



Joslyn Schultz, First Grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

February 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Ash Wednesday is March 1st. Lent is fast approaching! This year our theme will be 'Scripture's Impact: Bible Stories and How They Shape Us.' It will be a time of reflection on scripture and its impact on our preachers and our congregation. Each Wednesday you will hear a sermon based on one of 'our' favorite scripture texts. 'Our' means Sally, Halcyon and myself. We will preach on scripture lessons that have significantly impacted and shaped our lives. During Lent we will also invite you to share some of your favorite scripture lessons and why they mean so much to you. With your permission we will share these scriptures and your thoughts through our webpage and Facebook pages. Now, you may wonder, "Why this theme AND why share my story?" Let me explain.

Martin Luther struggled with what it meant to be a person of faith. As he searched the Bible he ran across various scripture lessons (Romans 1:17 and Habakkuk 2:4) that helped him understand God's forgiveness was not something that could not be earned, rather it was a gift. These scriptures along with others freed

him to see God in a way he had never seen before. It opened his eyes to God's mercy and love, and shaped him into a new person. Part of that transformation resulted in the 95 Theses.

While Luther was writing, another new thing was breaking forth; the printing press. This allowed his work to be printed in mass and distributed far faster than the current technology of hand copying would allow. These two moments in time, Luther's personal insights coupled with a new communication technology, combined to begin the Reformation on Oct 31, 1517. This year we celebrate its 500th birthday.

So there you have it. We will share in sermon, our favorite scriptures and the impact they have had on our lives. I ask that you do the same. Pick a scripture that has meaning to you and then write a few lines about why. I believe that sharing your stories with our new technologies will be a gift to people you cannot imagine.

March 1 is Ash Wednesday (Ecumenical Service). March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5 at 1pm and 6:30pm, will be our 25-30 minute Wednesday Lenten services. April 13 is Maundy Thursday and April 14 is Good Friday (Ecumenical Service). Both will be at 1pm and 6:30pm. April 16 is Easter with services at 6:30am, 8am and 10:30am. Please join us as we journey through Lent to Easter.

Shalom,

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

Congregational Meeting

St. John's will meet on March 5, after the first service, to elect members to attend the April 29-30 Synod Assembly. Those elected will serve as voting members at the synod assembly and be our voice as the synod gathers at the Marriot Hotel in Middleton.

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

Applesauce	Cereal
Pudding Cups	Canned tomatoes
Instant potatoes	Pasta

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 February. The date is in parentheses.

Marilyn Larson (18)
174 – 1st Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Walter Sprecher (22)
Heritage Senior Living
6206 Maywood Ave.
Middleton, WI 53562

St. John's Web Page

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

Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Tuesday, February 7, 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, childcare provided

Lydia Circle: Thursday, February 9, 1:00 p.m. at Fay Rentmeester's, N750 Golf Road, #44, Prairie du Sac

Martha Circle: Thursday, February 2, 9:00 a.m. at Marilyn Herschleb's, 129 Washington St., Sauk City

Mary/Sarah Circles: Tuesday, February 7, 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Library

Ruth Circle: Monday, February 6, 9:00 a.m. at Marian DeGiovanni's, 295 Water St., Prairie du Sac



The Combined Circles meeting on January 12 was very enjoyable with 24 ladies in attendance. Everyone brought delicious finger food and we had an extra amazing assortment of good food this year. We all kept right on eating while Intern Halcyon led the Bible Study Galations: "Christian Faith and Christian Freedom". We felt she did an amazing job of helping us understand the lesson. After that we went into the sanctuary (Halcyon's idea) for the candle-lighting ceremony remembering all members and friends of St. John's who died during 2016. There were readings by Halcyon and Connie Burton accompanied us for some hymns. This helped make the event even more impressive and meaningful. A candle was lit for each of the following:

Jim Key	Bill Knickmeyer	Dale Hachman
Ashton Brunner	Ivan Groth	Ewald Hanson
Beulah Sprecher	Gloria Beuthin	Martha Nelson
Jane Hart-Royston	Wayne Schultz	Jeff Chrisler
Gerald Halverson	Donna Weeks	Bethany Adams
Don Hamlin	Benjamin Voss	
Frieda Waldinger	Charles "Toby" Tobias	
Sue Ann Brewer-Ritchie		

