

Isabelle Jolicoeur, Kindergarten

Prairie du Sac, WI

December 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On December 14, 1997, Linda Hines began working at St. John's Lutheran Church. As our part-time custodian, her task was to take care of cleaning and preparing our building for its many uses. Back then we had just finished the new addition, our congregation had 1100 members and we were beginning to make use of our new kitchen/fellowship space. When I came the following year, Don Wendt, the senior pastor at that time, spoke in glowing terms about Linda and her work. All I knew was Linda helped me navigate the world of being a new pastor, connecting programming and its influence on building needs and staff commitments. It was clear that Linda had a good work ethic, but more importantly to me was the fact that she helped me avoid mistakes commonly made by new pastors. I am forever grateful for this kindness and for the continued help she gives me, including helping me still to avoid making mistakes.

During the years that followed, staff changes were minimal but one such change in 2005 opened up our part-time office position. Linda was asked if she wanted to add this on top of her

custodial work. She agreed and so began her time as a part-time custodian and part-time office staff.

Changes in personnel came again in February 2016. After considering our staffing needs, it was decided that we would see if Linda would want to move into full time office position. She agreed and began serving as our Office and Communications Coordinator.

This December 14 will mark Linda's 20th year of service to the people of St. John's and the ministries we conduct. During that time Linda has seen our congregation grow to over 1300 members, hosting an ever growing number of groups, and an expanding staff that added a part-time Youth and Education Coordinator along with a full-time pastoral intern. She has helped us negotiate these changes, grow our congregation's capacity for ministry and done so with a smile and a generous spirit.

I invite you to join us between services on December 10th as we recognize Linda, her ministry and this important milestone, not only in her life, but in the life of this congregation.

Shalom,

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

Thanks to Our Staff

We are blessed to have a wonderful, faithful, caring, and hardworking staff and I am very thankful to call them colleagues. Please take time to thank them all: Abby Bennett, Connie Burton, Derek Rosenstiel, John Hines, Linda Hines, Lon Kaderavek, Bob Nelson, Butch Passehl, and Sally Williams.



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.

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

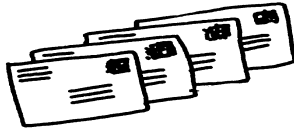
Mission Statement: Christ, our strength and refuge, calling us to serve

Food Pantry Sunday is December 10th. 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:

Instant Oatmeal	Pudding Cups
Applesauce	Canned Pasta Dinners
Cereal	Hot Chocolate Mix

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 December. The day is in parentheses.

Phyllis Perry (3) 893 Prairie Street Prairie du Sac, WI 53578	Alvin Moles (6) 119 – 13 th Street Prairie du Sac, WI 53578
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Luella Lichte (22)
Meadow Ridge
1700 Jefferson Street
Baraboo, WI 53915

THANK YOU

Thank you for the birthday cards sent to me. "They made me so happy!" I am glad to have so many friends at St. John's.
God bless you all,
Carol Tank

Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Tuesday, December 5, 6:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, childcare is provided

Lydia Circle: Thursday, December 14, 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, Carolyn Yanke, hostess

Martha Circle: Thursday, December 7, 9:00 a.m. at Marilyn Larson's, 174 First St., Prairie du Sac

Ruth Circle: Monday, December 11, 9:00 a.m. at Carolyn Gilbertson's, W14410 Vista View Court, Prairie du Sac

Sarah/Mary Circles Tuesday, December 5, 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Library, 100 Oak Street, Prairie du Sac



In November 46 ladies attended Circle Meetings with Bible Studies led by Anne Klinkner, Dorothy Halverson, Mary Weeks, Kathy Lester and Loretta Landerman. In December the Studies will be led by Anne Klinkner, Fay Rentmeester, Barb Salvesson, Marian DeGiovanni, Eunice Yanke and Jeannine Robertson.

