



Evelyn Bahe, Second Grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

April 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

April is a month full of change. Here are just some of the things going on....

Our Lenten theme is, 'Scripture's Impact: Bible Stories and How They Shape Us.' You have heard Sally, Halcyon and I preach on our texts. You have also shared your texts. See our Facebook page for those sharings.

As Lent comes to an end (our last Wednesday services are on April 5), we move into Holy Week, with Palm/Passion Sunday on April 9, Maundy Thursday Services on April 13 at 1 and 6:30pm, Ecumenical Good Friday Services on April 14 at 1 and 6:30pm, and Easter Services on April 16 at 6:30, 8 and 10:30am. I look forward to our continued Lenten/Easter Journey.

As you may have already heard, Jake Degenhardt has decided to resign as our custodian. His last day was March 20. He enjoyed his time here and we wish him well. We have hired a service to come and clean our facility while we search for another custodian. I ask that you be patient as we move through this transition. Much of the extra work, including set up for various groups, will be shared by staff, but a majority of that will fall on Linda's shoulders. I am grateful for her various skills and ask that you express your gratitude to her as we look for another staff person.

We found out on March 17 that we have been assigned another intern. His name is Derek. He is married to Becky. I will share more about Derek in the next Visitor, but as we look forward to hosting another intern we are reminded of the transitory nature of internship. This year long program started with Michaelo but ended with Halcyon. As she continues to serve this congregation and as we continue to be her teaching parish, I am grateful for her service to us and ours, to her.

It is said the only thing guaranteed is 'death and taxes.' Well I say, the only thing guaranteed is 'change and God's grace.' I thank God for traveling with us as we continue to grow and change.

Shalom,



Synod Assembly

Every year the South Central Synod of Wisconsin, a geographic area that spans roughly from the Dells in the north, to the Illinois state line, and Minnesota to the west not including LaCrosse, and Lake Michigan to the east, not including the Milwaukee area, gathers for the business of the synod. Roughly 300 plus members of 140 congregations of this synod will meet on April 29-30, including St. John's voting members; Jama Graves, Jon Sandeman, Kris Rilling, Cora Dunnum, Pastors Fred and Sally, along with Intern Halcyon, who goes as a visitor. Look for more information on what happened at the Assembly in the next Visitor.

St. John's Web Page

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

Parish Planning Council Members:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Executive Director | Ken Carlson | 370-1356 |
| Assistant Exec Director | Jon Sandeman | 643-5006 |
| Secretary | Kathy Lovell | 643-2075 |
| Treasurer | Butch Passehl | 643-3008 |
| Evangelism Board | Gwen Ringelstetter | 643-6922 |
| Fellowship Board | Lori Hegge | 592-3196 |
| Lay Ministry Board | Ruth Lohr | 225-8477 |
| Member at Large | Linda Lintl | 370-7455 |
| 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 | John Schmidt | 643-2171 |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------|
| 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
Intern Halcyon Bjornstad halcyon@stjohnssaukprairie.org
(h) 370-7392

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: currently open

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



Food Pantry Sunday is April 9th. 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:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Instant Oatmeal | Brownie mixes |
| Canned Juices | Pork and Beans |
| Pudding Cups | Applesauce |

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 April. The date is in parentheses.

Eldor Fruehling (3)
1515 Fairview Drive
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Helen Bjelde (5)
S7534 Oak Road
Merrimac, WI 53561

Edna Lauer (10)
217 – 7th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Inez Zitlow (26)
1425 Hemlock Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

LaVonne Knuth (29)
408 Lueders Road, Apt. 1
Sauk City, WI 53583

Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Tuesday, April 4, 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, childcare provided

Lydia Circle: Thursday, April 13, 10:30 a.m. at St. John's Library, Carolyn Yanke, hostess

Martha Circle: Thursday, April 6, 9:00 a.m. at Mary Weeks", 273 Park Ave., Prairie du Sac

Mary/Sarah Circles: Tuesday, April 4, 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Library

Ruth Circle: Monday, April 10, 9:00 a.m. at Jan Dobrzynski's, 50 Hemlock St., Unit 1, Sauk City



37 ladies attended Circle meetings in March, with Anne Klinkner, Fay Rentmeester, Marge Erlandson, Jeannine Robertson, Eunice Yanke and Loretta Landerman leading the Bible Study Galatians: Christian Faith and Christian Freedom: "Heirs of the Promise". In April the study will be led by Anne Klinkner, Fay Rentmeester, Barb Salveson, Kathy Lester and Carolyn Gilbertson.

The WELCA Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering will be held on April 22nd at Bonnet Prairie Church in Rio. Registration is from 8:30-9:30 a.m. with refreshments. There will be more information in the Sunday bulletins as we know more about how many will be attending and car pooling.

