



Colin Wernsing, 5th Grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

December 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

If I sound like a broken record, then so be it, "I am thankful for this congregation!" Here are some of the reasons...

- You continue to participate in many ministries. The list is long but goes from local concerns all the way to the farthest reaches of this planet. You are a blessing to many!
- You have welcomed yet another intern. Halcyon came to us and you have opened your arms and embraced her. I cannot tell you enough how this very fact will be told over and over again throughout her ministry as a pastor in the ELCA. The kindness and support will be a blessing that travels beyond your reach.
- You have called and hired a wonderful staff. We are blessed by people who see their work at St. John's not as simply a job, but a calling. Their efforts on your behalf continue to make Christ known throughout the world.

- You welcome all. Over and over again I hear the stories of people coming to St. John's and feeling welcomed. Your openness and embrace of those new to our Sauk Prairie community is a blessing to those in transition.
- You are generous. Raising \$500,000 and more every year is no simple task. Your contributions and support of the work we do is critical to the ministry we have been called to. Your continued faithful financial support means we have a space to gather for worship and education, a staff to provide congregational support and pastoral care, programming for young and old alike and the capacity to give a portion of our blessings to our local, regional and international partners in ministry.

As I said, I may sound like a broken record, but the sound is music to my ears!

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a few loops and a horizontal stroke.The words 'Thank You' written in a large, elegant, cursive script in black ink.

Thanks to Our Staff

We have a wonderful staff. They are faithful, caring, hard working and I am blessed to call them colleagues. Please take time to thank them all: Abby Bennett, Halcyon Bjornstad, Connie Burton, Jake Degenhardt, Linda Hines, Lon Kaderavek, Bob Nelson, Butch Passehl, and Sally Williams.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

The women's Lutheran World Relief congregational project for 2016 is personal care kits. We will collect bath-size Ivory soap bars during the month of October. You may place donated items in the appropriate plastic bin in the fellowship hall.

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: 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

Food Pantry Sunday is December 11th. 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:

Canned tomatoes	Kidney beans
Black beans	Elbow macaroni
Pudding cups	Instant Oatmeal

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 December. The date is in parentheses.

Phyllis Perry (3)
893 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Alvin Moles (6)
119 -13th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Rick Luck (6)
c/o Thomas Luck
S7659 Eagle Point Drive
Merrimac, WI 53561

Luella Lichte (22)
Meadow Ridge
1700 Jefferson Street
Baraboo, WI 53913

Matthew 25:34-40

Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Not meeting in December, next meeting is Tuesday, January 3, 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, childcare provided

Lydia Circle: Thursday, December 8, **Noon** at Darlene Holl's, 303 Ash Street, Sauk City

Martha Circle: Thursday, December 1, 9:00 a.m. at Marilyn Larson's, 174 First Street, Prairie du Sac

Ruth Circle: Monday, December 12, 9:00 a.m. at Jan Dobrozynski's, 50 Hemlock Street, Unit 1, Sauk City

Sarah and Mary Circles Combined Tuesday, December 6, 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Library, 100 Oak Street, Prairie du Sac



29 ladies attended Circle meetings in November, with Bible Studies led by Anne Klinkner, Marge Erlandson, Jeannine Robertson, Eunice Yanke and Carolyn Gilbertson. In December the study, "Advent is a Time of Darkness and Possibility," will be led by Fay Rentmeester, Marge Erlandson, Loretta Landerman and Kathy Lester.