We have received \$301 so far for the Thankoffering. In giving Thankofferings, we share in a tradition that goes back to at least the 1800s when Christian women formed "mite" or "cent" societies to support the mission of the church. When others said there was not enough money to carry out the church's work, the women believed otherwise and acted together. When Women of the ELCA formed 30 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude to God for His many blessings. Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of ELCA. We will continue to collect for this cause until December 10. You can mark your envelope "Thankoffering" and put it in the offering plate or give it to the church office.

Christmas Cheer donations this year will be \$200 for the Sauk Prairie School District Homeless Program and \$200 to the 6:8 Program of Sauk Prairie.

The combined WELCA/OWLS event on November 16th was everything we hoped it would be and more! There were 42 people there and it was so great that more men were there this year! Denise Mateirack from Safe Harbor of Reedsburg explained the interesting work of that haven for women and children in need. This facility is funded only by donations and grants from various sources and there are volunteers that help out. An offering was taken and we were pleased that we will be able to give \$250 to Safe Harbor for their important work. After Denise's talk, everyone enjoyed the very scrumptious chili luncheon with all the trimmings. A big THANK YOU goes out to Darlene Holl for making the chili and also to those who provided the delicious bars for dessert.

As has been our tradition for the past several years, we will not have our regular individual Circle meetings in January. Instead, all Circles will meet together. We have set the date of January 11th for our combined Circle meeting. This will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. You may bring goodies left-over from Christmas, cheese, fruit or whatever you want to share. The Bible Study will be led by Intern Derek. After the Bible Study, we will have our special, and always impressive, candlelight memorial service for members of St. John's who have died during 2017. Members of families who have lost loved ones are invited to come and light a candle for that person.

Martha Circle visited Special Friends during October and November. Mary Circle will visit them during December and January.

Remember to look in this [Visitor](#) for a Prayer for Peace to be read on December 20th.

There will be no Bible Study Leaders' Meeting in December for January's study.

Hannah Circle – NEW NIGHT!

Hannah Circle will meet on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 6:15 PM and the third Thursday at 6:15 PM February through May, 2018.

New Member Exploration

Have you been visiting St. John's and are interested in becoming a member? Or perhaps you know of someone looking for a new church home. We will receive new members on Sunday, February 11 at the 8am worship service followed by a reception in their honor. In the weeks preceding this reception we will have some orientation classes. More information on those classes will be shared in the near future. Please see Pastor Williams with any questions.

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.

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Let us pray that Peace shall dwell within us and upon this Earth among all nations, all religions, and all people of goodwill. Amen.

Let us pray that all nations and all religions come together in the name of social justice, human dignity and the common good. Amen.

Let us pray that prejudice, greed, hatred, and violence give way to equality, humility, compassion and Peace. Amen.

“Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” *Luke 2:14*

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” *Isaiah 9:6*

“And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the Peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.” *Col. 3:15*

Older Wiser Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

All 55+ members and friends of St. John's are invited to gather together at 9:30am on Thursday, December 21st. Our speaker will be Intern Derek Rosenstiel. All are welcome!

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

Fall Adult Education Schedule

January's adult education will be on issues of racism and diversity. Throughout these classes we will have the opportunity to learn more about other religions, have some frank conversation about the reality of racism, and find ways to grow in our calling from Christ to love and serve one another. We will meet in room 1 at 9:15am on Sunday mornings.

Text Study

Wednesday evenings at 6pm in the church library we continue to study the Gospel lesson that will be read the following Sunday. All are welcome to come at 5:20 for a meal. Cost is only \$1 with a maximum of \$5 per family.

Women's Book Club

Book club will not meet in December. On January 30th we will discuss "What Alice Forgot" by Liane Moriarty at 10am in the church library. A copy has been placed on the desk in the library. There are currently 43 holds on this book, but less for the large print and sound recording. Put your name on the list now to ensure getting a copy before the end of January.

Beginning in January a new evening book club will be formed. Look for a separate announcement with information on this new group.