We are excited about the Mother/Daughter Banquet, "A Bouquet of Blessings"...which will be happening on Saturday, April

29th at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are available now between services or in the church office. Cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND INVITE ALL THE LADIES IN YOUR FAMILY FOR THIS VERY SPECIAL EVENT!** There will be good food, good fellowship and good entertainment! We will also offer group photos.

Registration is still open to attend the 10th Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis July 13-16, 2017. Please contact Sue Buetzer, buetzerhillfarm@wekz.net for information. Reservations and payment are due to Sue by May 15th. Cost for the synod bus is \$80.

Read this month's Prayer for Peace in this Visitor April 20th.

Martha Circle has been visiting Special Friends during February and March. Lydia Circle will visit them during April and May. Ruth Circle visits in June and July, and Sarah Circle visits during August and September.



Sarah and Mary Circle March Meeting

The Sarah and Mary Circle meeting was held at The Pines and celebrated Eleanor Ferry's 101st birthday! Pictured are: Denise Baars, Eleanor Ferry, Carol Tank, Zona Roewer, Julie Allen, Eunice Yanke, Jeannine Robertson, Kathy Lester and visitor, Evelyn Rusch.

Older Wiser Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

Are you in your 50s or beyond and would enjoy gathering with other adults to listen to speakers, attend events and have game days? Then this group is for you! We gather on the third Thursday of each month in the fellowship hall. We will begin with coffee and fellowship at 9:30am and then have our program or activity for the

day, usually ending around 10:30 or 11. You are welcome to bring treats to share.

The next gathering is on Thursday, April 20th with a focus on funeral planning with Pastor Fred. On Thursday, May 18th we will welcome Kris Rilling with Agrace Hospice to share information about hospice care.

BOYS WIN! BOYS WIN!

The Boys Team was the first to collect 50 each of all their items in our February Food Collection Challenge. Congratulations! We have delivered the food to the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry and St. Vincent's Food Pantry and received HUGE thank yous from them. They are very thankful for your generosity, as are we!

Women's Book Club

April's book is Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult. This book is available in the church library. We will meet at 10am in the church library and 6:30pm at the Blue Spoon on Tuesday, April 25.

Sunday Adult Education Spring Schedule

April 2 – Come and learn more about Hospice with our special speaker, Kris Rilling.

April 9 – How do we share the story of our faith? Intern Halcyon will lead us in conversation on how we share our faith with one another.

April 16 – Easter Sunday – No Class

April 23 – Intern Halcyon will share with us her experience living on a reservation.

April 30, May 7, and May 14 – We will view a movie together about issues of race and discrimination two Sundays and the third will be time for discussion.

May 21 – TBA

May 28 – Memorial Day Weekend – No Class

Wednesday Night Text Study

We will meet at 5:30pm on April 5th. There will be no text study on April 12th as it is Holy Week. When we gather together again on April 19th we will go back to our 6pm time.

All are welcome to bring supper or grab some food with the confirmation students at 5:20 before class. Cost is only \$1 with a maximum of \$5 per family.

Holy Week and Easter

Our last Lenten Wednesday worship services will be April 5 at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. As we have done in the past, our Wednesday Lenten offerings will be divided among other organizations that reach out to help our neighbors. This year the offerings will be sent to UW Campus Ministry, Sauk Prairie Schools Homeless Program and the Sauk Prairie Police Department's Cops for Kids program.

April 9 is Palm/Passion Sunday. We will celebrate with palms at our 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship services. We will also have our Palm Sunday Breakfast with serving from 8:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday School children and their families are encouraged to go to the front of the line so they can attend class.

Maundy Thursday services are at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. There will be a meal offered at noon only that day.

Good Friday Ecumenical worship services will be at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m., with no meals served at church that day.

Easter services are 6:30, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School nor Adult Education classes.

Pray in Color

Lent is often a time when Christians concentrate on prayer. This Lenten season we started a "Prayer Frame" to add our prayers and thanks. We will continue to add to the prayers throughout the year. This prayer frame can be found in our gathering area. It is a picture frame with a wire mesh center. There will be ribbons available for you to tie into the frame. Choose a ribbon, hold it while you pray, then tie the ribbon onto the wire center. These can be any prayers you wish; joy, forgiveness of your sins, health concerns, thankfulness, concern for loved ones, concern for those prayers already on the frame, etc. Watch the prayers join together in our Prayer Frame as a colorful reminder of the power of prayer and God's mercy for all.

Agrace

Volunteering for Agrace Hospice and Palliative Care can be a very rewarding experience. In April, Agrace will offer orientation sessions for prospective volunteers interested in making a difference in the lives of people with advanced illnesses. Volunteers are needed throughout Sauk and Columbia counties to provide companionship visits to hospice patients living in their own homes or in nursing or assisted living facilities. Agrace will offer volunteer orientation sessions Thursday, April 6 from noon to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, April 11 from 5-9 p.m. Call (608) 327-7163 to register.

