



FROM SIN
AND SORROW
SET US FREE

Anna Francour, 6th Grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

March 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Lent is here and this year's Lenten theme is, 'Scripture's Impact: Bible Stories and How They Shape Us.' As I said last month, this year we will reflect on scripture and how it has molded us into the people we are today.

Each Wednesday Pastor Sally, Intern Halcyon or I will preach on a text that has had an impact on our lives. Here is the list of texts:

- March 8 – Jeremiah 1:4-10
- March 15 – Colossians 3: 7-17
- March 22 – Psalm 139: 1-18
- March 29 – Psalm 136: 1-9
- April 5 – Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39

During Lent I ask that you also share a favorite scripture lesson and why it means so much to you. If you send them to me I will take that as your permission to also share these scriptures and your thoughts through our webpage and Facebook page. Such sharing will give others insight into scripture because as you tell of

the impact of this text on your life, they will see with new eyes texts which they may have read but have never seen from that perspective. This 'corporate' Bible study will be a gift to us all!

As you know, Lutherans have a high respect for scripture. This is one of the reasons we ask our pastors to spend four years in seminary, wrestling with its context, literary forms, original languages and theological views. Your insight is important and is part of a larger Biblical conversation that continues to seek meaning from God's Word.

If you have already sent me your Biblical text and a few lines about why these verses are important to you, thanks! If you have not done so yet, I invite you to do so.

As we enter the Lenten season I also invite you to participate in our worship services; Wednesdays, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are all at 1 and 6:30pm. Easter services are at 6:30, 8:00 and 10:30am. Here are the dates:

- March 1, Ash Wednesday (Ecumenical Service)
- March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5. These services will last 25-30 minutes
- April 13, Maundy Thursday
- April 14, Good Friday (Ecumenical Service)
- April 16, Easter

Please join us as we journey through Lent to story of Easter.

Shalom,

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

Sunday Stewards

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

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 March 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:

Spaghetti Sauce	Spaghetti
Tuna	Macaroni and Cheese
Peanut Butter	Canned Tomatoes

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 March. The date is in parentheses.

Marvin Beuthin (17)
624 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Janice Zins (21)
232 Spruce Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Betty Page (24)
930 Prairie St., Apt. 209
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Lillian Zick (26)
200 Webster Ave., Apt. 13
Sauk City, WI 53583

Eleanor Ferry (29)
1050 Prairie St., #14
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Women of the Church News

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

Lydia Circle: Thursday, March 9, 1:00 p.m. at Dorothy Halverson's, 9456 County Road Y, Sauk City

Martha Circle: Thursday, March 2, 9:00 a.m. at St. John's Library, Sandra Frey, hostess

Mary/Sarah Circles: Tuesday, March 7, 1:30 p.m. at The Pines, 1050 Prairie Street, Prairie du Sac

Ruth Circle: Monday, March 13, 9:00 a.m. at Carolyn Gilbertson's, W14410 Vista View Court, Prairie du Sac



In February, 34 Circle members attended meetings with Anne Klinkner, Fay Rentmeester, Marge Erlandson, Kathy Lester and Carolyn Gilbertson leading the Bible Study Galatians: "Children of God Through Faith." In March, the Study will be led by Anne Klinkner, Fay Rentmeester, Marge Erlandson, Jeannine Robertson, Eunice Yanke and Loretta Landerman.

The Mother/Daughter Banquet, "A Bouquet of Blessings", will be held on Saturday, April 29 at 11:30 a.m. Mark your calendars and let your mothers, daughters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, grandmothers and great-grandmothers, in-laws, aunts and nieces know NOW. It will be a very special occasion of fellowship, food and entertainment. Feel free to wear your finest hats and springy favorites to add to our bouquet. We will offer group photos also. Tickets will be on sale beginning in March between services. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

\$100 was given to Maplewood honoring our deceased members. This donation will be used by the Activity Department.

Baraboo Conference Meeting will be held April 22nd at Bonnet Prairie Church of Rio.

Read this month's Prayer for Peace found in this Visitor on March 20th.

Remember.....if you're interested in going to Minneapolis for the Tenth Triennial Gathering, July 13-16, you should register soon. To learn more go to www.welctg.org. Join this summer's Bible Study author, Kelly Fryer, as she leads a discussion around the gathering theme "All Anew". There will also be opportunities to hear from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Gather Authors Catherine Malotky, Vince Williams and Mark Alan Powell and gathering artist-in-residence, Vonda Drees.

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

Lydia Circle will visit during April and May, Ruth Circle will visit during June and July, with Sarah Circle visiting in August and September.

