



Michael Blau, Grade 6

Prairie du Sac, WI

November 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It may seem odd to talk about next summer before we actually move fully into fall, but life is like that sometimes. For instance, over the past two years, numerous ELCA staff and even more volunteers have been working diligently to set in motion next year's tri-annual ELCA Youth Gathering, taking place in Houston, Texas, on June 27-July 1. From all over the US and beyond, more than 30,000 youth and adults we travel to Houston for an experience of learning, worship, service and fellowship. Those in attendance will hear from renowned speakers, musicians and preachers. Some of these leaders will be the same age as most of the youth, some will be older and some will come from backgrounds that look very different than those of our group. We will travel with people from Wisconsin but we will find new friends from much farther away.

Over the course of the last six gatherings, St. John's has sent nearly 150 youth and adults from this congregation. For instance, back in 2003, we went to Atlanta for the Gathering. Along with myself, a current Parish Planning Council member, Megan Tarnutzer went. So did our current Youth and Education Staff

member, Abby Bennett (at that time Schneller). Also attending was one of this trip's adult chaperons, Eric Kaul. All of them were in high school at the time. I was just much younger. 😊

This year we will send 20 youth and 4 chaperones. They are: Sam Beattie, Emily Calflisch, Ben Chao, Jordan Chao, Cole Douglas, Kyle Dregney, Eleri Fester, Leah Froehlich, Carley Frosch, Zach Guentherman, Samantha Johnson, Lillian Jones, Julia Jones, Emma Kinnamon, Sawyer Ladd, Hannah Miller, Tekla Nimmow, Ava Roach, Grace Sandeman and Ruby Sandeman. The four adults are myself, Amy Beattie, and Eric and Karissa Kaul.

While Abby is unable to attend this year, she is at the heart of organizing the many, many details that make this trip possible. As one who planned this event in the past, I am VERY grateful that she is interfacing with the ELCA, the Synod, our transportation, the hotel and the numerous other groups/individuals that will be involved in making this a safe and wonderful experience.

As you would expect, this is not inexpensive event. Prior to my coming to St. John's, wise people dealt with this reality and decided to set aside money each month between events to make it possible for all who wanted to go, to be able to go. Because of this, while the majority of the expenses for the event occur in one calendar year, the money needed has been saved over three years. I am very grateful for this kind of forethought and more importantly, for this commitment to our youth.

Our 24 members will be meeting monthly to develop community and learn more about what we will be blessed to encounter during this event. As this group meets, I ask that you keep them in your prayers. And not only our group, but keep in your prayers the thousands who will attend and the many who plan and carry out the details that make this event, not only possible, but a life changing moment on the journey of those who attend.

Shalom,

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

Stewardship Thanks

Thank you to all who have returned pledge cards and Time and Talent sheets. You can continue to turn them in on Sundays or mail them to the office through the end of the year.

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	Sheila Dittberner	370-1550
Fellowship Board	Lori Hegge	592-3196
Lay Ministry Board	Melani Wheeler	544-2711
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	Bob Lange	434-2271
Women of ELCA	Eunice Yanke	643-8289
Youth Board	Megan Tarnutzer	963-0396

The Staff:

Pastors: Fred Rilling fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 644-1359

Sally Williams sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 643-7810

Intern Derek Rosenstiel derek@stjohnssaukprairie.org

(h) 370-7392

Director of Music: Connie Burton connie@stjohnssaukprairie.org

(c)393-4291

Youth-Education: Abby Bennett abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org

(c)370-2380

Custodian: John Hines john@stjohnssaukprairie.org (c)393-2325

Office and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines

linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 544-2409

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 November 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:

Thanksgiving trimmings	
Cranberries	Stuffing mix
Canned gravy	Instant potatoes
Pie filling	Canned vegetables

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 October. The day is in parentheses.

Evelyn Gorsuch (6)
1606 Lori Court
Sauk City, WI 53583

Shirley Uttech (9)
209 – 12th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Dorothy Kussrow (10)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Lynette Diehl (22)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Paul Patterson (29)
703 Phillips Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Women of the Church News

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

Lydia Circle: Thursday, November 9, 1:00 p.m. at Fay Rentmeester's, N750 Golf Rd., Prairie du Sac

Martha Circle: Thursday, November 2, 9:00 a.m. at Barb Salvesson's, 200 Webster Ave., Apt. 2, Sauk City

Ruth Circle: Monday, November 13, 9:00 a.m. at Jan Hartleban's, 30 Winnie Ave., Prairie du Sac