BOUQUETS OF BLESSINGS

St. John's WELCA is planning a Mother-Daughter Banquet to be held Saturday, April 29th at 11:30 a.m. The theme is, "A Bouquet of Blessings." It will be a time filled with fellowship, food and entertainment! Tickets are on sale now between services on Sunday mornings, or in the office during the week.. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Save the date on your calendar and invite your guests.

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Eternal, Merciful and Loving God:

We give thanks for the opportunity to work for
justice and peace for one more day.

We give thanks for our neighbors,
For the strangers we will meet today, and
For those who are different from us
Who call us to grow.

We give thanks for setting us in communities.
For our family and friends, and
For the ways they challenge and nurture us.

We give thanks for the mystery of creation,
For all creatures great and small, and
For giving us the responsibility to care for the earth.

We give thanks for second chances,

For beauty, for hard work, for rest
And for restoration.

Be with us as we try to live out our thanksgiving in
word and deed, and help us to love others as
Christ loves us.
Amen.

Jesus paid a debt he did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay.

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 7, 14, and 21 at 6pm.

The official New Member Installation and Reception will take place on Sunday, June 25 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 Sally Williams with any questions or concerns.

Wanted: Ushers for both services

Contrary to popular belief, you do not need years of experience to usher! If you choose to sign up, you do not need to commit to a month at a time. When the Spirit moves you, sign up for one Sunday a month, or one Sunday every other month, or one Sunday a year. Please sign up on the kiosk so that we can get your name in the bulletin and make sure we have enough ushers for every Sunday. If you have questions, please contact Rob Risley, 643-6892.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

As we continue on our journey of spiritual well-being I want to take a moment to talk about suicide. I know it sounds like a dreary topic, but did you know that springtime is when suicide peaks? We think of spring as a cheerful time with warmer days, blooming flowers, more light. But for those who struggle, those cheery days are anything but cheery.

I have the privilege of serving on HOPE Sauk Prairie, a suicide prevention group here in town made up of many loving community leaders. Our goal is to have as many people trained in suicide prevention as possible. One of the tools we are using is QPR – Question, Persuade, Refer. But whether you go through the training or not, it is important that you recognize the signs of suicide. Here are some things to look for:

- Talking about wanting to die or suicide
- Feeling hopeless, desperate, trapped
- Giving away possessions
- Putting affairs in order
- Reckless behavior
- Increased drug or alcohol use
- Anxiety or agitation
- Changes in sleep
- Sudden mood changes
- No sense of purpose
- Anger
- Withdrawal

If you suspect someone might be suicidal, here are few steps you can take:

Start the conversation. Mention the warning signs you are noticing.

Ask about suicide. “Are you thinking about suicide?”

Listen. Express concern and reassure.

Contact someone who can guide you to help this person get the help they need – your pastors, the police department, a doctor, school, etc.

Important numbers to keep handy are:

National Hopeline Network

1-800-SUICIDE

Sauk County Crisis line

1-800-533-5692 4:30pm-8am

608-355-4200 8am-4:30pm

TEXT: "HOPELINE" to 741741

There is no shame in struggling with depression, anxiety, or anything else. As a Christian community we are called to walk with one another through all things, and this is one specific way we can do that.

Christ's Peace to all who struggle and to all who lift up one another.

In Christ's Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally".

A Remembrance Event

On Thursday, April 27 at 6pm Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation and Fetal Loss Committee are hosting an event for remembering, grieving, and ultimately healing for those who have suffered fetal loss, whether it was a recent loss or a loss 30 years ago. This includes any type of fetal loss: stillbirth, miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, etc. This event is open to families as well. See Pastor Sally with any questions.

Greetings to the Friends and Family of St. John's Lutheran,

This season of Lent we have been focusing on the favorite Bible passages of the Pastors, the Intern, and members of the congregation. Hearing about people's favorite passages and why they love them has helped us to grow together as a community and deeper into our relationships with one another. I have loved learning about what passages impact people and why. One of my favorite passages is my confirmation verse, Psalm 121 "I lift my eyes to mountains, from where will my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." When I was growing up I attended a Bible Camp called Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. The camp was on the edge of a huge lake surrounded by mountains. At night we would gather around a campfire at the water's edge and as the sunset, we would join together in worship to God. We would sing a song based on Psalm 121 and I would look at all the creation that surrounded me, the people, the water, the mountains, and the colors of the sunset. I remember being overwhelmed that God, who created all of this beauty, is the same God who created me and rushes to my side to help me when I am in trouble. This God who can make huge mountains and paint sunsets is the same God who loves me and will stop at nothing to walk every step of my life with me. I am still overwhelmed by these facts today. I hope that our sharing of our favorite passages and the stories about what makes them special will not stop at the end of Lent, but that we share these passage with everyone around us as we grow as a community of faith. These sacred stories are stories of how God is at work in our lives, I hope that we never stop sharing them.

