



Hannah Stephan, Fourth Grade

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Prairie du Sac, WI

May 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am reading a book entitled, "Shift: Three Big Moves for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church" by Mark Tidsworth. He is the main speaker for the synod assembly on April 29-30. The three moves he suggests congregations look at making are: Member Identity to Disciple Identity, Attractional Church to Missional Church and Consumer Church to Sacred Partnering.

In his book he describes how congregations have been affected by the culture of consumerism, that of purchasing goods and services. He suggests that this relationship between consumers and goods/services leads congregations to focus on trying to attract people 'shopping for a church' who wish to become 'members' of a particular congregation. This focus on attraction, he suggests, is a misuse of our calling and leads us to misspend our energy.

He also challenges the notion of language and suggests that the term 'member' leads to the idea of 'I give to get.' He offers up the term 'partner' in its place, suggesting an identity that says 'I get to give.'

Identity is such a powerful aspect of our lives. Because of this it needs to be considered carefully because the ramifications of 'false identity' are far reaching. In Jeremiah 1: 7, we hear God say to

Jeremiah, 'Do not say I am only a youth.' In this text God defines Jeremiah, not by his age, but rather by the work that God has in store for this youth.

How we speak of ourselves is important. It shapes us and molds us in significant ways. Words have the power to free or bind, to enliven or kill, to produce growth or foster stagnation.

Tidsworth challenges us to look at how congregations have operated in the past and asks what we might need to do differently in the present.

As I think about his words, I am grateful that while we might call ourselves member, partner or something else, the only name that means anything in the end, is the name we are called in our baptism; child of God.

May we continue to work on what it means to be God's child and how that name defines us.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

### **Synod Assembly**

Roughly 400 plus members of 145 congregations of this synod gathered on April 29-30, including St. John's voting members; Jama Graves, Jon Sandeman, Kris Rilling, Cora Dunnum, Pastors Fred and Sally, along with Intern Halcyon, who went as a visitor. Please thank your voting members for serving on your behalf and look for more information on what happened at the Assembly in the June Visitor.

### **Retirement Open House**

An Open House in honor of Dr. Tony DeGiovanni's retirement will take place on Sunday, May 7 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Sauk Prairie Hospital, 260 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Prairie du Sac. This celebration of Dr. DeGiovanni's 40 year career as a surgeon will be held at the hospital café and patio. In lieu of gifts, Tony and Marian suggest that you make a gift in his honor to Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation.

## 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: currently open

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 May 14th. 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:

Cereal	Brownie mixes
Mac and Cheese	Peanut Butter
Pudding Cups	Applesauce

Keep this list handy as you do your grocery shopping during the next few weeks.

*Many parishioners find it easier to bring the items to the gathering area of the church at other times during the month. We appreciate the donations at any time.*

### **Birthday Greetings**

We hope you take a moment to send greetings to the following people who have birthdays in May. The date is in parentheses.

Liz Groth (3)  
S7849 State Hwy. 78  
Merrimac, WI 53561

Hazel Graf (4)  
Maplewood Village  
1425 Hemlock St.  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Vera Musolf (17)  
6702 State Hwy. 47  
Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539

Cherry Roach (19)  
Pine Villa  
950 Prairie Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Julie Allen (21)  
8048 Lueth Road  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Denise Baars (21)  
400 Washington St., Apt. 115  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Lila Laufenberg (24)  
Maplewood of Sauk Prairie  
245 Sycamore Street  
Sauk City, WI 53583

## Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Tuesday, May 2, 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, childcare provided

Lydia Circle: Thursday, May 11, 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, Carol Benson, hostess

Martha Circle: Thursday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. at Ruth Dresser's, 1911 Eagle View Court, Prairie du Sac

Mary/Sarah Circles: Tuesday, May 2, 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Library

Ruth Circle: Monday, May 8, 9:00 a.m. at Jan Hartleben, 30 Winnie Avenue, Prairie du Sac



38 ladies attended Circle meetings in April, with Anne Klinkner, Fay Rentmeester, Barb Salveson, Kathy Lester and Carolyn Gilbertson leading the Bible Study: Galatians; Christian Growth and Christian Freedom: "For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free". In May, the Study will be led by Anne Klinkner, Fay Rentmeester, Mary Weeks, Kathy Lester and Marian DeGiovanni.

