



## Meeting new people

Natalie Ballweg, Grade 4

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Prairie du Sac, WI

January 2017

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“People of God, do you promise to support the person’s name and pray for them in their new life in Christ?” This is part of our baptismal liturgy and the question the congregation is asked when someone is baptized. Our response is, “We do.”

At the end of the baptismal liturgy we continue with, “We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.”

Baptism is an amazing moment! A person is forgiven and granted eternal life, made a member of the body of Christ AND a congregation promises to support them, pray for them and be a co-worker with them in the mission of Christ.

The first part of this moment is God’s promise of grace. I am confident that God follows through on God’s promise. The second part, the second promise, is ours. My question is, “How are doing with this?”

Part of how we do this is through sponsors, those who are invited to make sure that the baptized child/adult is raised in faith. Another part of that is through the congregation's involvement. To strengthen that aspect, several years ago we added 'congregational sponsors,' individual members who represent our larger congregation's commitment to the partnership in ministry we share in baptism, to join in "bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world."

So again I ask, "How are we doing with this?" Whether your answer is 'good' or 'not so good,' let me suggest we continue following the example of our congregational sponsors. These members are encouraged to remain in contact with the baptized, helping them to grow in faith, share their gifts and build connections with St. John's in order to spread God's good news. One way to do this is by remembering the anniversary of the baptized. Send a card, make a call, and remind individuals and families of that day when God's Word of promise and the water of baptism ushered them into the kingdom.

On Sunday, January 8, we will celebrate the baptism of our Lord. Consider this a day to reach out and contact someone you know who was baptized this last year. Remind them that their 'family' is larger than they might remember and continue to let them know of the support, partnership and mission we share as members of Christ's body.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Rilling', written in a cursive style.The words 'Thank You' written in a large, elegant, cursive script.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,  
Thank you for all the cards and expressions of kindness this Christmas season. Thank you also for the kind words and support you have given over this past year. We are blessed to be part of this church and community. May the blessings of the Christ child continue to abound!  
Fred, Kris, Alec and Katlyn Rilling.

## 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](mailto:fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org) (h) 644-1359

Sally Williams [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org) (h) 643-7810

Intern Halcyon Bjornstad [halcyon@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:halcyon@stjohnssaukprairie.org)  
(h) 370-7392

Office and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines

[linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org) (h) 544-2409

Youth-Education: Abby Bennett [abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

(c)370-7148

Director of Music: Connie Burton [connie@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:connie@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

(c)393-4291

Custodian: Jake Degenhardt [jake@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:jake@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

(h)370-6158

St. John's Lutheran Church: 643-2439 [www.stjohnssaukprairie.org](http://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 January 8th. 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 fruit	Crackers
Jello	Canned tomatoes
Laundry soap	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 January. The date is in parentheses.

Wanda Gorsuch (13) Pine Villa 950 Prairie Street Prairie du Sac, WI 53578	Luella Bever (14) 798 Water Street Prairie du Sac, WI 53578
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Les Floeter (15) 722 Risley Court Prairie du Sac, WI 53578	Arlene Foell (18) 323 John Adams St. Sauk City, Wi 53583
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Matthew 25:34-40

## Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Tuesday, January 3, 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, childcare provided

Lydia, Martha, Ruth, Sarah and Mary Circles:

Combined meeting Thursday, January 12, 1:00 p.m.



As has been our custom for the past several years, in January, most Circles will not meet at their regular times, but we have planned a combined Circle meeting for Thursday, January 12. This will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, with everyone bringing something to eat...such as left-over Christmas goodies, cheese, fruit or whatever else you would like to share. The Bible Study Galatians: "Christian Faith and Christian Freedom" will be led by Intern Halcyon Bjornstad. She will also tell us a little bit about her background and we are looking forward to having her as our speaker. After that we will have our candlelight memorial service for the members of St. John's who died in 2016. This is always a very special and impressive service. If you were close to anyone on the list, or if you have lost someone during the past year, you may light a candle for that person. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and don't miss this special event. Please know that this occasion is not just for Circle members. **All women of St. John's and guests are most welcome.**

In December, 31 Circle members plus 1 guest attended Circle meetings with Fay Rentmeester, Marge Erlandson, Loretta Landerman and Kathy Lester leading the study.

The final amount for the Thankoffering was \$315.

