Cayden Wernsing

9:30 a.m.

September 11

8:00 a.m.

Marilyn Herschleb

10:30 a.m.

September 18

Mary Halweg

Anne Klinkner
Donna Knickmeyer

September 25

Dan Baun

Annika/Becki Braund

Cantors:

September 4

8:00 a.m.

Bill Burton

9:30 a.m.

Doris Lohr

September 11

8:00 a.m.

Senior Choir

10:30 a.m.

Connie Burton

September 18	Melani Wheeler	Karley Blau
September 25	Chris Stephan	Cathy and Katie Yanke
<u>Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.</u>		<u>9:30 a.m.</u>
September 4	Megan Small	Tarren Nimmow
	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
September 11	Kathy Lovell	Deb Westphal
September 18	Marilyn Herschleb	
September 25	Donna Knickmeyer	

<u>Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.</u>		<u>9:30 a.m.</u>
September 4	Jordan Small	Jordan Small
	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
September 11	Kathi Risley	Kathi Risley
September 18	Jordan Small	Jordan Small
September 25	Bob Wilson	Bob Wilson

<u>Communion Set Up/Clean Up 8:00 a.m.</u>		<u>9:30 a.m.</u>
September 4	Jeanne Haroldson	
	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
September 11	Scott Graves	Ruby Sandeman
September 18	Shirley Orr	Holly Kindschi
September 25	Linda Meyer	Deb Westphal
	Patti Passehl	Gerry Westphal

<u>Nursery Staff: 8:00 a.m.</u>		<u>9:30 a.m.</u>
September 4	Zach Guentherman	Ruby Sandeman
	Emily Cafflich	Summer Acker
	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
September 11	Ashley Pape	Scott Graves
	Alia Schlimgen	Cole Douglas
September 18	Megan Small	Scott Graves
	Molly Ballweg	Gavin Tompkin
September 25	Ella Schad	Ella Schad
	Grace Fauerbach	Olivia Joyce

<u>Coffee Set-Up/Clean-Up: 7:30 a.m.</u>		<u>9:00 a.m.</u>
September 4	Linda Yanke	Linda Yanke
September 11	Ainsley Apel	Ava Roach
September 18	Scott Graves	Colden Harter
September 25	Olivia Joyce	Olivia Joyce



St. John's Web Page

Be sure to go online and look at our web page. See the changes at stjohnssaukprairie.org

Greeters:

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>9:30 a.m.</u>
Sept 4 (Sanctuary)	Bob/Josie Fentress	Ed/Ginny Nimmow
(Front doors)	Jeannine Robertson	Lee Ann Goelz
(Side doors)	Donna Knickmeyer	

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Sept 11 (Sanctuary)	Monte/Lynette Wick	Wolfgang/Diane Reich
(Front doors)	Fay Rentmeester	Dave/Dale Clason
(Side doors)	Roger Maynard	Denny/Bonnie Dederich
Sept 18 (Sanctuary)	Drew Marshall	Molly Ballweg
(Front doors)		Summer Acker
(Side doors)		Jacob Schweitzer
Sept 25 (Sanctuary)	Dan/Janis Baun	John/Ellen Mast
(Front doors)	Claire/Sylvia Richardson	David/Lois Kaul
(Side doors)	Arletta Wachter	Audrey Kunstman



Milestone Ministry Celebrations

Milestone Ministry: Back to School Blessing!

With another school year just around the corner, we want to celebrate and bless the beginning of the school year with a special Blessing of the Backpacks! On **Sunday, September 11th** students of all ages can bring a school backpack to either the 8:00am or 10:30am worship services.

We also want to encourage teachers, principals, administrators, school office personnel, cooks, librarians, custodians, bus drivers...anyone that plays a role in our school systems...to come on September 11th to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work.

Milestone Ministry: New Driver Blessing!

On **Sunday, September 18th** we are having a special blessing for all students who have recently begun or will begin driving in 2016. It will be short and painless if they choose to participate. :-)

We will have them stand up in the beginning of the

service, the pastor will say the blessing, and then they can sit down. (I know it's not always fun for kids to be up front, so we'll keep it low profile, but still have the opportunity to lift them up in prayer!)



Coats for Kids

St. John's continues to partner with Concordia United Methodist Church to collect winter wear for needy children in our school district. Please keep this in mind as you clean out closets this fall and bring your gently-used coats, boots, hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves to the cloak room. We need all sizes.