NEW Evening Book Discussion in 2018

The Evening Book Discussion group is changing. It will continue to meet the last Tuesday evening of the month at the Blue Spoon at 6:30pm. AND it will be open to all, men and women, young and old, members and non-members, anyone who enjoys reading and talking about what they've read and how it affects them.

Join us for its first meeting, January 30. Bring with you a few suggestions for what to read from any genre: classics, fiction, non-fiction, fantasy, thriller, biography, graphic novel and any other. Contact Susan Heide, sheide@merr.com, if you have questions or can't make it that night.

If you have time, read one or both of two short books, *Le Petit Prince (The Little Prince)* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery written during World War II and *Il Principe (The Prince)* by Niccolo Machiavelli written shortly before Martin Luther's *95 Theses*. A review of I Samuel, I Kings, and Matthew ch. 22 may be helpful. As always, reading is **not** required to be part of the discussion or to enjoy a glass of wine, if you are 21, or bowl of gelato, no age requirement, with us!



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A new season is upon us! While I'm excited for the season of Advent to begin, I'm actually talking about a less beloved season. Cold and Flu season. Each year as we enter into this season and gather together in sickness and health, the question is often raised about why we continue with the passing of the peace.

But first, Rev. Timothy Hill states, "let us consider what it means for us to share the Peace of Christ as a congregation of Christian believers. Theologian James White says, "we cannot touch God, but each of us can touch others in God's name ... the passing of the peace has again become a prominent sign of reconciliation and love as Christians embrace one another or shake hands during worship." The exchange of peace is different from the "greet your neighbor time." It is a specific act of worship meant to encourage one another in the comforting thought that Christ is present and among us – bringing peace (Matthew 18:20)."

This is why we never skip the passing of the peace. We are not simply greeting one another. We are proclaiming that Christ's presence and reconciliation and love are present and active in that very moment, that very act of being together.

Now having said that, I do strongly encourage you to take important steps to help keep from the passing of the germs! If you are ill, please stay home. We miss you when you're not present for worship, but rest is truly best. If you do attend worship and have any lingering symptoms, please refrain from shaking hands. I often will keep my hands folded and simply speak "peace be with you" instead of shaking hands. People are not offended, they actually respond with gratitude that I have shared the peace, but not my germs!

We also have hand sanitizer in each pew. While it does not fully eliminate all germs, it is at least a small way we can try to encourage health and wellness.

When we all do our part we can encourage good health for ourselves and others and still proclaim Christ present in our midst! And speaking of peace, may Christ's peace be with you all in this beautiful season of hope (now I'm talking about Advent!).

Peace,

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

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

It is very hard to believe that it is already the end of November when I am writing this and that the beginning of Advent is quite literally right around the corner. This season, for all of us, may hold a wide mixture of emotions; all of which are tied in with our past experiences and our own perceptions of what the ultimate meaning of Christmas is or should be. I invite you to walk along with me in my own reflection of this coming Advent season and take some time to take a breath and think deeply about your own experience of this time of the year and all that it holds for you. Maybe talk to your family about past Christmas experiences or flip through some photo albums of years gone by. So come along with me on this journey and see what it may ignite in your own reflections.

Advent has always held within it a feeling of anticipation and a touch of joyous mystery for me. I have for most of my life linked Advent with the birth of the baby Jesus in the stable as most of you probably have. The mystical nature of this event is quite astounding if one really begins to think about it. Let's just think about this for a second. The long awaited Messiah spoken of in the prophets is revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ who comes into this world as all of us human beings do through the amazing experience of birth. The Savior of the nations entered this world as vulnerable and fragile as any child does. God with us, Emmanuel, is born to a family of the lowest means in a stable full of the smell of animals. To top it all off, this event is witnessed by individuals who otherwise would have been overlooked because of their status as foreigners and lowly shepherds. The power and majesty of the coming of the Messiah is revealed through an event that turned and continues to turn all expectations upside down. In fact if we jump ahead just a little, the road to salvation and life for all of humanity leads to the Cross of Christ which again has the topsy-turvy effect.