We can say that the Chili Luncheon on November 17th was a success in spite of a mix-up at the very last minute. Eunice was on her way to the church when she received a call on her cell phone from the speaker of the day, Debbie Smalley, from Safe Harbor in Reedsburg. Debbie had a family emergency and was unable to come to our meeting. When Eunice got to the church, she told Pastor Sally. With some quick thinking and action on Sally's part we had a speaker! Sally knew that Lindsay Guyer had been at the church earlier and was STILL THERE! Lindsay is a spiritual leader and counselor from Home Health United in connection with Hospice. Lindsay agreed to give a short talk about her work and hospice care. After Lindsay's talk, we greatly enjoyed the VERY DELICIOUS CHILI that Darlene Holl made, along with garnishes and bread. The tables were very festive with fall décor and members of the WELCA Board brought some scrumptious bars which we enjoyed with coffee. There were 32 ladies and 2 men in attendance. The offering amounted to \$185. This will still go to Safe Harbor along with another \$100 from an anonymous donor. (The Board voted to give the \$100 along with the offering.) The \$285 will go to Safe Harbor in Reedsburg, which is a housing shelter for women and children. We thank everyone for all their efforts and especially Darlene Holl, who worked so hard on the food and table decorations.

The Thankoffering total as of now is \$255. In giving Thankofferings, we share in a tradition that goes back to at least the 1800's when Christian women formed "mite" or "cent" societies to support the mission of the church. When others said there was not enough money to carry out the church's work, the women believed otherwise and acted together. When Women of the ELCA was formed 30 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude to God for His many blessings. Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. We will continue to collect for this cause until December 11. You can mark your envelope "Thankoffering" and put it in the offering plate or give it to the church office.

Christmas Cheer donations this year will be \$200 for the Sauk Prairie School District Homeless Program and \$200 for Hope House.

As has been our custom the past several years, we will not have our regular individual meetings in January. Instead all circles will meet together. We have set the date of January 12th for our Combined Circle meeting. This will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. You may bring goodies left-over from Christmas, cheese, fruit or whatever else you want to share. The Bible Study will be led by Halcyon Bjornstad. After the Bible Study we will have our very special, and always impressive, candlelight memorial service for members of St. John's who have died during 2016.

Sarah Circle visited Special Friends during October and November. Mary Circle visits during December and January, Martha Circle will visit in February and March, Lydia will visit during April and May and Ruth Circle visits during June and July.

Remember to look in this Visitor for a Prayer for Peace to be read on December 20th.

There will be no Bible Study Leader's Meeting in December.

 **THANK** you!

Thank you to Karen, Jayne and the crew of St. Vincent de Paul of Sauk Prairie for donating 70 cloth diapers for our Newborn Kits! The diapers will go a long way in helping God's youngest in need. Thank you for thinking of us!

Do you need more things for Christmas? If not, here are some places that could use some of your abundance.

- The ELCA Good Gifts catalog. They are the people who we support through the Global Barnyard project. Your gifts will help buy animals, clean water, farming tools, education, medical care, school supplies and other needed items. See www.elca.org/goodgifts
- Our local Good Neighbor Clinic. They serve the “preventive and primary health care needs of those trying to improve their lives, and for whom such services are economically unfeasible.” www.goodneighborclinic.org
- The local Habitat for Humanity. In the Sauk-Columbia county area they strive “to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness...and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.” www.hfhsc.org
- Area Bible camps like Sugar Creek www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org or Lutherdale www.lutherdale.org. These ELCA Lutheran Bible camps provide year round ministry to young and old alike.
- UW Lutheran Campus ministry. Become a ‘Grand Friend’ of UW Madison’s Lutheran Campus Ministry. They are searching for 1000 people to give \$100 each www.lccmadison.com.
- The medical needs of Raymond Parish. \$600 is what Raymond, a single man on disability in his early 60’s, needs each month for medicine not covered by Medicaid or other medical programs . Six people giving \$100 each would cover one month. Contact Pastor Fred for more information.

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth . . . may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters with your love in our hearts and willing hands to help one another. May we do all of this in service to you.
Amen.

Thank you all!

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Many thanks go to our various partners in ministry in the Sauk-Prairie area. We are blessed to have an ecumenical spirit in our community. The gathering at GraceWay is one outward sign of this spirit. Please continue to pray for all churches in the area and for their leaders.

Hannah Circle

Women of the church who are not already members of another circle are welcome to join us for a Bible study and fellowship the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm in Room 1. However, Hannah Circle will not meet during December. The next gathering will be January 3rd at 6:00 p.m. If you like to laugh, talk, and learn more about God this is a great place for you! Nursery is provided. Anne Klinkner is the contact for Hannah Circle.