In February the Bible Study will be led by Anne Klinkner, Fay Rentmeester, Marge Erlandson, Kathy Lester and Carolyn Gilbertson. The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for February will be Tuesday, January 31, 2017. The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for March will be Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

Mary Circle visited Special Friends during December and January. Martha Circle will visit them during February and March. The schedule to follow: Lydia Circle – April and May
Ruth Circle – June and July
Sarah Circle – August and September

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

The Tenth Triennial Gathering will be held July 13-16 at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis. "All Anew" is the theme. This year is also the 500th anniversary of the Reformation when Martin Luther came to a new understanding of the righteousness of God. Registration cost \$350. To learn more and to register go to www.welcatg.org . Please email Sue Buetzer at buetzerhillfarm@wekz.net if you are interested in riding the bus with your Sisters in Christ. Sue will also help in finding a roommate to save on hotel costs.

Women's Book Club

February's book is Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity by Adam Hamilton. This book is available in the church library. We will meet on Tuesday, February 28 at 10am in the church library and 6:30pm at the Blue Spoon.

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, February 16th with a focus on health and fitness in your 60s, 70s, and beyond. Dr. Suzanne Welsch from the Women's Health Center will be our speaker.

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding fast to what we believe to be right. May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others. Help us devote our whole lives, thoughts, and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for inspiration from You, our eternal strength. Amen.

Sunday Adult Education Winter Schedule

Feb 5 -- Studies in Matthew: As part of our social well-being focus, we will discuss how we are called to live with one another, especially in the midst of conflict.

Feb 12-26 -- Children & Grief: Team taught by Pastor Sally and Intern Halcyon, we will talk about grief through the eyes of children, things to anticipate, and how to respond to the difficult questions about death and heaven with little ones.

Mar 5-19 – God in the midst of shame: Intern Halcyon will lead us in a discussion on shame in our culture and personal lives, and where we find God in the midst of it.

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!

All are welcome to come at 5:20 for a meal. Cost is only \$1 with a maximum of \$5 per family.

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.

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. The next gathering will be February 7th 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.

New Member Exploration

Our last exploration class will be on February 5 and we will talk about the Reformation History & Church Structure. We will meet at 9:15am in the Youth Room. Look for Pastor Sally!

We will receive new members on Sunday, February 12 at the 8am worship service. Please see Pastor Williams with any questions.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As part of my post-sabbatical commitment to myself and to you, I have spent the last few months keeping my eyes open for opportunities for spiritual growth including better health all the way around. I also have the opportunity to be the self-care point person for the Hope Sauk Prairie Suicide Prevention team where I lead a self-care moment each month. We've done a particular exercise that is still talked about, so I want to share it with you. Use it for those moments when you just need to clear your head, you're feeling tired, or just for fun!

For a short activity spell your name using the letters below. For example, I would do the squats, knee lifts, lunges (x2) and Yodel! A further challenge would be to do your whole name or the entire alphabet! Need some time with God? Prayers of gratitude can be lifted up as you do each exercise (or prayers of help to finish those final lunges!).

Have fun and be well!

Fitness Spelling Equipment:

Adapted from Everybody Move! Daily Vigorous Physical Activity, CIRA Ontario

- A – Alternate knee lifts 20x
- B – Balance on 5 body parts for 20 seconds
- C – Calf raises 20x
- D – Dips 10x
- E – Energizer bunny hops 20x
- F – Free dance your favorite moves for 30 secs
- G – Gluteal kicks 10x each leg
- H – Hand jive
- I – Intense marching on the spot
- J – Jumping Jacks 20x
- K – Kick your heels together 10x
- L – Lunges on each leg 10x
- M – Mountain climbers 15x
- N – Note your heart rate
- O – Hop on each foot 10x
- P – Push-ups 5x
- Q – Quench your thirst
- R – Run on the spot 15 seconds
- S – Squats 10x slow and controlled
- T – Tae Bo kicks front and back 10x each leg
- U – YOU stretch it – reach high and low
- V – V-sit 20 seconds
- W – Walk around the room once
- X – Cross-over steps 10x each direction
- Y – Yodel for 10 seconds with your best voice
- Z – Zigzag jumps from side to side 20x

Peace,



New Members Reception

On February 12 we will have a reception to welcome our New Members to St. John's. We will celebrate with appetizers. Watch for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk if you would like to share some of your favorite appetizers during our fellowship hour.