In February we will choose Prayer Partners.

Mary Circle is visiting Special Friends during December and January. Martha Circle will visit them during February and March.

Remember to look in this Visitor for a Prayer for Peace to be read on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Bible Study Leader's Meeting for February will be Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

If anyone is thinking of going to the Triennial Convention in Minneapolis July 13-16, 2017, there is a person to contact regarding a synod bus that will be going there. Sue Buetzer is her name. Her e-mail address is: [buetzerhillfarm@wekz.net](mailto:buetzerhillfarm@wekz.net). They would like to have 50 bus riders to keep the price reasonable.

Early bird registration for the Triennial Gathering (until January 6, 2017) is \$310. Beginning January 7, the rate will be \$350. Register at [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org).

## **MUM's the word...**

My wife Ruellene and I had the honor of representing St John's at the annual fundraising dinner for Madison-area Urban Ministries. Our connection to MUM is through Just Bakery, who sells us their delicious baked goods once every month. In fact, the entire evening was a celebration of the Just Bakery program: its past successes and plans for future expansion.

For those who may not be familiar with the overall program, I'll briefly describe it. Just Bakery is a voluntary program which takes in men and women just released from incarceration. As you may know, our current laws and practices make it very difficult for these individuals to re-enter society in a productive manner. Just Bakery helps fill the gap by offering classes that give useful skills to participants so that they can find real jobs. Throughout the program, participants put these skills to work by preparing and selling baked goods at a number of locations, St John's being one. In fact, part of the celebration was a recognition of Just Bakery being awarded a contract with UW Madison for ALL of the cookies served and sold on campus.

For us, another highlight was seeing firsthand how this program is positively impacting lives. Our table mates, Henry and his wife, had completed the Just Bakery program and got the necessary paperwork to open a food truck that they will operate in the city. It was so reassuring to see how this program gives skills and hope to individuals who might otherwise return to the streets, homeless and desperate, eventually to find themselves again behind bars.

Please join us in supporting this program that has given hundreds of individuals the skills and opportunities to be productive members of society. Buy a loaf of bread or a box of cookies (they ARE really good) or consider a donation to MUM.

Roger Seymour

Just Bakery will visit again January 15<sup>th</sup>.

We invite you to pray for peace on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, please repeat the following prayer:

God of new beginnings,  
you wipe away our tears  
and call us to care for one another.  
Give us eyes to see your gifts,  
hearts to embrace all creation,  
and hands to serve you every day of our lives.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### **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 January 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **Women's Book Club**

The Book Club will meet again January 31. The selected book for January is A Witness by Renee Splichal Larson. February's book is Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity by Adam Hamilton. Both books will be available in the church library. The Book Club meets at 10:00 a.m. in St. John's library and at 6:30 p.m. at the Blue Spoon in Prairie du Sac.

### **Adult Education Winter Schedule**

Jan 1 - No Class  
Jan 8 - Lifelong Stewardship  
Jan 15 - Legacy Giving  
Jan 22 - Studies in Matthew  
Jan 29 - Studies in Matthew  
Feb 5 - Studies in Matthew  
Feb 12-26 - Children & Grief  
Mar 5-19 - Shame

Wednesday night Text Study continues at 6pm. All are welcome!

## **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 **9:30am on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> with a focus on beloved hymns!** More information to come soon!

## **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.

 **THANK** *you!*

I have been overwhelmed with your generosity throughout the year, but especially at Christmas time. Thank you for all of the cards, gifts, and well wishes! You are precious to us.

Christ's Peace, Jeff, Sally and Molly Williams



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With Intern Halcyon has come a plethora of memories from my own seminary experience. The classes, essays, translations from Greek and Hebrew into English (my head may have spun a little!) so many things to learn and to experience. But there's one thing I always come back to. One thing I always give thanks for. And that's the gift of community.

My first year I lost my dad, my second year my best friend was diagnosed with cancer, my third year I switched my degree program, my fourth year I discovered my calling as a pastor, and my final year I received my synodical assignment and headed toward Sauk Prairie.

There was a lot going on in my life, but one thing that was consistent was my faith community. The support I received was endless. People rallied around me whether it was during my journey of grief or simply trying to figure out which language class I was in at the moment! My seminary community was a treasure, and it continues to be as our relationships span over county lines, states, and even countries.

