



Ezra Bauer, 4<sup>th</sup> grade

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Prairie du Sac, WI

February 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On May 13, nearly 20 young people will profess their faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed. They will then acknowledge the promises their parents and sponsors made at their baptism and in the midst of the community of St. John's Lutheran Church, they will answer the question, "Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to *live* among God's faithful people,
- to *hear* the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to *proclaim* the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to *serve* all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to *strive* for justice and peace in all the earth?

Their response, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me," will be a public affirmation of faith and their declaration to continue their journey with the larger Christian community.

This Lenten season I invite you to join with all of God's people in revisiting the promises made on your behalf in baptism and renewing the promises affirmed again in your Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation).

Beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing on through the five Wednesdays of Lent, we will explore what scripture tells us about living out these promises to: Live, Hear, Proclaim, Serve and Strive.

Siblings of Jesus, children of God, join us as we journey from Ash Wednesday, Feb 14, through Easter Sunday, April 1, on the path that our brother Jesus walked, a path he continues to walk with us. This path is challenging, yet life giving. It is full of struggle, yet seeks peace. It calls us to engage evil, yet knows that ultimately all is in God's gracious hands.

May this Lenten season be a time for reflection and action on these promises.

Shalom,

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

### **Congregational Meeting**

St. John's will meet on March 4, after the first service, to elect members to attend the May 5-6 Synod Assembly. Those elected will serve as voting members at the synod assembly and be our voice as the church gathers at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This year we will elect a new bishop along with our normal assembly business. Please keep in prayer our synod and those who will be voting on this important decision.

We will also be hearing a report from a committee working on possibly building a columbarium on our property. Columbariums are structures with niches designed to hold urns with ashes of cremated remains. No action will be taken at this time beyond hearing about this ministry possibility.

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

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

Intern Derek Rosenstiel [derek@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:derek@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

(h) 370-7392

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

(c)393-4291

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

(c)370-2380

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

Office and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines

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

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 February 11th. 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:

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| pudding cups | instant oatmeal |
| applesauce   | spaghetti sauce |
| brownie mix  | pasta           |

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

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

### **Birthday Greetings**

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

Marilyn Larson (18)  
174 – 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

### **Sauk Prairie Area Literacy Council**

The literacy council is looking for tutors. What does it mean to be a tutor with the literacy council? It means helping adults improve their functional literacy skills so that day-to-day experiences become easier.

No previous teaching experience is required. The usual time commitment is 1 to 2 contact hours per week. Participation in a Tutor Preparation Workshop is required. There is no cost for this 4 session workshop. Workshop dates are March 8, 15, 22 and April 5 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

To register or for more information, contact Heather Cole, SPALC Coordinator at 643-8318

## Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Thursday, February 15, 6:15 p.m. at St. John's Library, childcare is provided

Lydia Circle: Thursday, February 8, 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, Darlene Holl, hostess

Martha Circle: Thursday, February 1, 9:00 a.m. at Marilyn Herschleb's, 129 Washington St., Sauk City

Ruth Circle: Monday, February 12, 9:30 a.m. at Marian DeGiovanni's, 295 Water St., Prairie du Sac

Sarah/Mary Circles: Tuesday, February 6, 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Library



In February the Bible Study will be led by Anne Klinkner, Macel Magnussen, Marge Erlandson, Loretta Landerman and Kathy Lester.

With the threat of icy weather, it was necessary to cancel the WELCA meeting scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup>. We then decided to combine our meeting with the OWLS event a week later on Thursday, January 18 beginning at 9:30 a.m. We were pleased that there were 27 ladies in attendance. Everyone brought food and (as usual) we had more than enough...and a wide variety of good food! A big thank you to Intern Derek who gave a fantastic presentation about his life and family and making the decision to become a pastor. We very much enjoyed hearing his story.

There was discussion about the prayer sheets that were handed out in early January for victims of Human Trafficking. It is a horrendous crime with victims being vulnerable adults and children. We need to continue to pray for an end to this crime that enslaves millions of girls, boys, women and men here and around the world. If you haven't picked up a prayer sheet, you should do so.