Thank
You!

“Thank you” and “God Bless You” all for God’s message and card for my “90th Birthday”.

With love, Evelyn Gorsuch

Women’s Book Club

During December the Women’s Book Club will **not** meet. Please enjoy the Advent and Christmas seasons with family and friends. (Perhaps an old favorite Christmas story also?) The Book Club will meet again January 31. The selected book will be chosen soon. Watch for an email!

Adult Education

December's adult education will shift focus to financial well-being. We will discuss the connection between our overall spiritual health to our possessions, money, and gratitude. We will meet in room 1 at 9:15am December 4, 11, and 18. We will not meet on December 25 or January 1.

There is always room for another around the table, so please join us in Room 1 in between services at 9:15. We're always done in time for parents/grandparents to pick up their kids from Sunday School!

Weekly Wednesday Night Text Study at 6pm

What is "Text Study" anyway? It sounds kind of intimidating...or maybe even boring. Text study is simply reading a scripture passage and talking about what jumps out at us, talking about the historical context, and figuring out how it applies to our life together today. We hope you might join us! You don't have to attend every week to be part of this group. A meal is offered at 5:20pm for \$1 per person. We will not meet on December 28.

Stormy Weather Approaching

How will you know if St. John's is closed for worship services and Sunday School? You can call the church office; the answering machine message will state the times of service or the news that the church is closed. You can also look at our Facebook page. We will send you an email if we have your address. If you have any doubt about road conditions and your ability to maneuver, don't risk a fall or an accident, rather please stay home.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The alarm goes off (sometimes the alarm is the dog licking my nose), and I so badly want to hit snooze or reset my alarm all together. But instead I haul myself out of bed and head to the gym. I've been bribing myself with a big cup(s) of coffee after I'm finished doing my routine.

Anyone relate to this? This time of year is especially difficult to find the time (and desire) to take care of ourselves. In this year of wellness, let me make a few suggestions for you as we enter into this time of Advent and Christmas.

- Say your prayers first. Spend some time with God before your feet even touch the floor. It doesn't have to be your whole morning. Just a few minutes to say "Good morning, God!" can set your day on the right path.
- Keep a journal of gratitude. Ever feel stressed out when you're Christmas shopping, baking, or sending out Christmas cards? Spend 2 minutes (even time yourself!) writing down what you're grateful for at that moment. You'll be surprised by how much you can write down and how it changes your attitude.
- Take a 5 minute walk. Yes, it's probably healthier to walk longer, but even a 5 minute walk here and there is better than nothing!
- Don't sell yourself short. You are a beautiful child of God and God yearns for you to know spiritual well-being.

It has been such a privilege to talk with so many of you about our spiritual well-being since I returned from sabbatical. I continue to learn and grow, and my prayer is that you do too.

May you be well this Advent season. May your hearts be filled with the light and hope of Christ!

Peace,

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

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! Please join Pastor Sally 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 **9:30am on Thursday, December 15th**. More information to come soon!

New Member Exploration

Our exploration classes return in January. All who are interested in joining the church should plan on attending these sessions on Sunday mornings: January 15, 22, 29, and February 5. These classes will meet at 9:15am. Location TBA. We will receive new members on Sunday, February 12 at the 8am worship service. Please see Pastor Williams with any questions.

Thanks

Thank you for the faithful and very long-time support of our Pastoral Care Endowment ministry. Through your support Oakwood is able to enhance our communities through employee training, improved living spaces and investments in wellness initiatives. We thank you for your generosity.