Blessings and Peace to you this Lent season,
Intern Halcyon



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

JoAn Preston
Becky Boss
Diane Tenley
Roger Clason



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:
Jim and Fay Neumaier, on the death of Fay's brother, Larry

Paske.

Sue Ann Schwanke and TJ Ballweg, on the death of Sue Ann's mother, Darlene Rischmueller.

Jeff and Diane Gorsuch and sons, and Brent and Melani Wheeler and family, on the death of Wanda Gorsuch, stepmother to Jeff and aunt to Brent.

Ken Wellman on the death of his wife, Lani Marquardt Wellman.

Linda Michaels and family on the death of her husband, Tom.

Rod and Bev Mielke and family on the death of Rod's mother, LaVera Page.

Lisa and Mark Tompkin and family on the death of Lisa's father, Richard Raasch.



We recently received monetary gifts in memory of Frieda Waldinger and Wanda Gorsuch. We are grateful when our congregation is remembered in this manner. These gifts will be used to benefit our church.

Happy April Birthday!

Our Youngest

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Eliana Greene (4) | Sofia Stephan (4) |
| Hank Lochner (15) | Henry Hart (17) |
| Emily Ramirez (17) | Samuel Halverson (21) |
| Lauren Schulenburg (21) | |

Our Sunday School Students:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Dylan Rhyner (1) | Alex Kirk (5) |
| Eli Dillon (9) | Ethan Mittenzwei (9) |
| Gillian Fritsch (10) | Parker Pacholke (13) |
| Reid Hart (16) | Elizabeth Potter (18) |
| Sam Hubbard (20) | Sari Hubbard (20) |
| Charlie Homp (22) | Isabelle Jolicoeur (23) |
| Wyatt Frey (28) | Graysen Dunn (29) |
| Elleigh Harter (29) | Coraline Miller (29) |
| Noah Wells (29) | |

Our Youth:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Rachel Collins (3) | Ava Roach (4) |
| Matthew Bradley (5) | Michela Breunig (8) |
| Molly Pistono (8) | Jay Liedtke (9) |
| Anna Osgood (9) | Owen Kolnik (10) |
| Meadow Liedtke (15) | Scott Graves (16) |
| Kyle Dregney (17) | Carlie Odejewski (18) |
| Cam Manning (24) | Hunter Dittberner (26) |
| Megan Carroll (27) | Nolan Joyce (27) |
| Emily Schutt (28) | |

College and Career-age Young People:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Cassie Bradley (20) | Lylia Schoepp (25) |
|---------------------|--------------------|

Serving in April

Ushers:

April 2

8:00 a.m.

Karen Bader

Rob Risley

Kathi Risley

Anna Ballweg

April 9

Samantha Johnson

Craig Johnson

Rob Risley

Alex Kinnamon

April 13

1:00 pm

Dale Haroldson

Paul Bringle

10:30 a.m.

Kalyn Schmit

Deb Westphal

Gerry Westphal

Claire Thiede

Rob Risley 6:30 pm

Cayden Wernsing

Emily jCaflich

Jon Caflich

April 14

1:00 pm

Linda Meyer

Rob Risley

Kathi Risley

Dan Small 6:30 pm

Jeff Sandberg

Nicole Sandberg

Austin Keyser

April 16

Rob Risley

Kathi Risley

Dan Small

Colden Harter

Alex Kinnamon

Jessa Kinnamon

Dave Kinnamon

Leanna Niesen

April 23

Ava Roach

Emily Caflich

April 30

Anna Ballweg

Alex Kinnamon

Acolytes:

April 2

8:00 a.m.

Tarren Nimmow

Drew Marshall

April 9

Sam Beattie

Gavin Tompkin

April 16

Sam Beattie

Ava Roach

April 23

Michael Endres

Emma Kinnamon

April 30

Claire Thiede

Cole Douglas

10:30 a.m.

Wyatt Urban

Meadow Liedtke

Summer Acker

Grace Fauerbach

Jordan Chao

Chris Kepler

Cora Dunnum

Ruby Sandeman

Max Sailor

Emma Kinnamon

Readers:

April 2

8:00 a.m.

Colden Harter

April 9

Nancy Kaufman

April 16

Becki Braund

April 23

Donna Knickmeyer

April 30

Mary Halweg

10:30 a.m.

Kyle Dregney

Anne Klinkner

Marge Erlandson

Arthur Ness

Tony DeGiovanni

Cantors:

April 2
 April 9
 April 16
 April 23
 April 30

8:00 a.m.

Janis Baun
 Senior Choir
 Senior Choir
 Chris Stephan
 Marv, Janelle Hupp

10:30 a.m.