Sarah/Mary Circles Tuesday, November 1, 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Library, 100 Oak Street, Prairie du Sac



In October, 42 ladies attended Circle meetings with Bible Studies led by Anne Klinkner, Fay Rentmeester, Marge Erlandson, Jeannine Robertson, Eunice Yanke and Carolyn Gilbertson. In November the study will be led by Anne Klinkner, Dorothy Halverson, Mary Weeks, Kathy Lester and Loretta Landerman.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to filling the various kits for Lutheran World Relief. Totals of kits this year are: Quilts 358; Sewing Kits 23; School Kits 228; Personal Care Kits 123; and Baby Care Kits 44. All of these items are sure to give comfort and joy to a lot of deserving people. We also give BIG THANKS to Henry Elsing, who loaded up all the boxes and transported them to Madison.

Eunice Yanke and Ruth Dresser attended the South Central Synodical Women of the ELCA which was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Verona on Saturday, September 23. Registration began at 8:30 a.m. with coffee, juice, and snacks. The Keynote Speaker was Rev. Brad Pohlman from Luther Memorial Church in Madison. His talk was very interesting, looking at some of the major impacts of Martin Luther and the Reformation. Rev. Gwendolyn King, who is a Churchwide WELCA Representative from Pennsylvania, gave a dynamic talk about using our gifts and resources to become instruments of God's love and grace. We were honored to have Bishop Mary Froiland present and she gave the sermon for the worship service. The morning session went overtime so that we had to take our box lunches to the workshops. There were several workshops to choose from and we chose "Katie Luther, the Runaway Nun", "Healing and Forgiveness" and "Women and Incarceration". All were very interesting. At 3:00 p.m. there was a closing service and then we were on our way home. Helen Sheahan, Synodical President, did a wonderful job of organizing the event.

The ThankOffering Service will be on Sunday, November 12. This is a special opportunity to honor God by making a donation, thanking Him for all He has done for us. Just put your contribution in an envelope marked "THANKOFFERING" and put it in the basket near the name tag table. This offering goes to the National Women of the ELCA and provides funds for World Hunger, global missions and other important programs.

GOOD HOMEMADE CHILI THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH. All ladies AND men are invited. DO NOT MISS THIS! This is a combined event of OWLS and WELCA, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The speaker will be Denise Mateirack from Safe Harbor of Reedsburg, which is a housing shelter for women and children. A portion of the offering of the day will go to that worthwhile cause. Then we will have a CHILI FEAST, which again will be prepared by Darlene Holl. Everyone loved it last year, so come and taste! We will have bars for dessert.

Recommendations for Christmas Cheer recipients are: \$200 each for Sauk Prairie Schools' Homeless Program and the 6:8 Program. These recommendations will be voted on by each Circle.

Martha Circle is visiting Special Friends in October and November.

The Bible Study Leaders' Meeting for December will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 28 at St. John's Library.

Don't forget to read this month's Prayer for Peace in this Visitor on November 20th.

Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits

We extend a BIG THANK YOU to Henry Elsing for delivering our quilts and kits to Madison this year. St. John's sent 358 quilts, 23 sewing kits, 228 school kits, 123 personal care kits and 44 baby care kits to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to all for the donations that made this possible.

Prayer Shawls

We will bless prayer shawls during worship services on December 3rd. If you are working on a prayer shawl, please bring it to church by November 30th. If you are interested in learning more about prayer shawls contact Bev Clason.

At that same time we will also bless Memorial gifts and baptismal napkins. If you are interested in embroidering baptismal cloths, contact the church office.

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.
Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.
Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.
--- Book of Common Prayer 1979

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 the church's library. The next gathering will be November 7th at 6:00 p.m. If you like to laugh, talk, and learn more about God this is a great place for you! Childcare is provided. Anne Klinkner is the contact for Hannah Circle.

Older Wiser Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

November will be a joint gathering with the Women of the ELCA. We will have a speaker from Safe Harbor of Reedsburg and a chili luncheon at 10:30am. All are welcome (men too!) Bring a friend!

Please let Pastor Sally know if you have any ideas or requests for future OWLS events or topics!