Easter Garden Flowers

Karen Bader will be in the gathering area between services on March 19th and March 26th to collect money for flowers for Easter. We will be purchasing tulips and daffodils for the garden around the alter in the sanctuary. You may pick up the flowers you purchased after the last service on Easter Sunday. If you are not interested in taking flowers home you may just make a donation. The cost is \$7 each and the flowers/donations may be given in celebration of a special occasion or in honor or memory of a loved one. The details will be printed in the Easter bulletin.

Words for the Intern

Internship is such an important part of my education to become a pastor. It is a year that first and second year students look forward to and final year students look back on and talk about frequently. When I was at seminary, the final year students on campus told me to enjoy internship because it goes by so fast and will be over before you know it. It's not that I didn't believe them, but it is something you can't fully understand until you are in the situation. All of the sudden I have reached the halfway point of my internship. I have already spent six months learning more about the reality of being a pastor. I have spent six months asking questions and having really good conversations with people. It is hard for me to believe that in another six short months I will be moving back to Wartburg Seminary for my final year of study. I will without a doubt tell students getting ready to go on internship the same thing I was told, enjoy internship because it goes by fast! One of the things that has made this time fly by is that it is a joy to be serving here at St. John's. Thank you to the members of St. John's for all of the ways you have made this internship so enjoyable that time is flying by! I am looking forward to the next six months with all of you and the ways it will form me as a leader for the church.

Peace,
Intern Halcyon

Game Day!

St. John's is hosting a game day on Sunday, February 12th following the second service. Bring your favorite board or card game to share/teach! Intern Halcyon will be teaching her favorite game! All ages welcome and encouraged to attend. Please bring two dollars to cover a pizza lunch.

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

Jim Staff
Tom Luetscher
Paul Bringle
Roger Seymour
Roger Maynard
Jessica Handschke

With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:
Jan Floeter, Kristin and Ryan King and family, on the death of husband, father and grandfather, Les Floeter.

Hazel Graf, Elaine Sprecher and Denise Baars, on the death of Hazel's daughter-in-law, Lea Graf.

Cathy, Herb, Beth, Jeff and Katie Yanke, on the death of Cathy's father, John Lange.

We recently received monetary gifts in memory of Don Hamlin. We are grateful when our congregation is remembered in this manner. These gifts will be used to benefit our church.

Thank You Mobile Meals Delivery Volunteers!

St. John's committed to deliver meals the weeks of January 23-27 and January 30-February 3. We are thankful for those who volunteered to drive and "run" the meals to the homes of those in need. The names of the volunteers are:

Norma Newman	Linda Thiesen
Dorothy Halverson	Neal Jessie
Eunice Yanke	Marsha Key
Janis Baun	Dan Baun
Anne Parker	Dave Parker
Fay Rentmeester	Darlene Holl
Rich Frey	Kris Frey

Thank you again for your willingness to serve others.

Library Helpers Needed!

We have a beautiful library full of novels, non-fiction, videos, and children's books just waiting to be enjoyed! But we need help to keep it open and running so all these resources can be available to you. Are you available during the education hour on Sundays to help people check out books or read to Sunday School kids? You don't have to work every Sunday, even once a month or so would be great! Several people have volunteered, but we need a few more. Please contact the church office at 643-2439. Many hands make for light work. We hope you are willing to put your hands to work!

 **THANK** you!

Dear St. John's Lutheran,

Thanks so much for your support of our housing mission work. Together, we are building stronger communities. Your recent donation to our Christmas Appeal is much appreciated!

Habitat for Humanity Wisconsin River Area

(\$1,000 was sent from collections made to our Special Benevolence fund.)

Happy February Birthday!