SPECIAL NOTE: To our surprise, there is no regular Bible Study in the May issue of the Gathering. Instead, on pages 23-29, there are some Faith Stories that we can all read and discuss.

Eunice Yanke, Ruth Dresser, Michelle Kraemer and Nancy Passehl attended the WELCA Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bonnet Prairie Church in Rio. The program was on the Wisconsin Bookworm, which provides books to Head Start students and reading to young children. The program also included the Project Lifesaver Program, which utilizes locator bracelets for memory impaired adults. There will be more on this in the June Visitor.

Lydia Circle is visiting Special Friends during April and May. Ruth Circle will visit them in June/July and Sarah Circle visits during August/September.

Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis is July 13-16, 2017. For information email Sue Buetzer, [buetzerhillfarm@wekz.net](mailto:buetzerhillfarm@wekz.net). Deadline to register is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

SAVE THE DATE: The 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization will be on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at Good Shepherd, Verona Campus.

*Thank You*

The Fellowship Board says a big THANK YOU to Lon Kaderavek for installing our new coffee maker. Also, thank you to the Memorial Committee for providing the funds for this purchase.

## **Geranium Sale**

Karen Bader will be in the gathering area between service on May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup> to sell red geraniums to decorate the church on Pentecost, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Flowers may be given in honor or in memory of loved ones. The cost is \$5 each and the flowers will be planted on the church grounds after the day of Pentecost. Donors names will be included in the bulletin on Pentecost.

## **SPECIAL PRAYER**

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

Breathe love into lives ruled by fear.  
Soften hearts that are hardened by pride.  
Whisper gently to those bound by chains.  
Sow peace where conflict divides.

## **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, May 18<sup>th</sup> we will welcome Kris Rilling with Agrace Hospice to share information about hospice care.

## **Women's Book Club**

May's book is actually a book from the Bible! We will read the book of Ruth from the Old Testament. If you don't have a personal bible at home, the church has many copies to spare. Please let one of the pastors know if you need one. We will meet at 10am in the church library and 6:30pm at the Blue Spoon on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Sunday Adult Education Spring Schedule**

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

May 21 – Adult Education Brainstorming Session. Please come for this conversation about what you want to learn in Adult Ed, how you want to do it, and when this summer!

May 28 – Memorial Day Weekend – No Class

## **Wednesday Night Text Study**

We will meet at 6pm on Wednesdays in May in Room 1 to study the upcoming Gospel lesson for the following Sunday. Just a reminder that the 5:20pm meal is no longer offered as the confirmation year has come to an end. Feel free to bring your own supper along!

## **Pray in Color**

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

## **New Member Exploration**

Every year we are delighted to welcome new members to our congregation. As part of our new member process, we feel it is important that our new members (as well as our current members) have the opportunity to learn more about our history as the Lutheran Church, how it is structured, and what it means to be stewards and members of God's Church as well as of St. John's.

Please plan on attending our Wednesday evening sessions on June 7, 14, and 21 at 6pm.

The official New Member Installation and Reception will take place on Sunday, June 25 at the 9:30am service.

We hope you will take seriously our invitation to engage in this congregation as though you are already members. You are welcome to attend adult education classes, get involved in the work of one of our boards, volunteer to help with worship, and attend any congregational events.

Please contact Pastor Sally Williams with any questions or concerns.

## **Holy Baptism**

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

Olivia Mae Naggs, daughter of Chad and Melissa Naggs. Her sponsors are Marty and Starr Cox and her congregational sponsors are Heather and James Newman.