You remind me a lot of that community. I see you attend funerals, give hugs, and share a dessert. I hear stories about how you gave someone a ride, made them a special present, or took extra time out of your schedule to help someone out. I feel your love and kindness when I watch the water well total climb higher than I ever could have imagined.

You, people of St. John's, are a treasure. *"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philipians 1:3*

I look forward another year of ministry together, serving God while serving one another.

Happy New Year!

Peace,

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

## **New Member Exploration**

Our exploration classes return in January. All who are interested in joining the church should plan on attending these four sessions on Sunday mornings:

January 15 – Membership & Stewardship (Location TBA)

January 22 – Adult Ed Class in Room 1

January 29 – Adult Ed Class in Room 1

February 5 – Reformation History & Church Structure (Location TBA)

These classes will meet at 9:15am. Location for January 15 and 29 will be emailed after the New Year. We will receive new members on Sunday, February 12 at the 8am worship service. Please see Pastor Williams with any questions.

## **Milestone Ministry: Baptism Anniversary**

All children of God who were baptized in 2016 are invited to take part in a special Baptism Anniversary celebration on Sunday, January 8 at either service. Please mark your calendars and invite your congregational sponsors to attend worship with you and your children that day. If you did not receive a letter or email with details for this day, please contact Pastor Sally Williams at 643-2439 or [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org) right away. We look forward to celebrating with you!

## **Words from the Intern**

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.” This verse from John, 1:5 is part of the Gospel for Christmas morning and has been at the forefront of my mind this past Advent season. This past summer I spent a week camping in Banff Canada enjoying the beauty of the Canadian Rockies. One night three friends and I stayed up late into the night around a campfire talking and laughing. Without the fire we wouldn't have been able to see each other in the darkness but we were drawn around the light of that campfire and the light from it shone on each of us. Later that night we piled into a car and drove away from any of the light of the campground to look at the stars. We stood shoulder to shoulder in the middle of the night staring at the sky full of stars with the Northern Lights dancing above us and the cold night was anything but dark. God did not design the night to be void of light. Instead all of the small lights of the stars made more than enough light for us to see where we were going and who we were with. God did not design this world to be void of light, instead the light of God's love makes it possible to see those around us and ourselves even when there is darkness. In the midst of the dark places of this world we can rest on the promise we find in John, “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall not overcome it.”

Peace,  
Intern Halcyon

### **St. John's Web Page**

Be sure to go online and look at our web page. See the changes at [stjohnssaukprairie.org](http://stjohnssaukprairie.org).

### **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.

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**

Dan Baun  
Susan Heide  
Tom Luetscher  
JoAn Preston  
Dale Haroldson  
Megan and Sylvie Miller

### **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:  
The friends and family members of Frieda Waldinger.

Noel, Gloria, Kyle, Keith, Janel McCormick on the death of Noel's brother, Bruce McCormick.

David and Lois Kaul, Eric and Karissa Kaul, Steven and Rachel Kaul, Matthew and Angela Kaul and their families on the death of David's father, Bob Kaul.

### **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.

## **Wanted: Mobile Meals Delivery Volunteers!**

St. John's has committed to meals delivery the weeks of January 23-27 and January 30-February 3. We need two volunteers every weekday. One should plan to drive his/her car on the route, and one should plan to "run" the meals to the houses. Meals are ready for pickup at the Sauk Prairie Hospital between 11:20 and 11:30 a.m. Total delivery time is usually one hour. Routing and delivery instructions are provided when you pick up the meals. This is a very rewarding volunteer experience.

If you are available to help, please add your name and phone number to the schedule on the kiosk.

## **Happy January Birthday!**

### **Our Youngest:**

Jarod Steinhorst (3)	Clare Kaderavek (12)
Isabelle Worzalla (13)	Cadence Schwartz (30)
Brielle Schell (31)	

### **Our Sunday School Students:**

Kaden Ballweg (2)	Colt Neubauer (5)
Caprina Keiser (6)	Jack Boerger (7)
Jackson Rasmussen (7)	Jordan Signorile (7)
Keira Breunig (10)	Lily Maier (11)
Zander Gieck (13)	Noelle Small (13)
Douglas Jolicoeur (15)	Maggie Hartman (16)
Emery Yanke (17)	Chesney Schonenberger (17)
Declan Ryan (23)	Vanessa Breunig (28)
Karley Blau (29)	Sophia Hanson (29)
Nicholas Keyser (31)	Andrew King (31)