Fall Adult Education Schedule

Intern Derek will be teaching a course entitled *The Mosaic of Christianity: The Multi-Faceted Portrait of the Body of Christ*. In light of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this two-part adult education opportunity will be focusing on the topic of ecumenism. The ELCA has made the commitment to continually seek out ways in which to better live out the unity in Christ that has been gifted to us by the power of the Holy Spirit. In particular the ELCA has pursued this by forming several strong ecumenical relationships with our siblings in Christ who also proclaim the gospel of Christ in their own particular denominational witness. Two specific ecumenical relationships will be highlighted along with the full communion agreements built through these relationships. These two relationships are with the United Methodist Church (UMC) and the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). Come join us for this engaging and thought-provoking opportunity on November 5th & 12th in between the worship services!

On Sunday, November 19th we will shift our topics to the Healing Power of Listening led by council member Roger Clason. *"This presentation developed as a result of me joining with others from neighboring communities as we journeyed to Mississippi in 2008 and 2009 after hurricane Katrina. A couple of years later a smaller group went to Joplin MO after the tornado there. But prior to any of those events, a group from St. John's went to Bagley WI to help Wes recover from a flood. Those experiences taught me about the kind of positive impact active listening can have on someone who may feel that God has betrayed them. Come, listen and learn how you too can develop the skills necessary to become an affective active listener."*

Women's Book Club

The Women's book club selection for November is "Me Before You" by Jo Jo Moyes. The book club will meet at 10:00 a.m. in St. John's library and at 6:30 p.m. at the Blue Spoon of Prairie du Sac on Tuesday, November 28.

Book club does not meet in December.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On October 15th over 200 members and friends of St. John's participated in a focused conversation on our gifts and passions for Christ's church. There were many mixed feelings had by all entering into this process, but after all was said and done there were many incredible things that came out of this time together. I want to share three of them from my perspective:

1. Some of our oldest folks found themselves sitting across from some of our youngest. The sweet, loving conversations had on that day reminded me of Jesus' bold declaration, "Let the children come to me for such is the kingdom of heaven." You taught our children that they have a voice. That they are not the future of our church, but they are the church with us right now. Thank you.

2. There was so much smiling. I took a number of pictures from that day and Connie, our director music, pointed something out to me. Everyone was smiling. They weren't posed. They were taken as sisters and brothers in Christ spoke to one another. Joy was spilling out of everyone in that room. What a beautiful testimony to the Spirit at work with us as the Body of Christ.

3. The third thing are those things yet to come...we have not compiled all the information yet from that day, but when we do we will see before us the many gifts and passions that you possess, and then we get to talk about how to put them to good use for the sake of God's people. Thank you, St. John's for trusting your council to lead us through this important work of being the Body of Christ in this time and place.

With gratitude,
Pastor Sally



Text Study

On Wednesday evenings at 6pm we will gather to study the Gospel lesson that will be read the following Sunday. We will meet in Room 1. All are welcome to come at 5:20 and enjoy a meal. Cost is only \$1 with a maximum of \$5 per family.

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

Autumn is my favorite time of year and is a time that holds a special place in my heart. Robert Frost in his poem October poignantly expresses my emotions concerning autumn in his words:

“O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow,
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know.”

If you ever have some time you should check out the rest of this poem as it is worth reflecting upon over and over again; it is in public domain now and can be found about anywhere. This poem speaks to me because it touches upon the illuminating and translucent quality of this season. Autumn seems to come and go in the blink of an eye, but so many of my fondest memories in life seem to have occurred during this transitional period.

I remember almost yearly spending many evenings on the wrap-around porch of my parents' huge farmhouse. During these occasions at the set of the sun I would gaze out over the fields, which were generally in some state of harvest. I could remember the sense of pride, pleasure, and gratitude that emanated from underneath my family members' tiredness in that time of hard work. The long period of preparing, sowing, and tending the fields had come to a close and the results could finally be experienced.

The harvest was bountiful or sparse depending on the year of course, but nonetheless we were always taught to be thankful for all that we had been given. This same sense of thankfulness lasts with me to this day, and even when the days seem too brief in my most beloved season I am reminded to kindle that flame of gratitude. Beautiful memories and moments may be fleeting but they are pure gifts to us and we do have the ability to be amazed or beguiled by them even so. I believe that with hearts and minds wide open, the grace of God can so often be felt all the more powerfully.

Thanks be to God for the seasons, and for the movement of the Spirit within us that guides us towards that which gives both light and life in our own lives and in the entire world around us! May this autumn be a time of peace and filled with the joy of the Lord!

God's Peace,
Intern Derek

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

Henry Russell Ganser, son of Benjamin and Shea Ganser. His sponsors are Nathan Ganser and Betsy Young. His congregational sponsor is Lisa Sauer.