Emma Grace Naggs, daughter of Chad and Melissa Naggs. Her sponsors are Shad and Katie Ladell and her congregational sponsors are Heather and James Newman.

Ira Grey Opie, son of Matthew and Laura Opie. His sponsors are Scott and Becky Vermilyea and his congregational sponsor is Ken Lueck.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This month we have the privilege of celebrating a lot of our young people through Affirmation of Baptism, Graduation Sunday, and the final day of Sunday School. In this midst of these celebrations, we also have the opportunity to give thanks for two very special people in our congregation.

Dale Clason, Sunday School Superintendent, and Melani Wheeler, Singspiration Director, will both be retiring from their positions. To say that they are both great volunteers is an understatement. We have been so privileged by their leadership, their energy, and their love for the children of St. John's.

Dale and Melani, you both have preached the gospel in many ways that you may not even realize. You have touched the hearts of people of all generations. Thank you for your commitment to this place. You will be missed as leaders in these capacities, but we give thanks that you continue to be part of this community and share your gifts in your daily lives. Thank you.

We are thrilled to announce that Becky Francour will be our new Sunday School Superintendent and JoAnnah Sorg will be our part-time Singspiration Director. We are looking for a co-director to share this position with her. We are blessed to have incredible talent and passion in this congregation.

Thank you for serving God's people!

In Christ's Peace,

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

### **Fetal Loss Grief Support Group**

On Tuesdays in May Pastor Sally is leading a grief support group for women who have lost a child(ren) during pregnancy or through stillbirth. We will meet at 6:30pm at the Sauk Prairie Healthcare Hospital Campus. Please contact Pastor Sally to rsvp if you wish to attend this group.

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

I love spring. There are so many wonderful things about spring. I like how it seems like everything suddenly turns green and flowers start to appear. I love clear blue skies and it being warm enough to enjoy being outside again. This is the time of year that I stop sleeping in on my day off and instead get up early to spend as much time outside as I can. It feels like this part of our world is waking up again, rejuvenated by sunshine and rain instead of snow. With the change in season this time of the year always reminds me of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 where the writer tells us that there is a time for everything. Spring may be my favorite season but it is my favorite because 50 degree weather feels so good after the lows of winter. I need both winter and spring for spring to feel as special as it does. When I think about my life of faith I can see parallels where there are times of abundance and joy and times of sorrow, but just as God is present in both winter and spring creating and sustaining life, God is also present in both my joys and my sorrows. God is consistent through every season of life, the constant that can always be depended upon. No matter what "season" your life is in right now I hope that you can take comfort that God journeys with you through life and every season. No matter what season it is God will never be separated from you because God will never allow that to happen. Blessings on you, whatever season of life you find yourself in today!

Intern Halcyon

### **Summer Worship Times**

St. John's worship times for the summer will be 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship time remains at 9:00 a.m. These summer hours will continue through Labor Day, September 3.

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**

Stan Mallon  
Patty Spurgeon  
Betty Fisher  
Tom Mahoney  
Dean Pfaff  
Dick Uttech

### **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:  
Joni Blau and children Karley, Michael and Ramona, on the death of Joni's father, John Billhorn

Gerry and Deb Westphal, on the death of Gerry's sister, Bernita Bjornstad

Lee Ann Goelz, on the deaths of her sister, Nadean Presnell and aunt, Joann McGril

We recently received monetary gifts in memory of Tom Michaels and LaVera Page. We are grateful when our congregation is remembered in this manner. These gifts will be used to benefit our church.