Jordan, Megan Small
 Melani Wheeler
 Senior Choir
 Deb Lohr-Foster
 Doris Lohr

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

April 2
 April 9
 April 16
 April 23
 April 30

Tarren Nimmow
 Janis Baun
 Dan Baun
 Donna Knickmeyer
 Josie Fentress

10:30 a.m.

Chris Kepler
 Dede Egan
 Audrey Luetscher
 Gerry Westphal
 Deb Westphal

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

April 2
 April 9
 April 13
 April 16
 April 23
 April 30

1:00 pm

Marv Hupp
 Kathi Risley
 Bev Clason
 Bev Clason
 Marv Hupp
 Bev Clason

10:30 a.m.

Marv Hupp
 Kathi Risley
 Kathi Risley **6:30 pm**
 Bev Clason
 Marv Hupp
 Bev Clason

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

April 2
 April 9
 April 13
 April 16
 April 23
 April 30

1:00 pm

Rich, Jane Calenzo
 Emma Kinnamon
 Jayne Carlson
 Dorothy Halverson
 Jayne Carlson
 Linda Meyer
 Patty Passehl

10:30 a.m.

Deb Lohr-Foster
 Jacob Schweitzer
 Marilyn Herschleb **6:30**
 Deb, Gerry Westphal
 Gwen Ringelstetter
 Deb Lohr-Foster

Nursery Staff:

April 2
 April 9
 April 16
 April 23
 April 30

8:00 a.m.

Lauren Wideen
 Molly Ballweg
 Summer Acker
 Grace Fauerbach
 Evan Carlson
 Aimee Maasch
 Ashley Pape
 Cora Dunnum
 Drew Marshall
 Olivia Joyce

10:30 a.m.

Emily Caflisch
 Gavin Tompkin
 Leah Froehlich
 Kyle Dregney
 Leah Froehlich
 Evan Carlson
 Ella Schad
 Kyle Dregney
 Zach Guentherman
 Emily Caflisch

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

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| April 2 | Linda Yanke |
| April 9 | Palm Sunday |
| April 16 | Ava Roach |
| April 23 | Alex Kinnamon |
| April 30 | Olivia Joyce |

9:00 a.m.(Serve)

| |
|---------------|
| Linda Yanke |
| Breakfast |
| Leanna Niesen |
| Ashley Pape |
| Olivia Joyce |

Greeters:**8:00 a.m.**

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Apr 2 (Sanctuary) | Eldor Fruehling |
| (Front doors) | Shirley Anding |
| (Side doors) | Samantha Johnson |
| Apr 9 (Sanctuary) | Monte/Lynette Wick |
| (Front doors) | Steve/Holly Kindschi |
| (Side doors) | Rodney/Marsha Key |
| Apr 16 (Sanctuary) | Evan Carlson |
| (Front doors) | Aimee Maasch |
| (Side doors) | Scott Graves |
| Apr 23 (Sanctuary) | Shawn Ballweg fam |
| (Front doors) | Roger Maynard |
| (Side doors) | Arletta Wachter |
| Apr 30 (Sanctuary) | Dan/Kathy Lovell |
| (Front doors) | Eunice Yanke |
| (Side doors) | Jeannine Robertson |

10:30 a.m.

| |
|----------------------|
| Tom/Gina Varley |
| Dave Clason |
| Norma Newman |
| Wolfgang/Diane Reich |
| John/Ellen Mast |
| Ed/Ginny Nimmow |
| Grace Fauerbach |
| Evan Carlson |
| Jacob Schweitzer |
| Darin Pape family |
| Gil/Kathy Danz |
| Deb/Gerry Westphal |
| David/Lois Kaul |
| Audrey Kunstman |
| Lee Ann Goelz |

Sunday Stewards**8:00 a.m.**

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| April 2 | Kathy Lovell |
| April 9 | Linda Lintl |
| April 16 | Kathy Lovell |
| April 23 | Eunice Yanke |
| April 30 | Linda Lintl |

10:30 a.m.

| |
|--------------|
| Marv Hupp |
| Ruth Lohr |
| James Newman |
| Ruth Lohr |
| Ruth Lohr |

****Feel free to add your name to the kiosk in any of the open positions. We are grateful for your help.*

March totals**Attendance****Offering**

| | | |
|----------|-----|-------------|
| March 5 | 262 | \$12,221.41 |
| March 12 | 281 | \$12,240.85 |
| March 19 | 308 | \$ 9,378.89 |
| March 26 | 248 | \$ 6,011.40 |

Sunday School News

Important Sunday School Dates to Remember

April 16th – Easter – no Sunday School

May 7th – Kids sing Special Music – 10:30 service

On **May 7th** the 3 year-olds through the 3rd graders will sing at the 10:30 a.m. church service. They will be singing “God is So Good”, a song they really enjoy. Our last day of Sunday School will be May 21st.

| <u>Sunday School</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| March 5 | 53 | \$14.40 |
| March 12 | 71 | \$ 8.00 |
| March 19 | 64 | \$10.00 |
| March 26 | No classes | Spring Break |

Sunday School Water Well Project

This year our Sunday School offering is going to a really great cause—the water crisis. More than 768 million people do not have access to clean water! Our goal was to raise enough money to buy a fresh water well for a village. The cost of such a well is \$2,500. We have **\$9,505.08** because of the generosity of our congregation. We will continue to collect money until the end of May 2017. We have enough for 3 wells already! Perhaps we might get to 4?