Laila Eve Steinmetz, daughter of Brandon and Stacey Steinmetz. Her sponsor is Keith Steinmetz and her congregational sponsors are Duane and Kim Larson.

With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Marv and Janelle Hupp and family on the death of Marv's aunt, Lillian.

Delores Staff and family on the death of Jim Staff.

The family and friends of Natalie Beach.

Ed and Ginny Nimmow and family on the death of their sister-in-law, Esther Nimmow.

Curtis and Peggy Johnson and family on the death of Curtis's mother, Maxine Johnson.

Patti and Lon Kaderavek, Terry and Mary Roach and their families on the death of Patti and Terry's mother, Cherry Roach.

Norma Newman and family on the death of Norma's sister, Margaret Roberts.

St. John's is very grateful to receive monetary donations in memory of Claire Richardson this month. We thank the family and friends for their kind generosity.

Thank you

We thank the carpet cleaning team of Roger Clason, Dale Haroldson, Alan Landerman, Bob Nelson, Wesley Oye and John Hines for their work on cleaning the fellowship hall carpeting.

Coats for Kids

St. John's continues to partner with Concordia United Methodist Church to collect winter wear for children in need in our school district. Please keep this in mind as you clean out closets this fall and bring your gently-used coats, boots, hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves to the cloak room. We need all sizes. The deadline for collection is November 12.

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 crochet 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.



St. John's Web Page

Be sure to go online and look at our web page. See the changes at stjohnssaukprairie.org. Please call Pastor Fred if you are interested in helping with our webpage.

THANK YOU!

A big THANK YOU from the Rosenstiel family (Theodore, Becky & Derek) to our entire St. John's family! We are deeply grateful for all the love and support you have shown us in so many different ways. From the amazing gift of time in Derek's paternal leave to the many visits, cards, and gifts that you have showered our family with in celebration of the birth of Theodore; we give you thanks for all of these! Words truly cannot express how much it means to us to be welcomed here with arms and hearts wide open, especially in this precious time in our lives! Thank you all!

Thanks

Thank you for all the wonderful birthday greetings, cards and well wishes. It sure brightened my day.

Jack Foell

♥THANK you!

My Church Family,

Thank you for the faith inspiring message. I appreciate the time and effort it took to put the card together. God Bless each and every one of you. Just know that I am so grateful that you thought of me.

With love,
Evelyn Gorsuch

THANK YOU

With gratitude and a heartfelt 'Thank You' to the pastors and congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church of Prairie du Sac for providing a space for our foot care. This not only aids in better health, but is a setting of good spirit in comfortable togetherness in caring and sharing with others.

In the spirit of God's blessings,
Doris Litscher Gasser

Happy November Birthday!

Our Youngest:

Kohen Chetwood (3)	Eralyn Greene (5)
Kendall Koenig (20)	Madelyn Bischoff (22)
Finn Paque (27)	

Our Sunday School Students:

Clara Duren (1)	Andrew Thiede (1)
Carly Jorgenson (2)	Emma Gilchrist (4)
Cody Passehl (6)	Nadya Khodakivska (7)
Myla Steinmetz (8)	Kyler Viola (11)
Conner Evert (12)	Kaleb Chetwood (14)
Ryan Jorgenson (18)	Tyler Jorgenson (18)
Caden Argall (19)	Evan Delabarre (19)
Evelyn Cook (22)	Kenzie Sawyer (23)
Camden Brager (24)	Andrew Ryan (26)

Our Youth:

Quinn Baier (2)	Gage Helgerson (2)
Melina Lohr (2)	Brendan Holl (11)
Ruby Sandeman (11)	Evan Carlson (15)
August Begalske (17)	Shane Hesse (17)
Ainsley Apel (21)	Sarah Hupp (21)
Elijah Mack (21)	Megan Small (22)
Taylor Tompkin (24)	Drew Delabarre (26)
Karlie Harpold (30)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Jeff Yanke (9)	Lindsey Sauer (14)
Madison Olson (30)	

Serving in November

Ushers:

November 5

8:00 a.m.

Butch Passehl

Nancy Passehl

Aaron Braund

Annika Braund

November 12

Doug Nelson

Donna Nelson

Michael Endres

10:30 a.m.

Gerry Westphal

Deb Westphal

Stacey Stoehr

Quinn Baier

Dave Homp

Herb Yanke

Cathy Yanke

Charlie Homp

November 19

Jason Himebauch

Beth Levers

Christina Himebauch

Donna Knickmeyer

Wesley Himebauch

Ben Levers

November 26

Crystal Lautenbach

Joel Liedtke

Courtney Lautenbach

Donna Knickmeyer

Meadow Liedtke

Acolytes:

November 5

8:00 a.m.