# Happy May Birthday!

## Our Youngest

Ethan Lohr (1)  
Iann Louis (22)

Macelyn Krintz (19)  
Riley Jorgensen (30)

## Our Sunday School Students:

Delaney DuFour (3)  
Ian Porto (3)  
Hunter Carthew (7)  
Cooper Rennie (9)  
Austin Bruckert (15)  
Bryce Argall (16)  
McKenzie Lautenbach (18)  
Claire Handschke (22)  
Ben Patterson (23)  
Lainey Dillon (24)  
Ian Quayle (25)  
Amara Hubbard (30)  
Nadia LaVigne (31)

Colby Frey (3)  
Malcolm Leith (5)  
Lyle Opie (7)  
Clay Hutchins (11)  
Adam Louis (15)  
Evelyn Bahe (17)  
Sophie Witecha (19)  
Eli Anderson (23)  
Hallie Ballweg (24)  
Liam Leith (25)  
Ava Hanschke (30)  
Ryder Breunig (31)

## Our Youth:

Maggie Harter (5)  
Emily Caflisch (12)  
Peyton Ballweg (17)  
Tanner Wideen (19)  
Kailey Evert (27)  
Malea Niesen (29)  
Grace Sandeman (30)

Jacob Pape (8)  
Julia Jones (12)  
Tarren Nimmow (18)  
Mariah Chao (23)  
Ethan Yanke (27)  
Ryan Ladd (30)  
Logan Rehwinkel (31)

## College and Career-age Young People:

Teresa Bradley (1)  
Hannah Schutt (8)  
Chris Chrisler (14)  
Erik Gilbertson (30)

Emily Bradley (1)  
Josh Wheeler (10)  
Garrett Kippley (22)

## Serving in May

### Ushers:

May 7

### 8:00 a.m.

Michael Endres

### 10:30 a.m.

Malea Niesen  
Sheila Dittberner

May 14

Quinn Baier  
Linda Meyer  
Rob Risley

Aimee Maasch  
Lori Anderson  
Sheila Dittberner  
Briar Lohr  
Sheila Dittberner  
Graduate  
Graduate

May 21

May 28

### 9:30 a.m.

Quinn Baier  
Lori Anderson  
Sheila Dittberner

### Acolytes:

May 7

### 8:00 a.m.

Olivia Joyce  
Alia Schlimgen  
Drew Marshall  
Cayden Wernsing  
Michael Endres  
Colden Harter

### 10:30 a.m.

Carley Frosch  
Colden Harter  
Kyle Dregney  
Emily Cafilisch  
Max Sailor  
Colden Harter

May 14

May 21

May 28

### 9:30 a.m.

Alia Schlimgen  
Malea Niesen

### Readers:

May 7

May 14

May 21

May 28

### 8:00 a.m.

Meadow Liedtke  
Dale Haroldson  
Mary Halweg

### 10:30 a.m.

Leanna Niesen  
Dale Clason  
Graduate

### 9:30 a.m.

Dale Clason

### Cantors:

May 7

May 14

May 21

May 28

### 8:00 a.m.

Congregation  
Janis Baun  
Senior Choir

### 10:30 a.m.

Congregation  
Jordan, Megan Small  
Dennis Fisher

### 9:30 a.m.

spoken

**Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.**

May 7 Anna Ballweg  
May 14 Marilyn Herschleb  
May 21 Linda Hines

**10:30 a.m.**

Chris Kepler  
Dale Clason  
Graduate

**9:30 a.m.**

Dale Clason

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

May 7 Jordan Small  
May 14 Kathi Risley  
May 21 Megan Small

**10:30 a.m.**

Jordan Small  
Kathi Risley  
Megan Small

**9:30 a.m.**

Donna Knickmeyer

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

May 7 Rich, Jane Calenzo  
May 14 Cayden Wernsing  
May 21 Joe, Alice Chenoweth

**10:30 a.m.**

Kim Larson  
Jacob Schweitzer  
Deb, Gerry Westphal

**9:30 a.m.**

Barb Salvesson

**Nursery Staff:**

May 7 Ava Roach  
Carley Frosch  
May 14 Jordan Chao  
Carley Frosch

**10:30 a.m.**

Ruby Sandeman  
Olivia Joyce  
Malea Niesen  
Cole Douglas  
Claire Thiede  
Meadow Liedtke