Women's Book Club

March's book is A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park. This book is available in the church library. We will meet at 10am in the church library and 6:30pm at the Blue Spoon on Tuesday, March 28. This is an especially timely book as it relates to the Sunday School children's water well project!

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, March 16th with a focus on communion. We will even do a little baking! Look for more details in upcoming bulletins!

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. We are allowed to send three adults and one youth as our voting members. Nominees are; Jama Graves, Jon Sandeman, Kris Rilling and youth representative, Cora Dunnum.

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 Cops for Kids program.

Pray in Color

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

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

Father in Heaven,
the light of your truth bestows sight
to the darkness of sinful eyes.
May this season of repentance
bring us the blessing of Your forgiveness
and the gift of Your light.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Adult Education Winter Schedule

March 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 5:30pm – NOTE NEW TIME during Lent.

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

Simple Soup Lunch

The Fellowship Board will serve a Simple Soup Lunch on Sunday, March 12th, at 11:45 a.m. Everyone is invited! Just bring your appetites and enjoy!

First Communion Instruction

A First Communion class will be held on Thursday, March 9th from 6-7pm. If you would like to explore the possibilities of first communion for your children, no matter what their age, please sign up by calling the church office. A parent must attend with their child. Taking the class does not obligate anyone to begin communing nor is it a requirement for communion. The class is simply a time to explore what this gift of God might mean for you. Children are welcome to start communing at any time, but we will have a special First Communion Sunday in April (date TBD) so the congregation can honor your children in this important milestone! See the pastors with any questions and to sign up.

Attention Fiber Artists

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

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

New Members Welcomed

On Sunday, February 12 we welcomed 29 brothers and sisters in Christ into our St. John's family. Please continue to welcome and introduce yourself to these new members:

Paul Kippley	Ann Kippley
Patti Kippley	Bill Klinkner
Paul Pingrey	Karen Atz
Judy Tobias	Tom Michaels
Barb Trudell	Randy Trudell
Patti Cook	Randy Cook
Valerie Ley	George Urban
Jennifer Urban	Wyatt Urban
Chase Urban	Austin Urban
Wesley Oye	Jackie Howery
Chad Naggs	Melissa Naggs
Olivia Naggs	Emma Naggs
Jim Dregney	Sara Dregney
Kyle Dregney	Jay Dregney
Amber Dregney	

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.

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!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“While I know myself as a creation of God, I am also obligated to realize and remember that everyone else and everything else are also God’s creation.” Maya Angelou

What wisdom, Ms. Angelou. What incredible wisdom. And fact. We live in a very challenging time. We live in a very competitive society. We are sinful. We are broken. And what do we do when we ourselves are sinful and we are feeling broken and fearful?

We judge. We judge everything. People, institutions, programs, rules, and the list goes on. While we all have the right to ask questions and to respectfully challenge one another, we cannot do this without remembering “that everyone else is also God’s creation.”

We can disagree. And we do disagree. But we never get to claim God’s love for ourselves without knowing that our same God gives that same love to all of God’s creation.

Let’s make a pact, St. John’s. Let’s continue to be the welcoming place that we are. Let’s continue to be in community with one another despite our faults and our disagreements, as we already do. Let’s make a pact that we will practice respect and forgiveness (sometimes giving, sometimes receiving) more than we will practice judgment.

I share with you an excerpt from my latest Pastor’s Pen article:

Please remember that human relationships and communities are tricky. Forgiveness is indeed very tricky. It’s sometimes humbling. It’s sometimes messy. It’s definitely difficult for most of us. So be gentle with yourself, be gentle with others. But even more, remember that the ultimate forgiveness has already been won by Jesus Christ on the cross. And THAT forgiveness is the one that will...carry you and your neighbor, strengthen you and your neighbor, and guide you and your neighbor throughout the journey.

In Christ’s Peace,

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

Dear Family and Friends of St. John's,

This year I have been gifted with the opportunity to preach on Ash Wednesday. The anticipation of this service has me thinking ahead to Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent that will follow. As I ponder the meaning of Ash Wednesday and the ecumenical service we will participate in here at St. John's, I am amazed again at the powerful image of a cross made out of ashes on the foreheads of God's beloved children. This sign of life and death all wrapped into one is both a serious reminder of our lives being fleeting and at the same time a beautiful declaration that death is not the end. The cross, even when it is placed on your forehead with ashes, is still a promise of life. This sign of the cross, the same one placed on your forehead during your baptism, is a sign that in life and in death your identity in Christ does not change. The promise of God's love stretches beyond denominations and boundaries. Every time we try to put a border around God's love we will find God on the other side naming people as valuable and worthy of love. You have not earned this promise of life and nothing you can do will remove God's promise marked on your forehead. This is the great promise that we find in the baptismal waters, at the Lord's Supper, and in the reminder of ashes. Beloved child of God, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the Cross of Christ forever, in life and in death. Praise be to God.