After our discussions, we proceeded to the sanctuary where the candles were set up for the memorial service for members of our church who passed away during 2017. There was a reading by Marian DeGiovanni and Connie Burton was there to accompany us with some hymns. As names were read, candles were lit by a family member, friend or someone who may have been touched by the life of the deceased person in some way. A candle was lit for each of the following:

|                        |                 |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Donna Weeks            | Don Hamlin      | Lester Floeter  |
| Wanda Gorsuch          | Tom Michaels    | Roger Ellingson |
| Shirley Lukens         | Terry Sue Mock  | Rich Newman     |
| Claire Richardson      | Jim Staff       | Bethany Adams   |
| Frieda Waldinger       | Barbara Carlson | LaVera Page     |
| Lana Marquardt Wellman |                 | Mike Puerling   |

Walter Sprecher  
Natalie Beach  
James Kraemer

Scott Uttech  
Cherry Roach

Arletta Wachter  
Frieda Petter

Our thanks to all who helped make this a meaningful service.

We will choose prayer partners in February.

Mary Circle has been visiting Special Friends during December and January. Lydia Circle will visit them during February and March.

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

The Bible Study Leaders' Meeting for March will be on Tuesday, February 27 at 9:00 a.m.

### **Older Wiser Livelier Seniors (OWLS)**

All 55+ members and friends of St. John's are invited to gather together at 9:30am on Thursday, February 15th. Our subject will be on reconciliation, and we will watch a movie with a discussion to follow. (Please note this time our gathering will be closer to 2 hours) We hope you can join us!

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

### **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. We have our last of three orientation sessions on February 4 at 9:15am in the Youth Room. If you were unable to attend these sessions, but would like to join please see one of the pastors.

## **Adult Education Schedule**

February's adult education continues on the theme of loving and serving our neighbor. We will watch the last of our videos on Christianity and Islam on February 4th. Then we will turn our focus to the new social statement study on Women and Justice, specifically talking about issues of sexism and how we are called to respond as faithful people of God. 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.

## **Hannah Circle – NEW NIGHT!**

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

## **Women's Book Club**

On February 27th we will discuss [A Walk to Remember](#) by Nicholas Sparks at 10am in the church library. A copy has been placed on the desk in the library.

## **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.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have been privileged to be in conversation with many of you about how we might stand up in the face of racism and to be a word of hope instead of a word of hatred.

Today I share with you part of a statement made by our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (you can read the full statement on the ELCA Facebook page):

“...we should be fostering a world where each of us sees every person – regardless of race, origin, ethnicity, gender or economic status – in the image of God and, therefore, worthy of dignity and respect. Our church has relationships and partnerships with Christians and others on six continents. These are our sisters and brothers. We strive to accompany them and they us, across boundaries and cognizant of our diversity, yet all seeking the common good. In working for a healed, reconciled and just world, we all should faithfully strive to participate in God's reconciling work, which prioritizes disenfranchised, vulnerable and displaced people in our communities and the world, bearing witness – each of us – to the love of God in Jesus Christ.”

As your pastors we are committed to follow, and challenge you, to follow God's command to love and serve one another. That includes people who are different from us, who disagree with us, and even those who anger us! The easy part is to serve those we love and who are like us. But God is always pushing us to do things God's way, not our own way, which can be downright hard.

Please join us in our Sunday adult education sessions on Sundays through March as we talk about issues of racism, diversity, sexism, and how we might respond as faithful Christians.

The Gospel of Mark reminds us of the urgency to follow God's command and to bring forth this new reality we have in Christ. That all of God's children are beloved children. And that we don't get to choose which of God's children get to be loved and served.

They're not easy conversations. There are no magic wands that fix the brokenness of our society. But there is always hope in the One who brought ultimate reconciliation.

Please join us!

God's Peace to you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sally".



Greetings Siblings in Christ,

It has been a number of years now since the bullying prevention movement started. This powerful & positive movement is something that most of you have probably heard of in your workplace, in your community, or in school. Maybe you have even attended a seminar or workshop focused on the topic of how to stand up to bullying. This movement has produced such helpful phrases as this: “Be a Buddy Not a Bully”, “You Never Look Good Trying to Make Someone Else Look Bad”, and “Pulling Someone Down Will Never Help You Reach the Top”. Although this idea is something most people are already familiar with, I think it is something that can never be stressed enough.