### **Our Youth:**

Elisabeth Miller (7)	Carley Frosch (18)
Samuel Beattie (28)	

### **College and Career-age Young People:**

Jordan Foster (5)	Samantha Kreutzmann (5)
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## Serving in January

<b><u>Ushers:</u></b>	<b><u>8:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 a.m.</u></b>
January 1	Dan Baun	
January 8	Michael Endres	Quinn Baier
January 15	Larry Halweg Anna Ballweg	Chris Kepler
January 22	Michael Endres	Cora Dunnum
January 29	Dan Baun	Chris Kepler
<b><u>Acolytes:</u></b>	<b><u>8:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 a.m.</u></b>
January 1	Megan Small	Emily Cafilisch Gavin Tompkin
January 8	Lauren Wideen Drew Marshall	Kyle Dregney Max Sailor
January 15	Zach Guentherman Ava Roach	Colden Harter
January 22	Anna Ballweg Cora Dunnum	Ruby Sandeman Jordan Chao
January 29	Quinn Baier Ava Roach	Max Sailor Malea Niesen
<b><u>Readers:</u></b>	<b><u>8:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 a.m.</u></b>
January 1	Roxanne Small	Okla Yanke
January 8	Marilyn Herschleb	Tony DeGiovanni
January 15	Mary Halweg	Jama Graves
January 22	Linda Hines	Aaron/Annika Braund
January 29	Marilyn Straub	Donna Knickmeyer
<b><u>Cantors:</u></b>	<b><u>8:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 a.m.</u></b>
January 1	Bill Burton	Connie Burton
January 8	Senior Choir	Doris Lohr
January 15	Kids of Kingdom	Melani Wheeler
January 22	Chris Stephan	Cathy/Katie Yanke
January 29	Jan Baun	Megan/Jordan Small

\*\*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.**

January 1 Megan Small  
January 8 Roxanne Small  
January 15 Marilyn Herschleb  
January 22 Crystal Lautenbach  
January 29 Janis Baun

**10:30 a.m.**

Emily Cafilisch  
Doris Lohr  
Dede Egan  
Dan Baun  
Ginny Nimmow

**Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.**

January 1  
January 8 Jordan Small  
January 15  
January 22  
January 29

**10:30 a.m.**

Jordan Small

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

January 1 Dorothy Halverson  
January 8  
January 15 Linda Meyer and  
Patty Passehl  
January 22 Darlene Holl and  
Diane Williams  
January 29 Darlene Holl and  
Diane Williams

**10:30 a.m.**

Ginny Nimmow  
Leah Froehlich  
Deb and Gerry  
Westphal  
Cathy Yanke  
Sue Ann Schwanke

**Nursery Staff:**

January 8 Molly Ballweg  
Carley Frosch  
January 15 Molly Ballweg  
Ashley Pape  
January 22 Cole Douglas  
Drew Marshall  
January 29 Claire Thiede  
Dylan Andrews

**8:00 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

Grace Fauerbach  
Ruby Sandeman  
Zach Guentherman  
Claire Thiede  
Quinn Baier  
Kyle Dregney  
Cayden Wernsing  
Leah Froehlich

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

January 1 Pastor Sally  
January 8 Carley Frosch  
January 15 Scott Graves  
January 22 Samantha Johnson  
January 29 Ava Roach

**9:00 a.m.(Serve)**

Intern Halcyon  
Gavin Tompkin  
Scott Graves  
Linda Yanke  
Leanna Niesen

<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Jan 1 (Sanctuary)	Dick/Jan Dobrzynski	Dave/Dale Clason
(Front doors)	Ruth Dresser	Gil/Kathy Danz
(Side doors)	Darlene Holl	Caroline Morrow
Jan 8 (Sanctuary)	Bonnie/Denny Dederich	Dustin Hanson family
(Front doors)	Curt/Peggy Johnson	Kierre/Kim Fiske
(Side doors)	Bonie Kehl	Sally Degenhardt
Jan 15 (Sanctuary)	Samantha Johnson	Jacob Schweitzer
(Front doors)	Molly Ballweg	Scott Graves
(Side doors)	Ashley Pape	Leanna Niesen
Jan 22 (Sanctuary)	Donna/Doug Nelson	Jeff/Nicole Sandberg
(Front doors)	Kristin/Darin Pape	Tom/Cheryl Schneller
(Side doors)	Anne Klinkner	Dan Baun
Jan 29 (Sanctuary)	Gina/Todd Wyttenbach	Cathy/Herb Yanke
(Front doors)	Rich/Jane Calenzo	Diane/Wolfgang Reich
(Side doors)	Jeannine Robertson	Candy Buckles

## **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.



## **Offering Envelopes**

The offering envelopes for 2017 are on the tables in the gathering area. 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.