**9:30 a.m.**

Meadow Liedtke  
Austin Keyser

May 28 Alia Schlimgen  
Wyatt Urban

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

May 7 Ava Roach  
May 14 Carley Frosch  
May 21 Linda Yanke  
May 28 Linda Yanke

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

Carley Frosch  
Scott Graves  
Linda Yanke  
Linda Yanke

<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
May 7 (Sanctuary)	Donna Knickmeyer	Confirmand
(Front doors)	Dan, Janis Baun	Confirmand
(Side doors)	Fay Rentmeester	Confirmand
May 14 (Sanctuary)	Cliff, Cindy Thompson	Dave, Ruth Lohr
(Front doors)	Dick, Jan Dobryznski	Curt, Peggy Johnson
(Side doors)	Rich, Jane Calenzo	Tom, Cheryl Schneller
May 21 (Sanctuary)	Wyatt Urban	Graduate
(Front doors)	Austin Keyser	Graduate
(Side doors)	Quinn Baier	Graduate
		<u>9:30 a.m.</u>
May 28 (Sanctuary)	Karen Bader	Jeff Sandberg family
(Front doors)	Jeannine Robertson	Jackie Frosch
(Side doors)	Fay Rentmeester	Denny, Bonnie Dederich

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

<b>April totals</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Offering</b>
April 2	284	\$12,181.00
April 9	387	\$ 9,015.33
April 13	147	Maundy Thursday
April 14	372	Good Friday
April 16	683	\$19,859.44
April 23	259	\$ 6,845.00

 **THANK** you!

We wish to offer our great appreciation for the support shown our family during our recent loss. The comforting prayers and words of pastors Fred and Sally and Intern Halcyon brought us peace and closure. Thank you also to the beautiful voices The Messengers added to the funeral service, as well as the many hands who assisted at the luncheon. The special bond Mom shared with St. John's Quilting Group was the highlight of her week and it's so nice to remember the quilts she helped create now bring comfort to not only those here at home, but around the world as well.

Peace to you all from the family of LaVera C. Page

## Hospice and Newborn Kits for Global Health Ministries

We were able to send 101 Hospice Kits and 94 Newborn Kits with our representatives to the Synod Assembly on April 29 and 30. The gathered kits will go on to Minneapolis to be packed in a sea crate and shipped off to Lutheran Health Centers around the world. Thank you for providing these much needed items to our neighbors in need. Thank you to Jayne Carlson and Eldor Fruehling for assembling the kits for send-off.

## Important Sunday School Dates to Remember

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Kids sing Special Music – 10:30 service

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Bible School Sign up between services

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Last Day of Sunday School

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

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
April 2	52	\$ 6.00
April 9	75	\$ 4.00
April 16	Easter – No classes	
April 23	63	\$ 5.00

## 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 **\$9,738.08** because of the generosity of our congregation. We will continue to collect money until the end of May 2017. We have enough for 3 wells already! Perhaps we might get to 4?



## **Vacation Bible School update!**

Look ahead to summer! Vacation Bible School will be August 7-11 (Monday through Friday) this year, for kids entering Kindergarten-6th grade from 9am-1:30pm. Members from our congregation will be leading games, worship, arts and crafts, and bible studies. There is NO COST. We also offer a preschool option for 3 & 4 year olds from 9am-11:30am which is also free of charge. **Sign up for Bible School will be April 30 and May 14th in-between services, or you can pick up forms in the office through June 1st.** We realize that this sign up is early, but please plan ahead! See Abby Bennett for more information.

## **Looking to Get Involved this Summer?**

We need adult volunteers during Vacation Bible School August 7-11 from 9am-1:30pm. We need volunteers to lead large group games, small group games, and to prepare snack. Youth help is also welcomed, and will count as a service project in the fall. If you can help all week, one day, or even a couple hours, please contact Abby Bennett.