In environments charged with polarized stances on politics, religion, values and so much more; there is always the possibility for bullying to be encountered. Even without such environments, the presence of random acts of bullying can be seen almost everywhere you look; whether on television, social media or in your immediate surroundings. I personally have experienced bullying firsthand in my childhood as well as in my adult years. In addition, I have witnessed others be bullied throughout my life, in many different settings. The effects of bullying upon everyone involved have been shown to be quite dramatic to say the least. Depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns, and loss of interest in activities individuals used to enjoy - are just a few of these effects. Bullying can even drive a person to some drastic measures in certain situations. Individuals who have been bullied may perform acts of self-harm, or may turn to more retaliatory actions such as abuse or seeking revenge through acts of violence. Individuals who are bullies and are never called to account for their actions are more likely to go on to abuse others in the future; either physically, verbally, or even sexually.

For February, I decided to write about this topic because I think an important part of being witnesses to the gospel of Christ is to always be attentive to ways in which we can promote justice and love wherever it may be lacking. I think another phrase promoted by the bullying prevention communities puts it well – “It is not enough to be compassionate, we must speak out and act!” The

coming season of Lent is a time of solemn reflection, repentance of sins & preparation through prayerful self-assessment. I would claim though that Lent is also a season of action where we may more

intentionally practice the living out of our call to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our Lord. It is my hope and prayer that the Church as a whole and we as members of this Body may continue to promote and be agents of love in the midst of hate.

God in Christ proclaims to the world that all people deserve life, love & the fullest measure of dignity. In the eyes of God we are all beloved children who are beautifully and wonderfully made. Through the movement of the Holy Spirit God declares that no chains can bind us or restrain us from receiving the gifts of grace that are offered to us all in Christ. Let us daily proclaim these truths with our voices, with our actions, and with our whole lives! I pray that you may always be able to see that your most true identity is the precious identity that is given to you in the waters of baptism!

Grace & Peace to You Always,

Intern Derek

## SPECIAL PRAYER

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

We pray for all whose lives  
have been touched by tragedy,  
whether by accident  
or a deliberate act.

For those who mourn,  
immerse them in your love  
and lead them through this darkness  
into your arms, and light.

For those who comfort,  
be in both the words they use  
and all that's left unspoken;  
fill each heart with love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
whose own suffering brought us life,  
here and for eternity. Amen

©John Birch

## **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Family and friends of Jim Merlet

Christine Leaf on the death of her sister-in-law, Carol

Steiner

Eunice Yanke, Karen Ballweg and their families on the death of their sister, Audrey Zander

Andy and Joanna Jones and their family on the death of Andy's father, Alan Jones

Arlene Foell and family on the death of her husband, Jack

Pastor Sally, Jeff and Molly Williams on the death of Pastor Sally's cousin, Chad

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

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**

Eleanor Ferry

Hazel Graf

Norma Newman

Martin Ohlsen

Charlene Kepler

Eunice Yanke

## **News from the Director of Music**

Dear members of St. John's,

On Ash Wednesday of 2001, I became the director of music at St. John's. This position included serving as the organist and director of the Senior Choir. In 2002, I also took on the position of director of Kids of the Kingdom, and after a few years, also became director of the Messengers. Serving as your music director has been a great privilege and joy of my life. From the start, I was welcomed with loving open arms, and was shown the love of Christ at work. This has been a wonderful place to do music ministry.

On June 30, 2018, I will be retiring. I have been an organist since I was a junior in high school! Before coming to St. John's, I was the organist at St. John's in Grafton, Wisconsin. So, I have served for 25 years in an "almost every Sunday" position. My husband, Bill, has been a constant support through all my years of serving in the church as a music leader. He has been retired for a couple of years, and now is the time for me to do that as well! We are excited about the possibilities, and look forward to finding out how we can serve in new ways.

I have been blessed by the pastoral leadership here. St. John's has strong theologians as pastors, who seek to teach, preach, and bring the Good News to all. Both Fred and Sally have been a constant source of encouragement and support and I am grateful for all they have done for me and my family.

I am also lucky to have served with wonderful staff here. The internship program has also proven to be a wonderful opportunity to see more of the upcoming leaders in the ELCA.

Having said all this, June is several months away, and there is still much to do! Thank you, St. John's for showing the love of Christ in so many ways.

Sincerely,  
Connie Burton

## **Good Friday Cantata**

On Good Friday we will present a cantata at our ecumenical services. If you are interested in being a part of the ecumenical choir and have any questions, please speak with Connie Burton. The rehearsal schedule is:

Saturdays: February 10, March 3 and March 17, at 9:00am

If you cannot make the Saturday sessions, there will be rehearsals on

Wednesdays: February 7, February 28 and March 14 at 2:00pm.

We welcome these new sisters into the family of Christ following their baptisms during the month of January.