Our Youngest:

Lucas Passehl (4)	Gage Fourtner (6)
Lincoln Ott (8)	Tenley Sorg (8)
Addison Schulenburg (11)	Otis Johnson (13)
Lucy Pickett (21)	Kaitlyn Frey (22)
Cashton Lane (22)	

Our Sunday School Students:

Jonah Richard (6)	Lily Verhage (6)
Courtney Lautenbach (7)	Kylie Hutchins (15)
Brynn Kruchten (15)	BrookLynn Baier (16)
Kate Himebach (19)	Colin Wernsing (18)
Molly Williams (19)	Haylee Goetsch (21)
Ezra Bauer (22)	Jay Dregney (22)
Evelynn Brennan (26)	Kiptyn Suchla (26)
Audrie Nurkala (28)	Kate Wernsing (28)

Our Youth:

Angie Kolb (2)	Max Sailor (2)
Michael Endres (3)	Joe Treinen (7)
Jacob Suchomel (9)	Nathan Janisch (13)
Noah Schoepp (14)	Sophie Fiske (16)
Noah Mack (18)	Lillian Jones (24)
Morgan Wanta (24)	Molly Ballweg (26)

College and Career-age Young People:

Maggie Dederich (5)	Jacob Harter (11)
Julia Reinke (15)	Keith Hines (16)
Grant Schlimgen (16)	Patrick Klinkner (27)

Serving in February

<u>Ushers:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
February 5	Rob Risley Linda Meyer Anna Ballweg	Bill Burton Chris Kepler
February 12	Linda Meyer Steve Kindschi Craig Johnson Samantha Johnson	Bill Burton Colden Harter
February 19	Rob Risley Steve Kindschi Jerry Kaufman	Bill Burton Briar Lohr
February 26	Linda Meyer	Bill Burton Briar Lohr
<u>Acolytes:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
February 5	Dylan Andrews Aimee Maasch	Leanna Niesen Malea Niesen
February 12	Drew Marshall	Zach Guentherman Jordan Chao
February 19	Aimee Maasch	Claire Thiede Alia Schlimgen
February 26		Gavin Tompkin Max Sailor
<u>Readers:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
February 5	Cora Dunnum	Kyle Dregney
February 12	Dale Haroldson	Nancy McCauley
February 19	Nancy Kaufman	Andrea Chao
February 22	Emily Schutt	Joanne Kitelinger
<u>Cantors:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
February 5	Marv/Janelle Hupp	Kids of the Kingdom
February 12	Melani Wheeler	Doris Lohr
February 19	Chris Stephan	Ruellene Seymour
February 26	Senior Choir	Senior Choir

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

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

February 5	Dylan Andrews
February 12	Linda Hines
February 19	Marilyn Herschleb
February 26	Roxanne Small

10:30 a.m.

Claire Thiede
Deb Westphal
Gerry Westphal
Janis Baun

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

February 5	Kathi Risley
February 12	
February 19	
February 26	Jordan Small

10:30 a.m.

Kathi Risley
Jordan Small

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

February 5	Nadine/Bryce Lauer
February 12	Briar Lohr
February 19	Darlene Holl and Diane Williams
February 26	Darlene Holl and Diane Williams

10:30 a.m.

Deb Lohr-Foster
Jacob Schweitzer
Deb Lohr-Foster
Barb Salvesson

Nursery Staff:

February 5	Drew Marshall Cora Dunnum
February 12	Zach Guentherman Sophie Fiske
February 19	Ava Roach Sophie Fiske
February 26	Briar Lohr

10:30 a.m.

Jacob Schweitzer
Gavin Tompkin
Jacob Schweitzer
Ella Schad
Leanna Niesen
Malea Niesen
Colden Harter
Leah Froehlich

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

February 5	Linda Yanke
February 12	Linda Yanke
February 19	Olivia Joyce
February 26	Ashley Pape

9:00 a.m.(Serve)

Molly Ballweg
Ella Schad
Olivia Joyce
Chris Kepler

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2017 have moved into the workroom. If you are using Simply Giving and did not use an assigned envelope last year, we 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.

<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Feb 5 (Sanctuary)	Monte/Lynette Wick	Norma Newman
(Front doors)	Cliff/Cindy Thompson	John/Ellen Mast
(Side doors)	Shirley Orr	Christine Leaf
Feb 12 (Sanctuary)	Steve/Holly Kindschi	Deb/Gerry Westphal
(Front doors)	Shirley Anding	David/Lois Kaul
(Side doors)	John/Linda Hines	Bob/Dede Egan
Feb 19 (Sanctuary)	Samantha Johnson	Jacob Schweitzer
(Front doors)	Olivia Joyce	Olivia Joyce
(Side doors)	Dylan Andrews	Sophie Fiske
Feb 26 (Sanctuary)	Dan/Kathy Lovell	Audrey Kunstman
(Front doors)	Arletta Wachter	Kristin/Darin Pape
(Side doors)	Roger Maynard	Karen Bader

Giving By Text

Do you want to give an offering to St. John's using your cell phone? If so, 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. If this is your first time, within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. 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 we have 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.