Megan Small

Carly Coy

November 12

Audrie Nurkala

Karlie Harpold

November 19

Olivia Joyce

Alia Schlimgen

November 26

Drew Marshall

Wyatt Urban

10:30 a.m.

Ben Levers

Colden Harter

Emma Kinnamon

Carley Frosch

Cora Dunnum

Anna Francour

Alia Schlimgen

Chesney Schonenberger

Readers:

November 5

8:00 a.m.

Megan Small

November 12

Marilyn Herschleb

November 19

Linda Hines

November 26

10:30 a.m.

Kyle Dregney

Tony DeGiovanni

Donna Knickmeyer

Donna Knickmeyer

Cantors:

November 5

8:00 a.m.

Senior Choir

November 12

Chris Stephan

November 19

Bill Burton

November 26

Senior Choir

10:30 a.m.

Connie Burton

Deb Lohr-Foster

Melani Wheeler

Cathy and Katie Yanke

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

November 5

Karley Blau

November 12

Marilyn Herschleb

November 19

Linda Hines

November 26

Janis Baun

10:30 a.m.

Jay Dregney

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

November 5	Jordan Small
November 12	Kathi Risley
November 19	Marv Hupp
November 26	Bev Clason

10:30 a.m.

Jordan Small
Kathi Risley
Marv Hupp
Bev Clason

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

November 5	Shirley Orr
November 12	Jaxson Dunn
November 19	Shirley Orr
November 26	

10:30 a.m.

Anna Francour

Nursery Staff:

November 5	Jack Boerger
	Ava Roach
November 12	Cora Dunnum
	Courtney Lautenbach
November 19	Ben Levers
	Cora Dunnum
November 26	Maggie Hartman
	Meadow Liedtke

10:30 a.m.

Gabe Harter
Jacob Schweitzer
Alia Schlimgen
Colden Harter
Alia Schlimgen
Quinn Baier
Meadow Liedtke
Maggie Hartman

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

November 5	Wesley Himebauch
November 12	Carley Frosch
November 19	Olivia Joyce
November 26	Linda Yanke

9:00 a.m.(Serve)

Ava Roach
Anna Francour
Olivia Joyce
Linda Michaels

Sunday Stewards

November 5	Butch Passehl
November 12	Kathy Lovell
November 19	Roger Clason
November 26	John Schmidt

10:30 a.m.

Jon Sandeman
Kathy Lovell
Jon Sandeman

Congregational totals

	Attendance	Offering
September 24	320	\$ 6,183.26
October 1	286	\$12,696.02
October 8	377	\$ 7,133.67
October 15	215	\$30,121.30
October 22	291	\$ 6,629.96

<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Nov 5 (Sanctuary)	Cliff/Cindy Thompson	Dave Clason
(Front doors)	Darlene Holl	Wolfgang/Diane Reich
(Side doors)	Linda Lintl	Ed/Ginny Nimmow
Nov 12 (Sanctuary)	Dick/Jan Dobryznski	John/Ellen Mast
(Front doors)	Monte/Lynette Wick	Candice Buckles
(Side doors)	Karen Bader	
Nov 19 (Sanctuary)	Olivia Joyce	Ethan Jones
(Front doors)	Carly Coy	Olivia Joyce
(Side doors)	Ben Levers	Jacob Schweitzer
Nov 26 (Sanctuary)	Roger Maynard	John/Aletha Ballweg
(Front doors)	Jeannine Robertson	Doris Lohr
(Side doors)	Dan/Kathy Lovell	Jackie Frosch

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. Please stay home.

Mobile Meals Volunteers

We thank the following volunteers from St. John's for their help and support of the Mobile Meals program here in Sauk Prairie. They delivered meals in October.

Norma Newman	Sharon Sprecher
Ed Nimmow	Ginny Nimmow
Eunice Yanke	Marsha Key
Dan Baun	Janis Baun
Kim Larson	Nadine Lauer
Fay Rentmeester	Darlene Holl

First Communion Instruction

A First Communion class will be held on Thursday, November 2nd 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. 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. A second class will be offered in the spring.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Christmas Program!

Mark your calendars for the Sunday School Christmas Program! It is Sunday, December 17th, at 2:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend!