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.

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

Ruth Dresser
Tom Michaels
Susan Heide

With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Jim and Fay Neumaier, on the death of Jim's mother Norma Neumaier

Sue Ann Schwanke and TJ Ballweg, Jean Knuth and LaVonne Knuth, on the death of sister-in-law and niece, Debra Schwanke

Dan, Roxanne Small and daughters, on the death of Dan's uncle, Gene Kluender

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

Happy March Birthday!

Our Youngest

Maxximus Ederer (8) Cataleya Lane (11)
Adeline Newman (13) Ethan Gilchrist (19)
Micah Bennett (19)

Our Sunday School Students:

Ben Levers (3) Ella Carthew (9)
Ethan Desso (9) Sean Jager (10)
Samson Begalske (11) Jozie Braund (12)
Preston Ott (12) JJ Wolfe (13)
Campbell Kelter (15) Ethan Kolnik (15)
Olivia Naggs (17) Lillian Ott (17)
Bryce Ballweg (18) Cole Helgerson (19)
Joe Frosch (21) Eliot Carlson (22)
Jude Thompson (24) Ethan Duren (26)
Kyle Cass (27) Whitney Maier (28)
Kendra Frey (29) Simi Bever (30)

Our Youth:

Signe Begalske (1) Christian Chrisler (4)
Drew Marshall (11) Alex Kinnamon (13)
Sawyer Ladd (13) Kyle King (14)
Jacob Vieth (14) Sara Bradley (17)
Bailey Herschleb (25) Kayla Wernsing (27)
Tekla Nimmow (29)

College and Career-age Young People:

Kaitlynn Pulvermacher (1) Alex Statz (11)
Skylar Richards (17) Erin Breunig (23)
Ivan Lohr (23) Jacob Treinen (26)
Beth Yanke (27) Tessa Pierce (28)

Serving in March

Ushers:

March 5

8:00 a.m.

Lon Kaderavek
Sherrie Nurkala
Paul Nurkala
Samantha Johnson

10:30 a.m.

Leanna Niesen

March 12

Lon Kaderavek
Jerry Kaufman
Aaron Braund
Michael Endres

Grace Fauerbach

March 19

Lon Kaderavek
Jerry Kaufman
Rob Richard
Kalyn Schmit

Chris Kepler

March 26

Doug Nelson
Donna Nelson
Tarren Nimmow

Leanna Niesen

Acolytes:

March 5

8:00 a.m.

Chris Kepler

10:30 a.m.

Max Sailor
Aimee Maasch

March 12

Ashley Pape

Max Sailor
Claire Thiede

March 19

Emma Kinnamon
Cora Dunnum

Zach Guentherman
Kyle Dregney

March 26

Malea Niesen

Readers:

March 5

8:00 a.m.

Megan Small

10:30 a.m.

Malea Niesen

March 12

Mary Halweg

Dale Clason

March 19

John Hines

Jon Sandeman

March 22

Marilyn Herschleb

Dale Clason

Cantors:

March 5

8:00 a.m.

Bill Burton

10:30 a.m.

Deb Lohr-Foster

March 12

Senior Choir

Senior Choir

March 19

Kids of the Kingdom

Ruellene Seymour

March 26

Dennis Fisher

Cathy, Katie Yanke

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

March 5	Jayne Carlson
March 12	Roger Clason
March 19	Linda Hines
March 26	Marilyn Herschleb

10:30 a.m.

Aimee Maasch
Jackie Howery
Janis Baun
Dale Clason

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

March 5	Kathi Risley
March 12	Bev Clason
March 19	Jordan Small
March 26	Megan Small

10:30 a.m.

Kathi Risley
Bev Clason
Jordan Small
Megan Small

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

March 5	Jayne Carlson
March 12	
March 19	Butch and Nancy Passehl
March 26	Rich and Jane Calenzo

10:30 a.m.

Deb Lohr-Foster
Leah Froehlich
Deb and Gerry Westphal
Connie Burton

Nursery Staff:

March 5	Molly Ballweg Jordan Chao
March 12	Grace Fauerbach Megan Small
March 19	Zach Guentherman Molly Ballweg
March 26	Lauren Wideen

10:30 a.m.