Vacation Bible School update!

Vacation Bible School will be running the week of August 7th, and will be Monday THROUGH Friday. This is a change from last year, when it only ran through Thursday. Also, please note that it will be **FREE OF CHARGE** this year, for both the Preschool camp, and the older kids. Sign up will be in early May.

Middle and High School News

Upcoming Events

May 3rd – Last Day of Confirmation/Student Led Worship – 6pm

Potluck – immediately following worship

Affirmation of Baptism Practice

ALL 9th graders and parents!!! – immediately following the potluck

May 7th – Affirmation of Baptism – 10:30 service

May 10th – 6th Grade Confirmation Orientation – 6pm

May 21st – Senior Recognition – 10:30 service

Sixth Grade Parent/Student Confirmation Orientation Reminder

All Sixth grade parents and students interested in beginning St. John's confirmation program next fall should plan on attending the orientation on May 10th at 6:00pm. We will give an overview of the program as well as explain the worship job requirement and have stations to demonstrate how to perform each job. It is important that both youth and a parent be present for this orientation. Please contact Abby Bennett if you cannot attend.

Confirmation End of Year Celebration Worship and Potluck

The final class for all confirmation students will be Wednesday, May 3rd. Our student led worship service will begin at 6:00 with a potluck to follow. Please bring a dish to pass. Drinks and table service will be provided by St. John's.

Attention 9th Graders!

Mark your calendars for our Affirmation of Baptism rehearsal on Wednesday, May 3rd immediately following the confirmation potluck. Parents, please accompany your student! We will gather for Confirmation on Sunday, May 7th at 9:15am for pictures followed by a reception. Students will be confirmed at the 10:30am worship service. Please contact either pastor with any questions you may have.

Summer Camp

Summer may seem very far away, but Bible camps are getting ready for your children's registrations. See the Youth Board for information regarding camps at Sugar Creek, Lutherdale, and Bethel Horizons.

St. John's Lutheran Church contributes \$80 towards the cost of camp for those youth who attend a week at an ELCA Bible camp, and \$35 for a 2 or 3 day camp.

Senior Recognition

Come join us on Sunday, May 21st at our 10:30 service as we recognize our graduating high school seniors. Students should gather at 9:15 for a class photo with the pastors. A reception will follow. Please come and celebrate this important event in the lives of our young people.

We would also like to list our post-high school youth who are graduating from any other school/training center. Please call the office with their names and the institutions from which they will receive degrees/certifications.

Come to the Castle

Wartburg Theological Seminary will be hosting its next Come to the Castle event on Friday, April 28th from 7am to 4pm. All are invited to this on campus event to learn from two of Wartburg's faculty members. Anyone interested in attending or anyone with questions should contact Intern Halcyon for more information.

Sunday Stewards

You may have noticed the term 'Sunday Stewards' on our people helping list in the Sunday bulletins. Here is why we have added "Sunday Steward" to that list. Nearly every week we have visitors to our congregation. Your pastors engage these visitors as they come through the line, but we don't have much time to talk to them. Thus, 'Sunday Stewards,' were born. These are members of our council who are on 'stand by' to talk further with visitors while the pastors continue to greet people coming out of worship. We are grateful for our council members and their willingness to care for visitors and answer questions that they may have.

Attention Fiber Artists

We need baby hats for the Newborn Kits that we send to the Synod Assembly. So, get out your needles! If you need a pattern, look on the kiosk.

Any questions call April Sawyer at 643-3527, or come to Sharing Stitches on the second Tuesday of the month. We meet in the church library at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Synod Assembly

Our Synod's Assembly is April 29 and 30. This is when we send out Hospice Kits and Newborn Kits for Global Health Ministry. St. John's would like to send 100 kits of each Hospice and Newborn. We need help from the congregation to collect the items needed for each kit.

Hospice Kits include:

- 1 bath towel (not longer than 48" preferred)
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (wrapped, unscented)
- 1 adult toothbrush
- 1 "pick" style comb
- 1 nail clipper
- 6 Band-Aids (3/4 inch size, rubber band together)
- 1 petroleum jelly (4 oz. size, tube or jar)
- 1 pair heavy duty kitchen gloves

Newborn Kits include:

- 1 bath towel (48" to 52" long preferred)
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 bath-size bar white Ivory soap
- 1 newborn cotton T-shirt (0-3 months)
- 1 newborn stocking cap (small)
- 1 receiving blanket (approx. 30' x 30")
- 2 cloth diapers
- 2 diaper pins

Bring items to the marked bins in the fellowship hall, by the pew.