Della Rae Kaderavek, daughter of Aaron and Rachel Kaderavek. Della's sponsors are Brendan Cleary and Sheenagh Cleary. Her congregational sponsor is Jon Sandeman.

Charlotte Elizabeth Schreiber, daughter of Ben Schreiber and Kali Schroeder. Charlotte's sponsors are Leah and Luke Lengfeld and Sam Schreiber. Her congregational sponsors are Dale and Jeanne Haroldson.

### **Stock the Schools**

In cooperation with 6:8, St. John's is collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. Each month we will have different items to collect that will help our local students. Some of these items can be used in school and some at home. February's items are: single-serve fruit cups, NEW brushes, combs, headbands and barrettes. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the office to drop off your donations.

### **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. If you have any doubt about road conditions and your ability to maneuver, don't risk a fall or an accident. Please stay home.

### **Alzheimer Dementia Support group**

Whether you simply want a reference point to know what to expect when cognitive changes knock on your loved one's door or find comfort from others who are walking in your same shoes, the Alzheimer Dementia Support group welcomes you. FREE meetings are hosted at Maplewood, 245 Sycamore St., Sauk City, **every 4th Tuesday, 3:00 – 4:30**. RSVPs are not necessary. If you have questions, contact Theresa Grimes, 643-3383.

## **AARP Safe Driving Class**

Find out how to keep your license longer and be a safer driver through AARP's Safe Driving class. It is offered at Maplewood Health & Rehabilitation Center, 245 Sycamore St., Sauk City, on **Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 8:30-1:30**. There is a nominal fee (cash/check, no credit card option available) for instruction materials: AARP members = \$15, Non-AARP members = \$20. Please bring your AARP number and drivers license for registration purposes. Reservations are not necessary, but they are welcome, 643-3383. Eating lunch at Maplewood is an option, cost is \$5.00. If interested, please indicate meal request when signing up.

Many insurance companies offer discounts if their clients aged 50+ participate in a safe driving class. Ask your company if you will qualify for the discount.

## **Thank you volunteers!**

We are thankful to the following people who volunteered to deliver Mobile Meals during the weeks of January 22 – 26 and January 29 – February 2.

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Norma Newman     | Sharon Sprecher   |
| Bob Nelson       | Patti Kippley     |
| Derek Rosenstiel | Marsha Key        |
| Rodney Key       | Dorothy Halverson |
| Fay Rentmeester  | Darlene Holl      |
| Patty Barritt    | Steve Barritt     |
| Rich Frey        | Kris Frey         |
| Anna Parker      | Dave Parker       |

We thank you for your willingness to serve others.

## **Campbell Soup Labels**

Campbell's is discontinuing its Labels for Education program. They ended on December 31, 2017. We will not be collecting the labels any longer. Thank you for all the labels and "points" that you have shared with our local elementary schools in the past years.

## **Happy February Birthday!**

*The day is in parenthesis*

### **Our Youngest:**

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Lucas Passehl (4)    | Gage Fournier (6) |
| Avery Brunner (8)    | Lincoln Ott (8)   |
| Tenley Sorg (8)      | Otis Johnson (13) |
| Elston Kelter (19)   | Lucy Pickett (21) |
| Hannah Bischoff (22) | Kaitlyn Frey (22) |

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

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Lily Verhage (6)     | Addison Schulenburg (11) |
| Kylie Hutchins (15)  | Brynn Kruchten (15)      |
| BrookLynn Baier (16) | Colin Wernsing (18)      |
| Kate Himebauch (19)  | Molly Williams (19)      |
| Ezra Bauer (22)      | Cashton Lane (22)        |
| Evelynn Brennan (26) | Kiptyn Suchla (26)       |
| Kate Wernsing (28)   |                          |

### **Our Youth:**

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Max Sailor (2)      | Michael Endres (3)      |
| Jonah Richard (6)   | Courtney Lautenbach (7) |
| Joe Treinen (7)     | Jacob Suchomel (9)      |
| Nathan Janish (13)  | Noah Schoepp (14)       |
| Haylee Goetsch (21) | Jay Dregney (22)        |
| Lillian Jones (24)  | Molly Ballweg (26)      |
| Audrie Nurkala (28) |                         |

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

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Angie Kolb (2)        | Trent Anderson (2)   |
| Jacob Harter (11)     | Julia Reinke (15)    |
| Keith Hines (16)      | Grant Schlimgen (16) |
| Patrick Klinkner (27) |                      |