Jacob Schweitzer
Gavin Tompkin
Lauren Wideen
Cora Dunnum
Cora Dunnum
Ruby Sandeman
Ella Schad
Ruby Sandeman

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

March 5	Ashley Pape
March 12	Kinnamon family
March 19	
March 26	

9:00 a.m.(Serve)

Molly Ballweg
Kinnamon family
Ella Schad

Congregational Attendance

February 5	322	\$7,140.24
February 12	256	\$4,321.25
February 19	262	\$4,074.50

<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Feb 5 (Sanctuary)	Donna Knickmeyer	Ed/Ginny Nimmow
(Front doors)	Eunice Yanke	John/Aletha Ballweg
(Side doors)	Dave Clason	Sally/Jake Degenhardt
Feb 12 (Sanctuary)	Dan/Janis Baun	Curt/Peggy Johnson
(Front doors)	Cliff/Cindy Thompson	
(Side doors)	Rodney/Marsha Key	Jim Merlet
Feb 19 (Sanctuary)	Alex Kinnamon	Leanna Niesen
(Front doors)	Evan Carlson	Leah Froehlich
(Side doors)	Molly Ballweg	Jacob Schweitzer
Feb 26 (Sanctuary)	Josie Fentress	Gil/Kathy Danz
(Front doors)	Jeannine Robertson	Bonnie/Dennie Dederich
(Side doors)	Fay Rentmeester	Jackie Frosch

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

Thank You!

Reedsburg UMC Women send a Big Thank You for saving your grocery bags for them. They process the bags into plarn and crochet them into mats which are given to the homeless in Madison. They are delivered to the Porchlight program. Some of the mats are shared with Bethel Lutheran Church, who also work with the homeless. Since last fall about 30 mats have been delivered. The mats help place a barrier between the ground and a person's blankets, help them stay dry and provide some cushion from hard surfaces.

Thank you again for your contributions.

Marilyn Sprecher, the bag pick-up person

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, March 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.

Notes from the Director of Music

The Hymns We Sing

Congregational hymn singing during worship was encouraged by Martin Luther. “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” is a well-known hymn entirely composed by him. In our Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal, nineteen hymns have either Luther’s words (often set to German hymnal tunes), Luther’s music, or both.

The ELW hymnal was published in 2006, and contains settings for worship and also hymns which span centuries! Hymn singing is an element during worship that allows the congregation to lift its own voice in praise of the triune God. Voices joined in song inspire both singers and listeners.

As a liturgical church, we involve the worshippers. “Liturgy” means “the work of the people.” The melodies and words we raise in any given week are meant to expand upon ideas and themes in scripture. The hymns we sing at St. John’s are chosen by the person who will preach that Sunday. The preacher knows which hymn texts will best support or reiterate the sermon focus. The hymn after the sermon (called the hymn of the day) helps underscore the emphasis of the Gospel reading for the day.

Likewise, as the director of music, I choose choir anthems, prelude and postlude music, etc. that undergirds or adds to the theme of that Sunday. My choices may also focus on sermon ideas or on the season of the church year.

Listen carefully to the words you hear in hymns and choir music to see if you are able to make the connections to the scripture lessons for the Sunday or season of the church year.

Connie Burton

Learning Opportunity

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

If you have any questions, please call Nancy Kaufman 963-0151, Stewardship Chair.

BOUQUETS OF BLESSINGS

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

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 Schmidt, Mary Weeks

Sunday School News

Important Sunday School Dates to Remember

Sunday School families, please remember there is no Sunday School on March 26th. Our last day of Sunday School will be May 21st.

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
January 29	79	\$ 9.00
February 5	81	\$26.00
February 12	65	\$30.50
February 19	68	\$21.00

Sunday School Water Well Project

This year our Sunday School offering is going to a really great cause—the water crisis. More than 768 million people do not have access to clean water! Our goal was to raise enough money to buy a fresh water well for a village. The cost of such a well is \$2,500. We have \$8,500.68 because of the generosity of our congregation. We will continue to collect money until the end of May 2017. We have enough for 3 wells already! Perhaps we might get to 4?