Lent Begins March 1

Ash Wednesday is March 1, 2017. This marks the beginning of Lent. 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 Kops For Kids program.

Learning Opportunities

We will be hosting a series of financial educational offerings in February. We put out a survey to our Sunday School and Confirmation parents, and these topics were of special interest to them.

Starting during the confirmation hour on Wednesday evening February 1st, Jama Graves, Attorney at Law, will be holding an educational talk on Wills and Power of Attorney. This will start at 6:00 pm, all are welcome. Please sign up on the kiosk so that we know how many people to expect. Come early at 5:30 to eat dinner with the confirmation kids.

On Sunday February 12th, after late service, Bob Lange will be presenting information on Legacy Giving. Lunch will be provided. Again, please sign up on the kiosk so that we know how many people to expect.

Lastly on Sunday February 19th, during the Sunday School hour; 9:15 – 10:15 a.m., Kari Apel, CPA will be speaking on household budgeting and finance. Again please sign up on the kiosk so that we know how much room we will need.

All are welcome to all of these offerings. Even if you don't end up signing up and are available when the talk is being held please come. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Kaufman 963-0151, Stewardship Chair.

Journey through Grief Support Group

Journey through Grief is a six-week series for adults who are grieving a death. The group meets at Agrace in Baraboo each Thursday, February 2 through March 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Visit agrace.org/griefgroups or call Jody at (608) 327-7118 to register.

We conferred the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on the following children during January:

Vada Jo Steinmetz. She is the daughter of Keith Richard and Allisson Rae (Baun) Steinmetz. She was born on October 2, 2016 and her sponsors are Dan and Lindsey Dent. Lucas and Kelly Koenig are her Congregational Sponsors.

Ella Marie Herbrand. She is the daughter of Brent Gordon Herbrand and Alaina Debra (Key) Herbrand. She was born on October 26, 2016 and her sponsors are Michael and Katelyn Czuprynko. Eric and Karissa Kaul are her Congregational Sponsors.

St. John's, A Teaching Congregation – Opportunities in March

Our congregation is blessed to host Wartburg Seminary Intern Halcyon Bjornstad this year. Many of you have experienced the ways she extends our ministry through her gifts. Evaluation is an important part of the internship process as Halcyon is developing her abilities. The month of March provides several opportunities for congregational members to give feedback on her sermons. When Halcyon preaches in March, sheets with a few questions will be available in the narthex as you enter the sanctuary. Please take a moment to complete them and deposit them in a basket in the narthex after the service.

Wartburg Seminary emphasizes the importance of our involvement in Halcyon's development: "We believe that the Holy Spirit works through people. This is discussed in First Corinthians 12,13 and 14. Each of us is essential to the whole body of Christ. So, your gifts, your insights, your evaluations are legitimate and helpful"

Thank you for your help! Internship Lay Committee
Members: Nancy Passehl (Chair), Linda Lintl, Jerry Niesen, Jeannine Robertson, John Schmit, Mary Weeks



Third Grade Sunday School

The 3rd grade class has been super busy this year working on memorizing the books of the Bible. Recently they have completed the Old Testament! They have been using craft sticks to help them study! The craft sticks are taped together so that when the craft sticks are pushed together from the top and bottom of the stack they fan fold up into a compact stack of sticks for storage. The third graders test themselves by unfolding one section at a time to reveal the next book.

(The 3rd grade students all received new Bibles at the beginning of the Sunday School year.)

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
January 8	89	\$26.46
January 15	89	\$31.50
January 22	67	\$20.00

Sunday School Water Well Project

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 are just halfway into our Sunday School year and we already have \$7,186.13* because of the generosity of our congregation. We will continue to collect money until the end of May 2017. We are well on our way to 3 wells. (Perhaps we might get to 4?) Thank you for your interest and support of this very worthwhile project.