# **Middle and High School News**

## **Upcoming Events**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Final Night of Confirmation (student led worship service followed by potluck)

Affirmation of Baptism practice to follow

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Affirmation of Baptism – 10:30 service

May 10<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Orientation – 6pm

May 21<sup>st</sup> -- Senior Recognition – 10:30 service

## **Confirmation End of Year Celebration Worship and Potluck**

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

## **Attention 9th Graders!**

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

## **Affirmation of Baptism**

The following young people will be affirming their faith at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Please keep them in your prayers and congratulate them on achieving this milestone of faith.

Summer Acker	Dylan Andrews
Evan Carlson	Grace Fauerbach
Christopher Kepler	Alex Kinnamon
Aimee Maasch	Leanna Niesen
Tarren Nimmow	Max Sailor
Ella Schad	Kalyn Schmit
Lauren Wideen	

## **Sixth Grade Parent/Student Confirmation Orientation Reminder**

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

## Senior Recognition

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

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

The following will be graduating from high school:

Matthew Bradley	Michela Breunig
Emmalyn Carlson	Megan Carroll
Sean Collins	Lincz Frey
Lauryn Froehlich	Elizabeth Hupp
Kyle Johnson	Nolan Joyce
Michael Kindschi	Grant Kirner
Grace Koenig	Ryan Ladd
Hunter Lohr	Emily Sauer
Connor Sutter	Kayla Wernsing
Tanner Wideen	Jeffrey Yanke

Sabrina Yanke will be graduating from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science.

## 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.

## **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 have seen 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 Roger Clason: Psalm 23 – During the months before my mother passed away, she read it almost every day. I believe it provided so much comfort and peace as she struggled with cancer. On the day she died my siblings and I read this passage by her bedside which provided comfort and peace for us as well.

From Marv Hupp: Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These two verses have carried our family through numerous events/issues/concerns throughout the years....especially since Janelle's diagnosis and battle with breast cancer back in June of 2009.

From Doris Lohr: Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.

When I become frustrated and over anxious about life's challenges, this verse comes to mind and helps calm my attitude. It helps me remember we cannot solve problems and concerns in a New York minute. Give God time to work out what concerns us as His time-line is much different than ours. Turn our cares upon Him; it's a load off our shoulders. God is our refuge and strength.

From Anne Klinkner: Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called children of God.

My grandfather quoted this verse to me when I was a young child after I managed to get a couple of my siblings to stop fighting with each other. As I have gotten older and the struggles and conflicts around us seem to be larger, it is much harder to do and it

is easier to do nothing. But what a nicer place the world would be if we could try to be peace makers.

### **Favorite Bible Texts continued:**

From Nancy Kaufman: Hebrews 4:12-16 Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

I find great comfort in knowing that even though I am not without sin, my intentions are true. And these intentions of the heart will give me mercy and grace in times of need.

From Kathy Lovell: 1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love.

This text was part of a reading that I had at my wedding, but when I hear or read this now I think of my sister Teresa. Three years ago she had leukemia and needed a bone marrow transplant to survive. None of her 6 siblings were a match, but there was one man in Germany that was a perfect match and 3 vials of stem cells were on their way. There was hope. After 9 days of strong chemo, she received her first transplant and it did not take. She needed 9 more days of the chemo and her body was so weak, but her faith in God was so strong. She would say "God has a plan for me". She received her second transplant and the doctors informed her that it wasn't successful. They told her that her body would not survive another round of chemo and she went to hospice, but her faith never wavered. 5 weeks later, she was in a delayed remission. God did have a plan for her and her family. Faith, hope and love.....

From John Hines: Romans 5:3-5 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been

poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

### **Favorite Bible Texts continued:**

From James Newman: Ecclesiastes 1:16-18 I said to myself, “I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.” And I applied my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a chasing after wind. For in much wisdom is much vexation, and those who increase knowledge increase sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 2:12-15 So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the one do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. Then I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness. The wise have eyes in their head, but fools walk in darkness. Yet I perceived that the same fate befalls all of them. Then I said to myself, “What happens to the fool will happen to me also; why then have I been so very wise?” And I said to myself that this also is vanity.