David Mossner, Development Director Oakwood Foundation
(St. John's was able to send a gift of \$216.00 from our Special Benevolence Fund)

Words from the Intern

I want to start by extending a deep thank you to St. John's for your warm welcome into this community. It is my honor to serve this year as your Intern. The church is entering the season of Advent and as an intern I have spent time thinking about the similarities of the year of internship and the season of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the return of Christ. Advent is a time to acknowledge what our hearts long for. It is a time to remember our thirst for peace, our desire for relief from sin, and our ache for those in our community and world who struggle with homelessness and hunger. In many ways Advent is about being in a balancing act. It is about knowing Christ came into a sin filled world, that Christ is currently present in our lives and calls us to action for the sake of the world, and that Christ will come again. It is in these three truths that we can find balance. Advent is not a time sit back and wait for Christ's return but instead it is a time to be actively working to be in relationship with one another in the midst of the pain of the world, and know that we do it with the reality that Christ is with us.

So what do Advent and a year of Internship have in common? Both involve waiting, preparing, and balance. When thinking of about internship I think about all the ways I am learning to become a pastor. I am not simply waiting to become a pastor, I am actively preparing while I wait. This is not a year to simply observe a church and watch time go by, instead it is a time for us to be actively involved in the life of the church together. Internship also involves balance; a balance of learning and serving, a balance of leading and being led, a balance of teaching and being taught. Internship mirrors Advent in many ways that it is not a time to sit back and wait for Christ to return or wait for something to be completed, instead it is an active time to rejoice in the ways Christ has come, is present in our lives, and will come into the world again.

Peace,
Halcyon

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

David Kaul
Bob Nelson
Gil Danz

With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Marge and Carroll Erlandson on the deaths of Bernice and Charlotte, two cousins of Marge.

Tom and Cheryl Schneller, and Abby, Jon and Micah Bennett on the death of nephew and cousin, Paul Schneller.

Jane and Rich Calenzo on the death of Jane's mother, Donna Weeks.

Ellen Hamlin, Michele and Shane Tammi, Jessica and Scott Frey and families on the death of husband, father and grandfather, Don.

St. John's Web Page

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

Coats for Kids

St. John's, along with Concordia Methodist Church, was able to collect a total of 106 coats, 70 pairs of gloves and mittens, and 48 hats for the Coats for Kids campaign. These will be distributed to children in the Sauk Prairie School district that are in need of warm winter clothing. Thank you very much for your help!

Dear St. John's, Thank you so very much for your generous donation of winter coats, snowpants, hats, gloves and mittens. Even though the temperature is nice today, it can turn cold quickly! Thank you on behalf of the Sauk Prairie School District children.

Sincerely, Susan Baumann-Duren

Plastic Bags Needed

Have you heard of the "Sauk Prairie Quilter and Sewing Friends?" A member of our congregation found out they are helping the United Methodist Church in Reedsburg take plastic bags (grocery style) and weave them into protective mats for members of our regional community who are homeless. These are given to people to protect them from dirt, insects, moisture and the cold as they sleep outside. Some of them have been given to Bethel Lutheran in Madison, a church that houses members of the community that are homeless. Some have gone to other homeless ministries such as Porchlight. Do you have bags at home looking to be repurposed? This sounds like a great use for them. Please bring your bags to church and drop them off in the coatroom. Place them in the box marked 'bags.' If you have any questions or would like to be more involved in this ministry, please call Doris Lohr (544-2394) for more information.

Happy December Birthday!

Our Youngest:

Olive Rennie (4)

Our Sunday School Students:

Savannah Acker (2)	Elio Piccinelli (2)
John Brennen V (5)	Dylann Fisher (5)
Landon Schultz (9)	Lily Fauerbach (11)
Josie Kinney (14)	Audrey Maestri (15)
Hannah Stephan (16)	Barrett Brice (17)
Nellie Kaderavek (18)	Katie Endres (19)
Giuliana Pacholke (20)	Evan Ryan (21)
Parker Frosch (24)	William Pickett (25)
Amelia Kitelinger (26)	Kenlee Hewitt (27)
Hudson Ballweg (28)	Kaia Kraemer (30)

Our Youth:

Jordan Small (1)	Claire Thiede (3)
Colden Harter (9)	Lauren Wideen (10)
Aimee Maasch (11)	Summer Acker (12)
Craig Wernsing (13)	Ethan Schad (17)
Hunter Lohr (20)	Drew Schlimgen (24)
Wyatt Urban (24)	Olivia Joyce (27)