So what does this mean in relation to my own experience of Advent this year? I look upon this powerful event that we observe in the life of the Church with new eyes this year. Since the birth of our son Theodore, I can finally see how an occurrence that would otherwise seem insignificant or commonplace from the outside can be so utterly life-changing and profound up close. I can see how the very essence of one's life and capacity to love can be transformed so completely by one small person. Now, I am not equating the power of the birth of the LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ, with the birth of our little Theo. Yet, through this lived

experience I have been able to look upon this season with new eyes. I think that this sort of realization very well may be the power of this season of anticipation and remembrance. The Incarnation event relates to us the depth of God's love for creation and the lengths to which God was willing to go to bring that creation into right relationship within itself and with God. God was willing to become utterly vulnerable and open to humanity in a stance of complete innocence and pure love towards all. The saving and reconciling work of God carried out for us in the person Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit all started with a birth. What does that realization say to you? What events in your own life open your eyes to the depths of love that God has shown us in and through the Incarnation? What does this season of mystery mean to you and how has it had an effect upon your daily life? I invite you to enter into reflection on this beautiful season with me and have conversations with your loved ones as well about this.

Blessings this Advent to you all & God's Peace,

Intern Derek

With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following family this month:
Nadine and Bryce Lauer and family on the death of Nadine's father, Harley Frey

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

Thanks

The family of Cherry Roach would like to thank all the members of St. John's Lutheran Church. We felt so cared for by each of you at Mom's funeral.

Terry and Mary Roach and Lon and Patti Kaderavek

Middle and High School Upcoming Events

- December 3rd – Caring Tree Shopping 10-12
- December 20th – Caroling at Maplewood
Fun Night 7-8
- December 27th – No Confirmation

Congratulations

Congrats to Jack Boerger for completing his sermon notes!

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

Luella Bever
John Anderson
Julie Allen
Diane Reich
Brett Herschleb

Thank you

Coats for Kids The combined efforts of Concordia Methodist and St. John's Lutheran churches resulted in 176 winter coats, 12 pairs of boots and numerous hats, gloves, scarves and mittens being collected for the children in need in the Sauk Prairie School District. Thank you for your donations!

*Thank
You!*

We want to send you an additional "thank you" for all your congregation does for Habitat for Humanity's housing mission. We appreciate the support. We know that without the support you give to your local, home-grown and home-run(!) Habitat for Humanity, we would achieve much less. Thank you!

Eleanor and Sauk County Habitat for Humanity

Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Service Times

Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we will celebrate with one morning worship service at 9:00 a.m. Our Candlelight services take place at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. Make plans with your family to attend these meaningful and very beautiful worship services.

Christmas Day we will celebrate with a morning worship service at 9:00 a.m.

SERRV Sale

During the month of December we will have a 50% off sale on all our **non-food** SERRV items. You may come in during our regular office hours (M-F 8am-Noon and 1-4pm) or make purchases on Sunday mornings between services.

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your gift of \$475.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With this gift you are providing emotional and spiritual care, supplying emergency relief, and addressing long-term recovery for those affected by Hurricane Harvey which hit our neighbors in Texas. Thank you for living into God's words of justice and mercy and for joining with the whole church to love and serve one another.

Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Happy December Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Olive Rennie (4)

Sylvie Miller (19)

Our Sunday School Students:

Savannah Acker (2)

Elio Piccinelli (2)

John Brennan V (5)

Dylann Fisher (5)

Landon Schultz (9)

Lily Fauerbach (11)

Josie Kinney (14)

Audrey Maestri (15)

Hannah Stephan (16)

Barrett Brice (17)

Nellie Kaderavek (18)

Katie Endres (19)

Giuliana Pacholke (20)

Evan Ryan (21)

Parker Frosch (24)

Amelia Kitelinger (26)

William Pickett (26)

Kenlee Hewitt (27)

Hudson Ballweg (28)

Harper Wasserberg (29)

Kaia Kraemer (30)

Our Youth:

Jordan Small (1)

Claire Thiede (3)

Colden Harter (9)

Lauren Wideen (10)

Aimee Maasch (11)

Summer Acker (12)

Craig Wernsing (13)

Ethan Schad (17)

Drew Schlimgen (24)

Wyatt Urban (24)

Olivia Joyce (27)

College and Career-age Young People:

Greta Koenig (15)

Hunter Lohr (20)

Kaitlyn Vieth (20)

Serving in December

Ushers:

December 3

8:00 a.m.

Jerry Kaufman
Nancy Kaufman
Cayden Wernsing
Mike Wernsing
Roger Clason
Dan Baun
Chloe Wernsing
Charlie Kruchten
Jessica Kruchten
Anna Ballweg
Jeff Ballweg

10:30 a.m.

Bill Wardwell
Gerry Westphal
Ben Levers
Beth Levers
Bill Wardwell
Andy Jones
Ethan Jones
Bill Wardwell
Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal

December 10

December 17

December 24

Chad Kelter
Gina Wyttenbach
Emily Caflish

9:00

a.m.

only

December 31

John Hines
Linda Hines

Acolytes:

December 3

8:00 a.m.

Chloe Wernsing
Anna Ballweg
Cayden Wernsing
Michael Endres
Jonah Richard
Megan Small
Jordan Chao
Megan Small

10:30 a.m.

Emily Caflisch
Wesley Himebauch
Alia Schlimgen
Brody Ballweg
Kyle Dregney
Jordan Chao
9:00 a.m. only
Alia Schlimgen
Wyatt Urban

December 10

December 17

December 24

December 31

Readers:

December 3

December 10

December 17

December 24

December 31

8:00 a.m.

Chloe Wernsing
Marilyn Herschleb
Mary Halweg
Anne Klinkner
John Hines

10:30 a.m.

Jay Dregney
Nancy McCauley
Arthur Ness
9:00 a.m. only
Dale Clason

Cantors:

December 3

December 10

December 17

December 24

December 31

8:00 a.m.

Marv/Janelle Hupp
Janis Baun
Melani Wheeler
Connie Burton
Senior Choir

10:30 a.m.

Megan Small
Deb Lohr-Foster
Dennis Fisher
9:00 a.m. only
Jordan Small

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

December 3 Chloe Wernsing
December 10 Kathy Lovell
December 17 Marilyn Herschleb
December 24 Melani Wheeler
December 31 Linda Hines

10:30 a.m.

Emily Caflich
Audrey Luetscher
Gerry Westphal
9:00 a.m. only
Melani Wheeler

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

December 3 Kyra Manning
December 10 Audrie Nurkala
December 17 Marv Hupp
December 24
December 31 Donna Knickmeyer

10:30 a.m.

Kyra Manning
Audrie Nurkala
Marv Hupp
9:00 a.m. only
Donna Knickmeyer

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

December 3 Jayne Carlson
December 10 Cayden Wernsing
December 17 Holly Knidschi
December 24 Marilyn Herschleb
December 31 Donna Knickmeyer

10:30 a.m.