Maplewood, Home Health United & Hooverson to offer Memorial Service

Sauk Prairie, Wisconsin – Maplewood Health & Rehabilitation Center, Home Health United & Hooverson Funeral Home invite you and your loved ones to a Service of Remembrance honoring those who have died during the past year. Memorials and rituals often

speak to our own wounded hearts and minds at a level beyond words, and therefore, have a special quality of healing.

The nondenominational service will take place on Thursday, April 20, 2017, from 6:30-8:30pm, at St. John's Lutheran Church, located at 100 Oak Street in Prairie du Sac. This healing celebration is open to anyone who has lost a loved one in the past year. No RSVP is required and attendees are invited to join in a time of fellowship and refreshments following the service.

For more information, please call 608-643-3383.

AARP Safe Driving Class held at Maplewood

As a person ages, there are changes in vision, flexibility, strength, range of motion and even height which may reduce control behind the wheel. One thing older drivers can do to adapt to factors that may affect their driving is to make individual adjustments to find their best person-to-vehicle fit. These adjustments will help drivers benefit from their vehicle's safety features by helping them feel more comfortable and in better control behind the wheel. Another safe driving factor is refreshing the rules of the road. You may have been taught to use the 2 second rule when following a vehicle, yet, with car lengths getting shorter; the 2 second rule has changed to the 5 second rule.

Find out how to keep your license longer and be a safer driver through AARP's Safe Driving class. It is offered at Maplewood Health & Rehabilitation Center, 245 Sycamore St., Sauk City, on **Monday, April 24 2017, 10:00-2:30**. There is a nominal fee (cash/check no credit card option available) for instruction materials: AARP members = \$15, Non-AARP members = \$20. Please bring your AARP number and drivers License for registration purposes. Reservations are not necessary, but they are welcome at 643-3383. Many insurance companies offer discounts if their senior clients participate in a safe driving class. Ask yours if you will qualify for the discount.

 **THANK** *you!*

Dear St. John's Parishioners,

We are thrilled to share some of the accomplishments of Haiti Medical Mission of Wisconsin volunteers since August 2016. These accomplishments are only possible because of your support.

- 132 malnourished orphans ages 3-11 years old had a medical exam for the first time
- A young woman with a life-threatening infection was stabilized
- 40 people with life-threatening conditions received surgery
- 20 people received surgeries that improved their health and quality of life
- 646 children, women and men received primary care and health education
- 150 children received dental sealants
- 40 people received tooth repairs and/or tooth extractions
- 35 volunteers donated their time and resources in Thiotte on 3 trips to provide health care
- A dental needs survey in the Thiotte area confirmed the absence of dentists without HMMW missions and the need for more dental services
- Repairs were made to the clinic area bathrooms and patient service areas
- A building assessment confirmed the need for renovations and expansion
- Clinic data, photography, and measurements were gathered for the evaluation of a clinic-hospital renovation and expansion under consideration

HMMW teams provide the only dental, eye and surgical care available in the Thiotte area.

Thank you very much for keeping the people of Thiotte and Haiti medical Mission of Wisconsin in your prayers and gift considerations.

Dr. Barry Cash, President

Favorite Bible Texts

During Lent we have invited every member of our congregation to submit a favorite Bible text and a few lines about why they find it helpful/meaningful. You will see these texts printed

on our web page, Facebook page and in our Visitor. Due to the number of responses, we are spreading these out over the next few months. We hope you find them helpful and encouraging.

From Diane Williams: 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you. This was my confirmation Bible verse back in June of 1961. It has always been very comforting to me knowing that when I am burdened in some way—worry, frightened, sad, etc.—God is always with me because He cares about me and for me and loves me no matter what.

From Kathi Matthews-Risley: Luke 1:26-38 “Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth to a virgin pledged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.....” Mary was troubled when Gabriel came to her, and before he even told her she would become pregnant and give birth to the Son of God, he told her “Don’t be afraid, for you have found favor with God.” Mary reacted the way any one of us would if we were visited by an angel, she was troubled. How could she become pregnant? She was a virgin. But she freely listened and took to heart what she heard responding with, “Behold, the handmaid of the Lord, be it to me according to your word.” (vs. 30) Don’t be afraid, and everything is possible with God. These words bring me a great deal of comfort.

From Jon Sandeman: My current favorite verse is John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another...**as I have loved you...**” Chronologically through scripture we find: “Love the Lord God” to “Love thy neighbor” to “Love your enemies” with the apogee as Jesus setting total sacrifice as model with: “Love as I have love you.”

From Kristen Wiese: Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neith shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. This verse has been so helpful to me through the grieving process of my Dad, my Uncle and both of my Grandmas. It means so much to me that I had it tattooed.