College and Career-age Young People:

Carson Lauer (1)	Kami Schoepp (13)
Greta Koenig (15)	Kaitlyn Vieth (20)
Hailey Coy (31)	

Serving in December

<u>Ushers:</u>		
December 4	<u>8:00 a.m.</u> Steve Kindschi Rob Risley Kathi Risley	<u>10:30 a.m.</u> Bill Wardwell
December 11	Cayden Wernsing Rob Risley Larry Halweg	Quinn Baier Bill Wardwell
December 18	Tarren Nimmow	Alex Kinnamon Bill Wardwell
December 24	Ashley Pape	Alex Kinnamon
December 25	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	Glenn Herschleb
<u>Acolytes:</u>		
December 4	<u>8:00 a.m.</u> Tarren Nimmow Michael Endres	<u>10:30 a.m.</u> Max Sailor Summer Acker
December 11	Cayden Wernsing Drew Marshall	Kyle Dregney Alia Schlimgen
December 18	Megan Small Anna Ballweg	Jordan Chao Summer Acker
December 24	<u>1:00 p.m.</u> Grace Fauerbach Michael Endres Leah Froehlich Cole Douglas Emily Caflisch	<u>3:00 p.m.</u> Alex Kinnamon Anna Ballweg Emma Kinnamon Alia Schlimgen Samantha Johnson
	<u>5:00 p.m.</u> Tarren Nimmow Ruby Sandeman Ava Roach	<u>7:30 p.m.</u> Megan Small

**Feel free to sign up on the kiosk for any open dates and times.
Your help is always welcome.

Readers:

December 4
December 11
December 18
December 24

8:00 a.m.

Cayden Wernsing
Mary Halweg
Bev Clason

1:00 p.m.

John Hines

5:00 p.m.

Nancy Kaufman

9:00 a.m.

December 25

10:30 a.m.

Leah Froehlich
Dale Clason
Dale Clason

3:00 p.m.

Dan Baun

7:30 p.m.

Jack Boerger
Marilyn Herschleb

Cantors:

December 4
December 11
December 18

8:00 a.m.

Melani Wheeler
Janis Baun
Marv/Janelle Hupp

10:30 a.m.

Dennis Fisher
Deb Lohr-Foster
Kids of the Kingdom

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

December 4
December 11
December 18
December 24

Tarren Nimmow
Roxanne Small
Anne Klinkner

1:00 p.m.

Deb Westphal
Gerry Westphal

5:00 p.m.

Nadine Lauer
Ginny Nimmow

10:30 a.m.

Scott Graves
Dale Clason
Dale Clason

3:00 p.m.

Marilyn Herschleb
Dan Baun

7:30 p.m.

Roxanne Small

December 25

9:00 a.m. Roxanne Small, Marilyn Herschleb

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

December 4
December 11
December 18
December 24

Bev Clason
Kathi Risley
Marv Hupp

1:00 p.m.

Kathi Risley

5:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m.

Bev Clason
Kathi Risley
Marv Hupp

3:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

Jordan Small
Jordan Small

December 25

9:00 a.m.

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

December 4
December 11
December 18
December 24

Dorothy Halverson
Cayden Wernsing
Nadine/Bryce Lauer

1:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

Bryce/Nadine Lauer

9:00 a.m.

December 25

10:30 a.m.

Deb Lohr-Foster
Grace Fauerbach
Cathy Yanke

3:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

Marilyn Herschleb

<u>Nursery Staff:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
December 4	Lauren Wideen Ainsley Apel	Jordan Chao Evan Carlson
December 11	Ruby Sandeman Carley Frosch	Emma Kinnamon Alex Kinnamon
December 18	Ella Schad Lauren Wideen	Emma Kinnamon Alia Schlimgen

<u>Coffee Set-Up/Clean-Up: 7:30 a.m.</u>	<u>9:00 a.m.(Serve)</u>
December 4	Evan Carlson
December 11	Carley Frosch
December 18	Ainsley Apel