Deb Lohr-Foster
Brody Ballweg
9:00 a.m. only
Donna Knickmeyer

Nursery Staff:

December 3 Jenna Pistono
Karley Blau
December 10 Alia Schlimgen
Drew Marshall
December 17 Karley Blau
Claire Thiede
December 24
December 31 Carly Coy
Gavin Tompkin

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Jenna Pistono
Kyle Dregney
Molly Ballweg
Claire Thiede
Anna Francour
Jay Dregney
9:00 a.m. only
Emily Caflich

No Nursery Staff

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

December 3 Ava Roach
December 10 Carley Frosch
December 17 Jonah Richard
December 24
December 31 Gavin Tompkin

9:00 a.m.(Serve)

Cayden Wernsing
Carley Frosch
Linda Michaels
9:00 a.m. only
Linda Yanke

No Coffee hour

Sunday Stewards

December 3 Lori Hegge
December 10 Butch Passehl
December 17 Megan Tarnutzer
December 24 Linda Lintl
December 31

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Melani Wheeler
Ken Carlson
Bob Lange
9:00 a.m. only

Greeters:

Dec 3 (Sanctuary)	<u>8:00 a.m.</u> Eunice Yanke	<u>10:30 a.m.</u> Kathy Danz
(Front doors)	Cliff/Cindy Thompson	Norma Newman
(Side doors)	Monte Wick	Cathy/Herb Yanke
Dec 10 (Sanctuary)	Bob/Josie Fentress	Denny/Bonnie Dederich
(Front doors)	Rich/Jane Calenzo	Curt/Peggy Johnson
(Side doors)	Paul/Ann Kippley	Bob/Dede Egan
Dec 17 (Sanctuary)	Wesley Himebauch	Jack Boerger
(Front doors)	Carly Coy	Jordan Chao
(Side doors)	Anna Ballweg	Anna Francour
Dec 24 (Sanctuary)	Fay Rentmeester	<u>9:00</u>
(Front doors)	Karen Bader	<u>a.m.</u>
(Side doors)	Eunice Yanke	<u>only</u>
Dec 31 (Sanctuary)	Dan/Kathy Lovell	Jim Merlet
(Front doors)	Roger/Bev Clason	Lee Ann Goelz
(Side doors)		John/Aletha Ballweg

Christmas Eve**Assisting Minister:** (all services) Intern Derek Rosenstiel**Ushers:****1:00pm**

Linda Meyer

3:00pm

Roger Howard
 Marcia Howard
 Rodney Key
 Marsha Key

5:00pm

Jon Sandeman
 Hunter Dittberner
 Stephan Dittberner
 Sheila Dittberner

7:30pm Dave Lohr, Ruth Lohr, Herb Yanke, Cathy Yanke**Readers:****1:00pm**

John Hines

3:00pm

Arthur Ness

5:00pm

Aaron Braund

7:30pm Jack Boerger**Communion Set-up/Clean-up:****1:00pm**

Marilyn Herschleb

3:00pm

Dorothy Halverson

5:00pm

Becki Braund

Communion Assistants:**1:00pm**

Linda Hines

3:00pm

Kathy Lovell

5:00pm

Becki Braund

Donna Knickmeyer

7:30pm Dorothy Halverson

Christmas Eve Acolytes:

1:00pm

Michael Endres
Cole Douglas
Alia Schlimgen
Haylee Goetsch
Jonah Richard
Chesney
Schonenberger

3:00pm

Anna Ballweg
Ashley Pape
Carly Coy
Karley Blau
Kyra Manning
Courtney
Lautenbach

5:00pm

Ruby Sandeman
Emma Kinnamon
Ethan Jones
Charlie Homp
Annika Braund
Jozie Braund

7:30pm Jordan Chao, Megan Small, Jack Boerger

Sunday School Upcoming Events

- December 10th -Christmas Program Rehearsal (speaking parts only) 11:30-12:30
- December 17th – Christmas Program – 2:00pm
- December 24th – No Sunday School
- December 31st – No Sunday School
- January 14th – SS Kids Sing in Church – 8:00 service

Sunday School News

As teachers and kids get settled in to their classrooms, the Sunday's just keep getting busier and busier! We are in full swing, preparing for the Sunday School Christmas Program, which will be on December 17th at 2:00pm. We will have one practice on December 10th following the second service, for speaking parts only.

Kids sang "If A Were A Butterfly" in church on November 12th, and did a phenomenal job! Many thanks to our new Singspiration leader, JoAnnah Sorg!