Vacation Bible School

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

March 1st – Ash Wednesday – Confirmation runs until 7:30pm
March 8th – Fun Night
March 15 – Confirmation Mentor Night
March 29 – No Confirmation
April 12th - No Confirmation
May 3rd - Worship Service and Potluck
Last Day of Confirmation
Affirmation of Baptism Practice
May 10th – 6th Grade Confirmation Orientation – 6pm
May 7th – Affirmation of Baptism – 10:30 service
May 21st – Senior Recognition – 10:30 service

Confirmation Lenten Schedule

Students are expected to attend class and worship each week throughout Lent. Meals will continue to be provided at 5:20 for students and families, except for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The schedule is as follows:

March 1st – ASH WEDNESDAY, Class 6-6:30, Worship 6:30-7:30
March 8th – Class and Worship, 6pm
March 15th – Class and Worship, 6pm (Mentor Night)
March 22nd – Class and Worship, 6pm
March 29th – NO CLASS
April 5th – Class and Worship, 6pm (Mentor Night)
April 12th – NO CLASS
April 13th – Attend Maundy Thursday Worship 1pm or 6:30pm
April 14th – Attend Good Friday Worship, 1pm or 6:30pm
**Families are strongly encouraged to attend Wednesday Lenten services at 6:30pm with your confirmation students.

Summer Camp

Summer may seem very far away, but Bible camps are getting ready for your children's registrations. If you get your registrations in early (February/early March), you are likely to get the week you want. Wait too long (late March/April) – and you may have a child who wants to go but no week available for them to go. So register early!

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

Come to the Castle

Wartburg Theological Seminary will be hosting its next Come to the Castle event on Friday, March 31st from 7am to 4pm. All are invited to this on campus event to learn from two of Wartburg's faculty members. Anyone interested in attending or anyone with questions should contact Intern Halcyon for more information.

Red Barnyard Banks and Pigs

St. John's annual fundraiser for the ELCA's World Hunger program was able to collect \$1,650.68 through our Noisy Offering and the barnyard banks donations. The Sunday School Bake Sale collected \$930.05 for their water well project. We thank you for your generosity.

Palm Sunday Breakfast Help

The Fellowship Board will be serving their annual Palm Sunday Breakfast on April 9th and needs volunteers to help in the kitchen on the morning of the breakfast and help setting up and doing prep work on Saturday, April 8th. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the kiosk to let them know if you can help.

Synod Assembly

Our Synod's Assembly is April 29 and 30. This is when we send out Hospice Kits and Newborn Kits for Global Health Ministry. St. John's would like to send 100 kits of each Hospice and Newborn.

We need help from the congregation to collect the items needed for each kit.

Hospice Kits include:

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

Newborn Kits include:

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

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

A Remembrance Event

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

Maplewood, Home Health United & Hooverson to offer Memorial Service

Sauk Prairie, Wisconsin – Maplewood Health & Rehabilitation Center, Home Health United & Hooverson Funeral Home invite you and your loved ones to a Service of Remembrance honoring those who have died during the past year. Memorials and rituals often speak to our own wounded hearts and minds at a level beyond words, and therefore, have a special quality of healing.

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

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

AARP Safe Driving Class held at Maplewood -

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

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

Many insurance companies offer discounts if their senior clients participate in a safe driving class. Ask yours if you will qualify for the discount.

Favorite Bible Texts

During Lent we have invited every member of our congregation to submit a favorite Bible text and a few lines about why they find it helpful/meaningful. You will see these texts printed on our web page, Facebook page and in our Visitor. Due to the number of responses, we are spreading these out over the next few months. We hope you find them helpful and encouraging.

From Connie Burton One of my favorite verses is Luke 18:16. "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

I find great comfort in this passage because sometimes as an adult, it is easy to become cynical and/or doubtful, even about our faith. Questioning is good, too, but Jesus is encouraging me in this passage to trust in him and in God with the openness of a child's heart...to feel safe in the knowledge and presence of God's love made known in Jesus.

From Linda Lintl: Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6:34)

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't have to be reminded of this. Without God's love and strength in my life it would truly be a dark place. Christ.....the light of the world.

From Ruth Lohr "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5) and "Do not worry about anything: instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done." (Philippians 4:6). I depend on both of these verses in my life very often because when/if I find that I'm scared or afraid of something, I find that if I mentally "cover" myself with the understanding that God is always with me, those feelings/thoughts immediately go away and I can then easily (really!!) deal with whatever it is that was worrying or scaring me.

From John Schmidt I am choosing John 20:24-25, the text concerning St. Thomas (the doubting one) not because it is my favorite but because it is the one that resonates the most with me. I always looked at this story as a leap of faith in something you cannot

envision. I have a tendency to look at the glass that is half empty more often than I should. Having our first grandchild born severely special needs rocked my faith to the core. I credit a strong Christian upbringing with keeping my faith together when times were the toughest. It is a work in progress...

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.