Calendar Notes

November 12th – Kids sing in church – 10:30 service

November 26th – No Sunday School

December 17th – Sunday School Christmas Program,
2:00pm

December 24th– No Sunday School

December 31– No Sunday School

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
September 17	92	\$44.25
September 24	83	\$45.50
October 1	93	\$65.02
October 8	88	\$44.50
October 15	84	\$41.50
October 22	62	\$23.96

Middle and High School News

Calendar Notes for Confirmation/Youth

Nov. 22nd – No Confirmation

November 29th – Mentor Night!

H.E.L.P.—Red Sled Project

Help **E**xcite **L**ittle **P**eople will be collecting gently, used toys and items for teens this holiday season. The program is based out of the First United Church of Christ, Sauk City, but has become a community-wide project. All items donated are distributed to children/teens that are in need in the Sauk Prairie area. Donations may be brought to the Washington Avenue entrance of First United and placed in the little red sled, or brought here to St. John's and placed in one of the decorated boxes found in the Sunday School hallway or the west entrance hall. (A volunteer will then transport them to First United.) The collection at St. John's will run through Dec. 10.

Sauk Prairie Area Caring Tree

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

Other tags ask for gift cards for local restaurants or more general "stocking stuffer" items that are appropriate for children, teens, or adults.

The Caring Tree also accepts financial gifts to allow volunteer shoppers to purchase gifts. Watch for the marked envelopes on the tree. The deadline for returning gifts to St. John's is Monday, December 4.



Veteran's Day Pictures

Veteran's Day is Nov 11. With this in mind we are asking that veterans bring a picture to share on Sunday, Nov 12. The pictures can be of you in uniform or not. They can be of you currently or younger. We are asking you to bring a picture so we can celebrate with you the service you give/gave to our country and as a way to let others in our congregation know who our veterans are. You can bring a picture (framed or unframed) the week prior or on that Sunday. We will have tables where you can put your picture. We also ask that you write on a 3"x 5" piece of paper your name, rank and the dates and places where you served. Thanks for your service!

Congregational Actions at October Meeting

On Oct 1st St. John's passed our 2018 budget, elected four new members to serve on our Parish Planning Council: Megan Tarnutzer, Shelia Peak-Dittberner, Melani Wheeler and Bob Lange, and also elected three members to serve on our Nomination Committee: Haakon Carlson, Dale Haroldson and Harold Carlson.

Our budget for 2018 is \$548,877. This represents an increase from 2017 of around \$33,000. Of this increase, \$22,000 is money for the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston (of which \$15,000 has been set aside over the past three years.) \$11,000 of the increase is for our internship program. You may remember that when we were budgeting for 2017 last September, we did not think we would have an intern for ½ of the year due to Michaelo leaving the end of August. These changes along with insurance changes made up most of the differences from 2017 to 2018.

Outgoing and Incoming Parish Planning Council Board Members

Please join me in thanking the following outgoing members of our Parish Planning Board for their work; Marv Hupp (Youth), Nancy Kaufman (Stewardship), Ruth Lohr (Lay Ministry) and Gwen Ringelstetter (Evangelism). These individuals have served for at least two years and some as long as six years; as members of the PPC in service to this congregation. Please also join me in welcoming our newest Council members; Megan Tarnutzer (Youth), Bob Lange (Stewardship), Melani Wheeler (Lay Ministry) and Shelia Peak-Dittberner (Evangelism). A total of fifteen members of St. John's along with the two pastors serve on the Council.

Wanted: Your old cell phone

Do you have a cell phone that is hanging around your house because you have upgraded to a new phone? Did you change plans and get a new cell phone, but still have your old one? We will collect it! St. John's has recently partnered with Phones 4 Charity to recycle those old unused phones.

Phones 4 Charity is a national program designed to remove discarded wireless phones from the country's environment while directly benefiting charitable organizations. These phones can be refurbished, reprogrammed or recycled to help benefit the community and the environment.

St. John's has chosen "Wounded Warriors" as our charity to benefit from any profit made from the cell phones that we donate. We feel this is a good cause to support, a way to help our environment and something we can all feel good about giving to. If you have old cell phones sitting in drawers or desks at home, please consider donating them here. There is a collection box just inside the entry to the cloakroom on the floor by the west wall.

Eye Glasses for the Lions

Did you know that St. John's also collects old, used eye glasses for the Lions Club? We do!

If you have out-grown your glasses, changed styles, or have found those old lost pair of glasses from behind the desk, bring them to St. John's cloakroom to the collection box just inside the entry, on the floor by the west wall.

A member of the local Lions Club will collect them and take them to be "sized" (strength identified), refurbished and given to those in need.