These passages remind me that knowledge and wisdom are not truly what is important. I spend my career acquiring technological knowledge and applying it. I have put in a lot of effort throughout my schooling and continue to do so every week. I do find enjoyment in the pursuit of knowledge, and that is a valid reason for it. However, I realize that if that was all my life consisted of, I would not be happy. Happiness does not come from knowledge or wisdom. I must also be mindful of another reason I pursue knowledge. I do like those moments when someone else perceives me as intelligent. This is an invalid reason for pursuing knowledge. The word for it is vanity.

From Kathy Lester: Romans 1:17 “The one who is righteous will live by faith”.

This is the verse that inspired Martin Luther 500 years ago to realize that it's God's gift of faith that saves us and not our works. During Lent we remember Christ's death on the cross for our sins and we're thankful for God's gift of faith by which we are saved.

From Nick Lester: John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”.

Therein Jesus is portrayed as being one with the Father. We believe The Word became flesh. So, by His grace we have

scripture, the living Word, and find truth about our relationship with Him. We give thanks for the presence of Jesus Christ, the living Word, anew in our lives each day.

**Favorite Bible Texts continued:**

From Melani Wheeler: Micah 6:8 What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

This is one of my favorite verses and a favorite song “We Are Called”.

From Tom Olmstead: Isaiah 11:6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Whenever I think of our Sunday School classes starting the fund-raising for the well drilling, the line, “A little child shall lead them”, comes to mind.

I’ve thought of this a number of times since this effort was started and it heartens me that the kids of St. John’s have gotten this going. I hope they will always remember.

From Paige Ederer: 1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety upon him, for he cares for you.

This verse has given me great peace at times I have struggled with worries, especially when I was a teenager and in my early 20s struggling with what direction life would take me.

From Barb Salvesson: Ecclesiastes 3:1 There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven.

It just reminds me that God is in control and I am exactly where I’m supposed to be.

From Marian DeGiovanni: Luke 2:10-11 “And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord”.

The encouragement of “Fear not” came during Christmas Eve service as I was struggling with my mom’s declining health. Just as the shepherds were afraid at the angel’s appearance, this journey was one I was not ready to accept, but hearing those words became a source of strength as the family accompanied Mom on the final 7 months of her earthly journey. Such a simple phrase, but powerful enough to let us release Mom from our arms to God’s.

From Haakon Carlson: Romans 8:18-27 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Dear Lord, you know how much this scripture has meant to me in a time of dark grief...and how it sustains me yet. May those also in need ponder this scripture and be revived to the glory of your Holy Name. Amen.

### **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).

### **Wanted: Ushers for both services**

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



every Sunday. If you have questions, please contact Rob Risley, 643-6892.

**Thank you Sunday School Teachers and Assistants!**  
**Thank you Confirmation Teachers and Assistants!**

As this academic year comes to an end, we thank the following people for their dedication and service to St. John's and our young people.

Sunday School Teachers and Assistants:

Dale Clason	Melani Wheeler
Connie Burton	Liz Fester
Sarah Hupp	Maggie Harter
Ben Chao	Tekla Nimmow
Chris Stephan	Angie Updike
Alysia Bahe	Tyler Hopfensperger
Jordan Small	Jeff Yanke
Paige Beattie	Laura Hutchins
Antonia Tomaselli	Tarren Nimmow
Tanner Wideen	Ryan Ladd
Kali Schroeder	Ben Schreiber
Lauren Wideen	Penny Johnson
Janelle Hupp	Linda Hines
Lizzie Hupp	Paige Ederer
Dan Small	Linda Yanke
Ellen Domine	Lynn Esser
Sarah Goetsch	Crystal Lautenbach
Megan Small	Christina Himebauch
Hans Fester	Jon Sandeman
Marge Erlandson	John Hines

Confirmation Teachers and Assistants

Scott Ladd	Ally Dunnum
Roger Seymour	Marv Hupp
Fred Rilling	

Thank you all for graciously sharing your time and talents with our young people!