Favorite Bible verses continued....

From Linda Hines: Matthew 22:36-39 Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? He said to him, “ ‘You

shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ “ This sums up how I have tried to live my life.

From Sandy Nuzback: James 3:1-2 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body. I pray that these words will guide my actions and especially my speech so that I may converse as a Christian. There are so many problems in the world and I hope that I may not ignore or stay ignorant of them, but to be able to consider them through my understanding of Jesus.

From Doris Lohr: 1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s might hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. This has particular meaning in our lives at this time, because within the next month we are making serious life changing decisions about advancing in technology on the farm, or down-sizing because our current conditions are obsolete. May time in our lives, we have not projected the future when building, purchasing, etc. Either decision will change the way we farm dramatically. We’ll turn it over to God now.

From Lisa Davis: James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly light, who does not change like the shifting shadows. I like this text because it helps me think of a beautiful sky full of stars (heavenly lights). God’s gifts to us in our daily lives number more than the stars in the heavens. Shadows move and change appearance based on the angle of the sun. But God’s love and care for us never changes, day in and day out it’s always the same.

From JoAnnah Sorg: Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” When I was Sunday School age my mom taught us a song that had these lyrics to it. It has been a constant presence in my life ever since. Over the years humming this song to myself has helped me through many tough situations and is a constant reminder that Christ is always with me.
Favorite Bible verses continued....

From Alice Chenoweth: Matthew 6:25-34 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or

about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today". It's meaningful for me because it makes me take pause to know that God loves me and will take care of me. That in this crazy world, where there are so many things and situations that would be easy to worry about, to just trust God. And, lastly, to take a day at a time. It's all we have anyway.

From Mary Dodd: Job 11:18 And you will feel secure, because there is hope; you will look around and take your rest in security. Whenever a loved one passes away, it feels like we lose our foundation or footing for a while. And seem to wonder how we will go on. This Bible verse just seems to make be feel that despite life's twists and turns there is still hope and I will be secure with God.

From Donna Knickmeyer: Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. I found this verse when my son was battling cancer. It is self-explanatory and kept me grounded then and still does.

From Marla Jean Lokken: Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. This verse was taught to me as a very young child by my parents. I do not remember ever not knowing it.

Summary of 2016 Financial Report

Beginning Balance – 01/01/2016

373.49

Receipts for 2016

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Donations Current, Loose, Misc, Thrivent | 440,805.27 |
| Benevolence | 42,926.53 |
| Building Fund | 16,114.41 |
| WELCA | 1,778.64 |
| Memorials | 14,235.00 |
| Youth | 1,316.00 |
| Interest | 17.72 |
| Sunday School/VBS/Wed. Meal | 7,901.98 |
| Facility Use | <u>1,153.00</u> |
| Total Receipts | 526,248.55 |

Disbursements for 2016

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Lay Ministry | 6,172.02 |
| Evangelism | 307.30 |
| Stewardship | 3,933.08 |
| PR and Social Concerns | 5,427.78 |
| Parish Education | 13,845.74 |
| Youth | 3,315.40 |
| Fellowship | 2,079.73 |
| Properties | 57,250.64 |
| Administration | 307,007.66 |
| WELCA | 2,337.26 |
| Memorials | 6,561.88 |
| Benevolence | 64,138.83 |
| Building Fund | 14,589.30 |
| SERRV | 577.66 |
| Transfer to/from Savings | <u>20,673.12</u> |
| Total Disbursements | 509,217.70 |

Ending Balance 12/31/2016**18,404.34**

2016 Financial Report- Other Accounts- pg. 2 of 2

| | 1/1/16 Beg. Bal. | Change in Value of Invest. | Interest / Dividends | Transfers | 12/31/16 End. Bal. |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Money Market | 41,197.24 | | 102.57 | 13,000.00 | 54,299.81 |
| Memorial Account | 10,960.72 | | 37.10 | 7,673.12 | 18,670.94 |
| Mission Investment | 31,896.60 | | 321.05 | | 32,217.65 |
| Donated Stock | 16,155.05 | 2,272.20 | 794.98 | 2,931.32 | 22,153.55 |

Building Improvement Loan

Loan Balance, 01/01/2016: 14,213.10
 Principal Paid in 2016: 14,213.10
 Loan Balance, 12/31/16: 0.00

Interest Paid in 2016: 376.20

Thank
You!

Thank you to our Audit Committee: Andy Jones, Jim Boerger and Crystal Lautenbach for performing our 2016 audit. We greatly appreciate your talents and willingness to volunteer for this work.



Thank you for your gift of \$7,186.13 to ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for accompanying companion churches and trusted partners as they work together to provide water and sanitation, education, agriculture and nutrition to those in great need.

With gratefulness, and in the light and life of Christ,
 Rev. Daniel Rift, Director , ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal
 ***Partial payment of monies collected for our Water Well project.