**including the matching donation we have received.*

Bake Sale to fight hunger

On Noisy Offering Sunday, February 5, the fifth and sixth grade Sunday School classes will hold a bake sale to fight against hunger. The sale begins at 9:00 a.m. The kids will have decorated cookies, pies, quick breads and more for sale. Please help them learn the excitement and joy of giving to others that they may not know.

Red Barnyard Banks and Pigs

St. John's annual fundraiser for the ELCA's world hunger program will be on Noisy Offering Sunday this year. The entire congregation is invited to take a barnyard bank home and begin collecting loose change to be donated along with a noisy offering on February 5.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars, our 2017 Vacation Bible School will be August 7-10, 2017. Sign up will be in May, and stay tuned for more details!

Middle and High School News

Upcoming Events

February 8th – Fun Night

March 1st – Ash Wednesday – Confirmation runs until 7:30pm

March 8th – Fun Night

March 15 – Confirmation Mentor Night

YOUTH LOCK IN! All 6th-12th graders are invited to a lock-in (a sleepover at the church) on Friday, February 24th, at 7pm through Saturday, February 25th at 7am. You are all invited and so are your friends! There is no cost and there will be lots of fun...basketball, movies, crafts, games, food, and maybe some sleeping (but not usually!). A sign-up sheet is on the Youth Board near Abby's office. We need 20 students and 12 adults to sign up in order to have the event. Hope to see you there! See Abby Bennett or Marv Hupp for more information.

Come to the Castle

Wartburg Theological Seminary will be hosting its next Come to the Castle event on Friday, February 10th from 7am to 4pm. This educational day will focus on Sacred Scripture and Sacred Music: Exploring the Scriptural Foundation of the Church's Musical Witness. 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.

February's Food Collection Challenge

We are having our February Boys vs. Girls Food Collection Challenge again this year! Like last year, we will be collecting different items to be donated to our local food pantries. This year's items are:

Boys collect:

50 Boxed Potatoes (these can include instant mashed potatoes, scalloped potatoes mix, au gratin mix, any dried potatoes in a box with minimal extra added ingredients.)

50 Gravy Packs (the dry type in an envelope is fine)

50 Instant Pancake Mixes (the "Just Add Water" type is best)

50 bottles of Pancake Syrup

50 boxes of Hamburger Helper (any variety)

Girls collect

50 Cans of Fruit (a variety would be great! Applesauce can be included)

50 boxes/bags of Crackers for soup

50 boxed Cake Mixes (any variety, minimal extra added ingredients appreciated)

50 cans Frosting

50 boxes of Hamburger Helper (any variety)

You will notice that both teams collect Hamburger Helper.

To be declared the "winner" the team must be the first to collect **all** the items on their list. Start planning those shopping trips now.

Thanks to Pastor Fred for his visits during my illness. Thank you to all who sent cards and took the time to make phone calls. I really appreciate it!
Roger Maynard

Thank you from the Salvation Army

On behalf of the Salvation Army, I would like to thank you for your involvement in the 2016 holiday bell ringing. We greatly appreciate your gift of time.

\$9,468.00 was collected the weekends during Advent. Great job, everyone! A breakdown of the donations is below:

Blackhawk-Bethlehem United Methodist Church	\$529.41
Concordia United Methodist Church	\$3,383.82
First United Church of Christ	\$1,399.21
Dorothy Kausler	\$149.26
Sara & Lindsay's Little Learners	\$60.34
Mason & Grace (Sara's children)	\$52.76
St. John's Lutheran Church	\$3,530.48
National Honor Society Giving Tree SPHS	<u>\$362.72</u>
Grand Total	\$9,468.00

God's blessings to you in 2017!

With thanks and gratitude,

Pastor Bill Kapp

First United Church of Christ

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Help Excite Little People (H.E.L.P.) Project, heartfelt thanks for your involvement. We greatly appreciate the generous donations that you shared. On the day of our distribution, the toys and items for teens were made available to 50 adults.

Many thanks for making the holidays happier for Sauk Prairie families. Wishing you the best in 2017!

With thanks and respect,

Margaret McFarlane, H.E.L.P. Coordinator

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.

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 morning. 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 would like to be added to the Driver's list.