We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Becky Francour, Sunday School Superintendent
Abby Bennett, Youth and Education Coordinator

Sunday School

October 29
November 5
November 12
November 19
November 26

Attendance

66
89
76
64

No classes, Thanksgiving break

Offering

\$33.25
\$65.50
\$31.00
\$27.00

Thank you Office Angels

My duties have been made lighter and brighter by many of you who have stopped by the office with a warm smile, a kind word and encouragement each day. Your cheerful voices on the phone have brightened my day. There are others who have come to my aid by volunteering to come in weekly or monthly to help with specific "chores". The following is a list of our Office Angels:

Almay Nelson	Bob Nelson
Barb Stenner	Ellen Hamlin
Linda Michaels	Donna Hosking
Bev Clason	Donna Knickmeyer
Mary Weeks	Diane Williams
Kathy Lester	Nick Lester
Dale Haroldson	Eunice Yanke
Jeanne Haroldson	Jeannine Robertson
Elaine Sprecher	Marilyn Brecka
Sandy Frey	Kris Eagan
Shirley Anding	Barb Salvesson
Harold Carlson	John Laughnan
Paul Bringle	Dick Uttech
Tom Mahoney	

I apologize if I have missed anyone. I thank you all and am grateful for all of you each day!

Linda Hines

St. John's Office and Communications Coordinator

Congregational totals

	Attendance	Offering
October 29	285	\$11,012.00
November 5	366	\$13,177.75
November 12	344	\$ 6,228.00
November 19	238	\$12,598.00
November 26	288	\$ 7,078.78

All Saints Sunday

On November 5 we gave thanks for the lives of those who have been gathered into our heavenly home since All Saints Day of 2016. Those we miss are:

Donna Weeks
Bethany Adams
Don Hamlin
Frieda Waldinger
Lester Floeter
Barbara Carlson
Wanda Gorsuch
Lani Marquardt Wellman
Tom Michaels
LaVera Page
Ronald Ellingson
Mike Puerling
Shirley Lukens
Walter Sprecher
Terry Sue Mock
Scott Uttech
Rich Newman
Arletta Wachter
Claire Richardson
Natalie Beach
Jim Staff
Cherry Roach

Please keep the families of these loved ones in your prayers this holiday season.

Thank
You!

Thank you for your gift of \$755.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With this gift you are making possible the support of unmet needs, the coordinating of volunteers in the United States through our local affiliates and the promoting of disaster risk-reduction internationally, expanding knowledge and ability. Thank you for this gift and all your faithful generous gifts and prayers.

Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

These were monies collected to help victims of the hurricane in Puerto Rico.

♥THANK you!

We had numerous people thank us for moving our event (the Card Party Luncheon) to St. John's, appreciating the ample parking, seating space and amenities. Our event was a success, with 60 people joining our meal, 48 card players in the traveling Euchre tournament, and another group playing board games to have a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by all. Not only is this a fantastic fundraiser that supports our mission, it is a wonderful way for us to reach out into our communities and bring together people to share friendships. We truly appreciate your willingness to let us host the event at St. John's. Thank you again on behalf of the Friends of Sauk Prairie Healthcare's Board of Directors.

Friends of Sauk Prairie Healthcare Board of Directors:

Sally Turk, President

Kerri Ludolph, Vice-President

Phyllis Dresser, Treasurer

Mary Schroder, Secretary

Kathy Bishop, Director

Jill Breunig, Director

Sharon Kalscheuer, Director

Donna Roelke, Director

Jennifer Haskins, Director At Large

Theresa Douglas, Volunteer Services Coordinator



The 2018 offering envelopes are ready for you to take home. Please do not use them until January. If you give your offering electronically you will not have envelopes on the tables. If you want envelopes, or if your name was missed, please leave a note for Linda or call the church office (643-2439) and we will gladly give you envelopes.