<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Dec 4 (Sanctuary)	Dan/Janis Baun	Norma Newman
(Front doors)	Dustin/Tanya Hanson	Deb/Gerry Westphal
(Side doors)	Dan/Kathy Lovell	Tom/Cheryl Schneller
Dec 11 (Sanctuary)	Shawn Ballweg fam.	Aletha/John Ballweg
(Front doors)	Rodney/Marsha Key	Sally/Jake Degenhardt
(Side doors)	Cliff/Cindy Thompson	Bob/Dede Egan
Dec 18 (Sanctuary)	Tarren Nimmow	Alex Kinnamon
(Front doors)	Evan Carlson	Emma Kinnamon
(Side doors)	Lauren Wideen	Summer Acker

Sunday School and Confirmation Date Reminders

There will be no Sunday School on December 25 and January 1st, and no Confirmation on December 28th. Have a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year!

Sunday School Upcoming Events

December 4th – Wear Blue!

December 25th – No Sunday School

January 1st – No Sunday School

January 17th – 4th-6th grade sing at 10:30 service

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
November 6	94	\$71.70
November 13	93	\$145.00
November 20	Advent Festival	\$766.00

Giving By Text

Giving by Text Simply send a text to **608-709-0944** with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. Example: \$25. Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register, if this is your first time. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!

The default setting for giving is our General Fund. If you wish to contribute to another fund, add the name of the fund after your giving amount. Example: \$25 Building. Other funds are Benevolence, Water, Thankoffering and World Hunger. The Water fund is helping build a well through the ELCA World Hunger program. The Thankoffering fund is helping support ministries through the Women of the ELCA.

Fees for texting are:

\$.50 one time set up fee per account

\$.38 per transaction cost

Credit card expense of 2.65% charge per transaction for most credit cards OR 3.5% charge if card is American Express.

Sunday School Needs Tablecloths

If you have vinyl or plastic tablecloths that you are not using, Sunday School has a need for them. (They make great table covers when painting, playing with play-doh, gluing, etc.) If you have any plastic or vinyl tablecloths to share, bring them to the office during the week or to the Sunday School hallway on Sunday mornings.

Thanks, Dale Clason, Sunday School Superintendent

Baby Congratulations

Brent and Alaina Herbrand welcomed daughter, Ella Marie on October 26th. Ella's grandparents are Leon and Jolene Herbrand and Kevin and Patti Key. Anita Key is Ella's great-grandmother.

We conferred the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on the following child during November.

Andrew James Kraus, son of Jake and Nicole Kraus. His sponsors are Adam Kraus and Amber Morris. Andrew's congregational sponsors are Tracy and Jay Thompson.

All Saints Sunday

On November 6 we gave thanks for the lives of those who have been gathered into our heavenly home since All Saints Day of 2015:

Jim Key
Bill Knickmeyer
Dale Hachmann
Ashton James Brunner
Ivan Groth
Sue Ann Brewer-Ritchie
Charles "Toby" Tobias
Ewald Hansen
Beulah Sprecher
Gloria Beuthin
Jane (Hart) Royston
Wayne Schultz
Gerald Halverson
Martha Nelson
Jeff Chrisler

Please keep the families of these loved ones in your prayers this holiday season.

H.E.L.P.—Red Sled Project

Help Excite Little People will be collecting gently, used toys and items for teens this holiday season. The program is based out of the First United Church of Christ, Sauk City, but has become a community-wide project. All items donated are distributed to children/teens that are in need in the Sauk Prairie area. Donations may be brought to the Washington Avenue entrance of First United and placed in the little red sled, or brought here to St. John's and placed in one of the decorated boxes found in the Sunday School hallway or the west entrance hall. (A volunteer will then transport them to First United.) The collection will run through Dec. 12.

Sauk Prairie Area Caring Tree

St. John's continues to be part of the Caring Tree community effort to reach out to those in need during the Christmas season. Members may pick a tag from the Caring Tree set up in the gathering area. Most tags have ideas for hoped-for gifts for a particular child identified only by a number, age, sex, and size. You may purchase this gift and return it unwrapped with the tag attached and leave it under the tree.