## **Baby Congratulations**

Megan and Lucas Miller welcomed a daughter, Sylvie Virginia, on December 19. She weighed 7 pounds and 7 ounces. She is welcomed home by sister, Coraline and grandparents Josie and Bob Fentress, and Jeff and Nancy Miller.

We conferred the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on the following children during December.

Elsie Marie Kinney, daughter of Jon and Wendy Kinney. Elsie's sponsors are Mark and Brooke Kinney. Paige Ederer is her congregational sponsor.

Allie Ann Lochner, daughter of Tom and Leslie Lochner. Allie's sponsors are Rod Schumacher and Sarah Lochner Thompson. Donna Knickmeyer is her congregational sponsor.

## **Thanks**

Thank you for the care package! College is going well.  
With appreciation, Brooke Herschleb

## **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

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
December 4	76	\$267.00
December 11	28	\$20.00 (snowstorm)
December 18	Sunday School cancelled (bitter cold)	
December 25	Christmas Day (no classes)	

### **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 4 months into our Sunday School year and we have \$2,512.56 with the help of some very generous people from our congregation. We have a VERY KIND family that will match our funds up to \$2,500. We have 2 wells! We will continue to collect money until the end of May, 2017. Maybe we can send enough for 3 wells! Thank you for your interest and support of this very worthwhile project.

### **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.

## **Middle and High School News**

### **Upcoming Events**

January 4 – Confirmation Mentor Night, guest speaker Travis Hilliard  
 January 22 – Kalahari Trip 12:30-5:30pm

February 5 -- Noisy Offering Sunday for World Hunger and Malaria

### **Kalahari Indoor Waterpark Trip!**

Open to grades 6-12. Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12:30 pm-5:30pm. Please arrive at St. John's by 12:15 for on time departure. We will return by 5:30pm. The cost is \$30/person which includes, water park ticket, slice of pizza & soda, and transportation. Kids should bring a towel and extra spending money if they wish. Lockers will not be needed as we will staff a few tables where bags can be left. As always, friends who are not members of St. John's are welcome to come. Please see Pastor Fred or Pastor Sally if the cost of the trip may prohibit your child from attending. We always have full scholarships available for youth activities. This was a VERY popular trip last year. To ensure your child's spot on the bus please have them sign-up on the Youth Activity Board ASAP. Payment should be made on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Make checks out to St. John's.

### **Red Barnyard Banks and Pigs**

The annual fundraiser for world hunger and malaria will be on Noisy Offering Sunday, February 5th this year. Beginning in early January, the Youth Board again invites the entire congregation to take a Barnyard Bank and begin collecting their loose change to be donated. We will collect the barns and pigs, along with the Noisy Offering, during both services on February 5th.

### **Come to the Castle**

On February 10 we will have the opportunity to go to Wartburg Seminary for a "Come to the Castle" event. A carpool leaves from St. John's at 7:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to a day of learning. Email or speak with Pastor Fred about the topic of the day. The Castle is a grand place to see.

## **Thanks**

We wish to thank the people of St. John's for your recent donation to Hope House. Your contribution of \$200 will provide services and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. As the Christmas season of candles and bright lights arrives, we strive to cheer the lives of our clients by offering them hope—Hope House. Thank you for your generosity!

Siobhan Allen, Admin/Resource Development Manager

## Thank you

Thank you so much for always remembering Sauk Prairie students! I can't tell you how much we appreciate your gifts for the families of Sauk Prairie.

Susan Baumann-Duren, Sauk Prairie ATOD Program  
*(St. John's made donations of coats, hats, gloves, and warm socks.)*

## 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.

I truly appreciate the kind words and thoughtful gifts that I have received during this Christmas season and throughout the year. Thank you all!