You may have noticed a new flower display to the right of the front entrance near the large tree. If you get a chance, thank Monte Wick and Consumer's Co-op for the large container. They not only donated the container, but hauled and installed it on the concrete footing. Donna Nelson planted the flowers to complete the beautiful display.



Special Thanks!

I would like to take the opportunity to thank many volunteers who helped Vacation Bible School go off smoothly! We had 50 kids signed up with the Lutherdale counselors and 14 in our pre-K class. Wow!

Bev and Roger Clason for housing the 5 Lutherdale counselors all week, and making them feel at home and spoiled!

Megan Miller, Becky Francour, and Lindsay Porto who helped prepare snacks and offered assistance when needed.

Youth volunteer Ryan Ladd for helping out the counselors.
Dale Clason, Paige Ederer, and JoAnnah Sorg for leading
our Pre-K class.

You all helped to make Bible School a very fun week!!

Abby Bennett

Sunday School News

The first day of Sunday School is right around the corner, and to kick off the year, our Rally Day on September 11th is going to be bigger and better than ever! Make sure to stop in the Fellowship Hall from 9:15-10:15 to register your children, and also to take part in games to introduce what our Sunday School offering will be supporting this year!

This year our Sunday School offering will be going to a really great cause – the water crisis. More than 768 million people do not have access to clean water. Our goal is to raise enough money to buy a well. With the installation of this well, more than 500 families can gain access to clean, safe, water.

We encourage Sunday School students to use their offering envelopes each week for donations towards this project. Watch the bulletin board near the Sunday School bathrooms for progress!

The annual Hayride is also coming up on October 2nd. The whole family is invited to participate in a very fun day! Look for more information in your Sunday School informational packet.

Some important dates to remember are:

September 11th – Rally Day

September 18th – First Day of Sunday School

September 25th – Bible Sunday (3 year olds and 3rd graders)

October 2nd -- Hayride 12-2:30pm

Blessings and thanks,

Abby Bennett

Youth and Education Coordinator

Middle and High School News

Fall Confirmation Dates

Confirmation orientation for ALL students (grades 7-9)
and at least one parent/guardian will be September 14th from 6-

7pm in the fellowship hall. We will offer our typical confirmation dinner at 5:20 and begin with the orientation meeting at 6:00. We will review the confirmation expectations for the year and answer any questions you may have.

Our first class/meal will be September 21. The meal begins at 5:20 and costs \$1/person. Class begins at 6:00pm.



Sunday School Rally Day

Sunday School students age 3 – 6th grade and families, plan on joining us September 11th from 9:15-10:15 for Rally Day in the Fellowship Hall. This is your chance to sign-up for Sunday School, meet your teachers, take a tour of our Sunday School hallway and have some fun! If you are unable to attend and would like to sign your child up for Sunday School please contact Abby Bennett at 643-2439 or abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org or Dale Clason (767-3574).

The first regular Sunday school class will be Sunday September 18th from 9:15-10:15.



3 Year Old and 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

On September 25 at the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services we will present Bibles to our 3 year olds and third grade students. In our Baptismal liturgy we promise to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of our children. A letter with more details was sent out in August. If you did not receive a letter, please contact Abby Bennett to be sure your child's name is on the list.



Hay Ride

Mark your calendars for the annual hay ride on October 2nd from 12-2:30pm! All Sunday School students and their families are invited to join in a day of lunch, games, fellowship, fun and SMORES!! Permission slips will be available on Rally Day, or contact Dale Clason (767-3574) for more information.



Parish Education Staff Installation

We will install our 2016-17 educational staff on September 18th at both our 8:00 and 10:30 services. Included in this group are Sunday school teachers and aides, librarians, adult education teachers, confirmation teachers and aides, Director of Music and education board members. Please join us as we rejoice in God's gifts made manifest in these individuals.

Become a Veteran Volunteer

Volunteers are essential to hospice programs across the country and Home Health United – Hospice is no different. Military Veterans are part of a distinct culture with their own common language and experience. Many Veterans receiving Home Health United's Hospice services wish to be connected with a volunteer who is also a Veteran. If you are a military Veteran interested in volunteering with our hospice program, you can provide so much support with just a few hours of your time and companionship.

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 877-356-4514 or visit HomeHealthUnited.org for more information.

Not a Veteran, but still interested in volunteering, please contact us or visit our website. We offer trainings throughout the year.