Other tags ask for books or more general "stocking stuffer" items appropriate for children, teens, or adults.

The Caring Tree also accepts financial gifts to allow volunteer shoppers to purchase gifts. Watch for the marked envelopes on the tree. The deadline for returning gifts to St. John's is Friday, December 9. The families will receive the gifts on Saturday, December 17.

Christmas Candlelight Set Up Help Needed

Setting up the candles for the candlelight service is a big job. We will need a lot of help on Sunday, Dec 18 right after the late service that day. Anyone interested in helping should just come forward after that service and we guarantee a job for them.

Also, all the candles and candelabra will be taken down immediately after the 7:30 service on Dec 24th. Anybody interested in helping with that process is also encouraged to join us. It's a big job!

Christmas Eve Service Times

St. John's will have candlelight services on Christmas Eve at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. It is a very beautiful and meaningful service, so plan now to attend with your family.

Christmas Day Service

Although Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, St. John's will have just one worship service at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Blessings

St. John's staff wishes all a very blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

First Communion Instruction

The following students attended the First Communion class in November:

Micah Boerger
Noelle Small

Colby Frey
Kendra Frey

Some of these young people will be taking their first communion with their families on Sunday, December 4. Please keep them all in your prayers as they celebrate this milestone in their lives.

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2017 are on the tables in the gathering area. You may pick yours up anytime, but please wait until January 1st to begin using them. If you are using Simply Giving and did not use an assigned envelope last year, I did not assign you an envelope this year. If you would like offering envelopes and cannot find your name, please contact Linda in the church office.

Thanks

Friends at St. John's,

6:8 thanks St. John's for donations given to them towards their High School Mission Trip taken this past summer. The teens went to Missouri and were able to help many other teens and families with their work.

I would find it impossible to complete all of my tasks in the church office without the help of numerous people. I thank the following volunteers who have shared their time, talents and effort helping St. John's during this past year:

Dale Haroldson
Don Bohler
Vi Bohler
Bob Nelson
Almay Nelson
Tom Mahoney
Paul Bringle
Nick Lester
Kathy Lester
Harold Carlson
Richard Uttech
Barb Stenner
Donna Hosking
Bev Clason
Eldor Fruehling
Jayne Carlson
Lois Kaul
Mary Weeks
Ginny Nimmow
Ed Nimmow

Jeanne Haroldson
Jeannine Robertson
Elaine Sprecher
Arletta Wachter
Dale Clason
Barb Salveson
Marilyn Brecka
Eunice Yanke
Shirley Anding
Audrey Kunstman
Cristy Cornelius
Donna Nelson
Mac McCluskey
Roger Maynard
Dean Pfaff
Kris Eagan
Donna Knickmeyer
Sharon Krintz
Sandra Frey
Marilyn Herschleb

The problem with compiling a list is the danger of leaving someone's name off. If this has happened, it is completely inadvertent, and I apologize. St. John's truly appreciates all volunteers who work behind the scenes to make this church run smoothly. Thank you so much.

Office Secretary,
Linda Hines

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 is to raise enough money to buy a fresh water well for a village. The cost of such a well is \$2,500. We are just 3 months into our Sunday School year and we have collected almost half of the money needed! We have \$1,224.06 with the help of some VERY generous people from our congregation. Thank you for your interest and support of this very worthwhile project.

The Advent Festival was wonderful! Everyone in attendance had fun and even learned something about Advent! We thank Abby Bennett and the Parish Education Board for their work in setting up the games and activities and those Sunday School teachers and friends of Sunday School who helped run the activities. A great day spent in sharing God's gifts.

Caring Tree Shopping

Mark your calendars! The Caring Tree shopping trip is scheduled for Sunday December 4th following the 10:30 worship service. We meet at the Hupp's home before travelling to Baraboo. A sign-up sheet is posted on the youth bulletin board. Remember that we are always looking for drivers! Contact Abby Bennett or Marv Hupp with questions.