Linda Hines

# THANK YOU

Because of your generous giving and sharing of your time, St. John's was able to contribute \$3, 530.48 to the Salvation Army! We thank the bell ringing volunteers who can out in the questionable weather December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>:

Lon Kaderavek  
Fred Rilling  
Dan and Janis Baun  
Dave Parker  
Diane and Brian Williams  
Norma Newman  
Kathy Lovell  
Jeff Ballweg  
Cathy Yanke  
Jim Boerger family  
Angie Updike  
Connie Holl  
Dena Cass  
Deb Corrao  
Cassie Louis  
Sarah Jorgenson  
Kelly Breunig  
Miranda Jager  
Ben Schreiber  
Anne Klinkner  
Jeff Sandberg family  
Ben and Beth Levers  
Jane Fazio

Roger Clason  
Gina Wyttenbach  
Kris Frey  
Diane Elsing  
Alice Chenoweth  
Rodney and Marsha Key  
Shirley Orr  
John and Patty Schmidt  
Tom and Gina Varley  
Melani and Mikayla Wheeler  
Roxanne and Noelle Small  
Mike Wernsing  
Tracy Desso  
Myla and Allisson Steinmetz  
Brenda and Fred Schweitzer  
Tom Olmstead  
Paul and Ann Kippley  
Jeff Ochsankehl  
Kali Schroeder  
Jessica Suchla  
Alexi Suchla  
Char Kepler  
Mark Fazio

Thanks

Thank you for your donations to Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter. The shower curtain, toilet paper, gift cards, cleaning supplies, baby quilts and household supplies are very helpful. Thank you for partnering with us to help those less fortunate in our community.

Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter Staff and Residents

### **Dedication of Memorial Gifts**

On Sunday, December 11, we dedicated the following memorial gifts:

Lenten Devotional Booklets	Kitchen Cabinet materials
Activity pads, puzzles	Game Table, Paddles
Patterns, Cricut Cartridges	Altar Banner Stand
Quilting fabrics	Bibles – 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders, 3 year olds
Braille Hymnal	Silverware, Kitchen supplies
Sunday School tables	Library books
Health Ministries for Haiti donation	
125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration food, tokens, flowers	

St. John's is very grateful to the many friends and family members who have given memorial gifts to our church. The items listed above were given in memory of the following loved ones:

John Morrow	Bonnie Merlet
Carol Pickard	Jean Yanke
Donna Sprecher	Ashton Brunner
Helen King	Ben Becker
Chuck Holl	Bill Knickmeyer
Ivan Groth	Jim Key
Eleanor Gess	Ursula Westre
Martha Nelson	Violet Pfaff

 **THANK** *you!*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and guests of Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter, I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to your congregation for your support of Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter with your recent generous gift of \$385.00.

Thank you for caring for the families who seek our services by reaching out in love. God bless each of you.

Sincerely,  
Bunny Frank, Board Member  
Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter  
Reedsburg, WI

*(St. John's WELCA made this donation from their offerings)*

## **The Twelve Days of Christmas**

The Twelve Days of Christmas celebrates the Nativity of Jesus and runs from December 25 through January 5, as Christmas Day is considered the "First Day of Christmas." The following is the Christian version of the song's symbols, rumored to have been taught to children to help them remember the teachings of the church.

- 1 partridge in a pear tree = [Jesus Christ](#), the Son of God
- 2 turtledoves = the Old and New Testaments
- 3 French hens = the [theological virtues](#) of faith, hope, and charity
- 4 calling birds = the four gospels and/or the four evangelists ([Matthew](#), [Mark](#), [Luke](#), and [John](#))
- 5 golden rings = the first five books of the Old Testament
- 6 geese a-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 swans a-swimming = the seven [gifts of the Holy Spirit](#) (prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy)
- 8 maids a-milking = the [Eight Beatitudes](#)

9 ladies dancing = the nine [fruits of the Holy Spirit](#) (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control)

10 lords a-leaping = the [Ten Commandments](#)

11 pipers piping = the 11 faithful disciples (minus Judas, who betrayed Christ)

12 drummers drumming = the 12 points of doctrine in the [Apostles' Creed](#)

The “Twelvetide” season runs us right up to Epiphany, January 6, when we celebrate the coming of the Wisemen.