6:8 and Sauk Prairie Against Hunger

6:8 and Sauk Prairie Against Hunger are looking for Cow Chip volunteers! They will have a food booth again this year during the Cow Chip festivities on Saturday, September 3. They will be selling fruit, pies, loaded baked potatoes, and NEW this year, walking tacos and nachos. Money raised at this event will go towards funding their Pack Event on October 27-29 and to Hope Sauk Prairie, a suicide prevention group. Please consider helping out by baking pies and/or helping for a 2 hour shift.

Sign up online at MakingServicePersonal.org or contact John at 68spah@gmail.com or 608-658-4700.

Lutheran World Relief Parish Projects

Groups in our congregation have a number of ongoing projects for Lutheran World Relief. You may be interested in contributing to one of them. Items may be left in one of the bins in the Fellowship Hall or the church office. Our kits will be shipped on October 1 this year, so please bring your items before September 28th. LWR asks that we do not use items with a U.S. flag, military symbols, camouflage or religious symbols on them.



School Kit Supplies

We are asking for your help in gathering supplies for our School Kits again this year. The kits are sent to Lutheran World Relief each fall.

Each kit needs:

- Four** 70-sheet notebooks
- One** 30 cm. ruler (or one with inches and cms.)
- One** pencil sharpener
- One** blunt scissors
- Five** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Five** black or blue ballpoint pens
- One** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One** 2 ½ inch eraser



Personal care kit supplies

One bath-size towel

Two bath-size bars of wrapped soap

One adult-size toothbrush in its original wrapping or sealed in a business size envelope

One sturdy comb

One metal nail clipper



Baby care kit supplies

Two cotton/cotton-blend t-shirts

Two gowns or sleepers w/o feet

Two receiving blankets

Four cloth diapers

One hand towel, dark color

One sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket with a hood, or include a baby cap

Two pairs of baby socks

Two bath-size bars of gentle soap in its original wrapping

Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Sizes up to 24 months may be used. Consider varying the sizes of the clothing items so the layette will continue to be useful as the baby grows.

Gently used, clean items may be substituted for new ones.



Fabric kit supplies

Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric, cut into pieces measuring:

2 ¼ yards of 60" wide, **OR**

3 yards of 44" wide, **OR**

4 yards of 36" wide fabric

Two spools of matching **OR**

neutral-colored general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each

Ordinary items become extraordinary gifts when you send LWR Quilts and Kits around the world!



Drivers Needed

There are many in our congregation who need help getting to doctor's appointments, the grocery store, or even to church on Sunday. If you are looking for a way you can help someone in need and you have a car, please consider joining the St. John's Drivers list.

You can decide whether you can provide local rides only or rides to appointments outside of Sauk Prairie. There is a need for both services.

All help is appreciated. Please contact the church office at 643-2439 and let Linda know you'd like to be added to the Driver's list.



Dress for Success

St. John's has worked with many partners in the Dress for Success clothing drive and currently partners with the Southern Wisconsin Community Action Coalition.

By collecting interview-appropriate suits, dresses, skirts, pants, shirts, shoes, purses, briefcases and rainwear, and taking them to the east side of Madison, we help less fortunate women and men in our area enter the workforce. We were reminded a few years ago that not everyone interviews in a suit, so CAC needs casual clothes in good condition, also.

Please help break the cycle of poverty for the needy who can't get a good job because they don't have the clothes to look the part. If you want, you may present a list of donated items to the office staff who will give you a receipt for your tax records.



Wanted: Your old cell phone

Do you have a cell phone that is hanging around your house because you have upgraded to a new phone? Did you change plans and get a new cell phone, but still have your old one? We will collect it! St. John's has recently partnered with Phones 4 Charity to recycle those old unused phones.

Phones 4 Charity is a national program designed to remove discarded wireless phones from the country's environment while directly benefiting charitable organizations. These phones can be refurbished, reprogrammed or recycled to help benefit the community and the environment.

St. John's has chosen "Wounded Warriors" as our charity to benefit from any profit made from the cell phones that we donate. We feel this is a good cause to support, a way to help our environment and something we can all feel good about giving to. If you have old cell phones sitting in drawers or desks at home, please

consider donating them here. There is a collection box just inside the entry to the cloakroom on the floor by the east wall.



Eye Glasses for the Lions

Did you know that St. John's also collects old, used eye glasses for the Lions Club? We do!

If you have out-grown your glasses, changed styles, or have found those old lost pair of glasses from behind the desk, bring them to St. John's cloakroom to the collection box just inside the entry, on the floor by the east wall.

A member of the local Lions Club will collect them and take them to be "sized" (strength identified), refurbished and given to those in need.