## Serving in February

### Ushers:

February 4

### 8:00 a.m.

Brody Ballweg  
Shawn Ballweg  
Lon Kaderavek  
Roger Maynard

### 10:30 a.m.

Malea Niesen  
Jerry Niesen  
Steve Kindschi

February 11

Chesney Schonenberger  
Jill Schonenberger  
Lon Kaderavek  
Steve Kindschi

Maggie Hartman  
Meta Hartman  
Aaron Braund  
Lee Ann Goelz

February 18

Doug Nelson  
Donna Nelson  
Larry Halweg

Joel Liedtke  
Bob Egan  
Dede Egan  
Steve Kindschi

February 25

Jordan Small  
Steve Kindschi

Jay Dregney  
Jim Dregney  
Emily Caflisch  
Jon Caflisch

### Acolytes:

February 4

### 8:00 a.m.

Drew Marshall  
Charlie Homp  
Karlie Harpold  
Audrie Nurkala

### 10:30 a.m.

Audrie Nurkala  
Karlie Harpold  
Emma Kinnamon  
Ben Levers  
Meadow Liedtke  
Quinn Baier

February 11

February 18

Jaxson Dunn  
Ava Roach  
Megan Small  
Sam Beattie

February 25

### Readers:

February 4

February 11

February 18

February 25

### 8:00 a.m.

Courtney Lautenbach  
Donna Knickmeyer  
Mary Halweg  
Roxanne Small

### 10:30 a.m.

Cora Dunnum  
Aaron Braund  
Anne Klinkner  
Arthur Ness

### Cantors:

February 4

February 11

February 18

February 25

### 8:00 a.m.

Katie LaVigne  
Bill Burton  
Dennis Fisher  
Marv/Janelle Hupp

### 10:30 a.m.

Deb Lohr-Foster  
Cathy/Katie Yanke  
Dennis Fisher  
Senior Choir



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

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| February 4  | Annika Braund     |
| February 11 | Nadine Lauer      |
| February 18 | Marilyn Herschleb |
| February 25 | Nadine Lauer      |

**10:30 a.m.**

|                  |
|------------------|
| Anna Francour    |
| Audrey Luetscher |
| Deb Westphal     |
| Dede Egan        |

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

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| February 4  | Jordan Small     |
| February 11 | Donna Knickmeyer |
| February 18 |                  |
| February 25 | Marv Hupp        |

**10:30 a.m.**

|                  |
|------------------|
| Jordan Small     |
| Donna Knickmeyer |
|                  |
| Marv Hupp        |

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

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| February 4  | Darlene Holl      |
|             | Diane Williams    |
| February 11 | Annika Braund     |
| February 18 | Dorothy Halverson |
| February 25 | Darlene Holl      |
|             | Diane Williams    |

**10:30 a.m.**

|                    |
|--------------------|
| Kim Larson         |
|                    |
| Ethan Jones        |
| Deb/Gerry Westphal |
| Deb Lohr-Foster    |

**Nursery Staff:**

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| February 4  | Cora Dunnum      |
|             | Molly Ballweg    |
| February 11 | Karley Blau      |
|             | Jordan Chao      |
| February 18 | Drew Marshall    |
|             | Wyatt Urban      |
| February 25 | Zach Guentherman |
|             | Quinn Baier      |

**10:30 a.m.**

|                  |
|------------------|
| Ruby Sandeman    |
| Colden Harter    |
| Haylee Goetsch   |
| Annika Braund    |
| Maggie Hartman   |
| Ben Levers       |
| Zach Guentherman |
| Ruby Sandeman    |

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

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| February 4  | Linda Yanke    |
| February 11 | Jack Gorsuch   |
| February 18 | Maggie Hartman |
| February 25 | Linda Yanke    |

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

|                    |
|--------------------|
| Colden/Gabe Harter |
| Emma Kinnamon      |
| Jaxson Dunn        |
| Jay Dregney        |

**Sunday Stewards**

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| February 4  | John Schmidt   |
| February 11 | Linda Lintl    |
| February 18 | Melani Wheeler |
| February 25 | Butch Passehl  |

**10:30 a.m.**

|              |
|--------------|
| James Newman |
| James Newman |
| James Newman |
| James Newman |

**Greeters:****8:00 a.m.****10:30 a.m.**

|                     |                      |                     |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Feb. 4 (Sanctuary)  | Steve/Holly Kindschi | Herb/Cathy Yanke    |
| (Front doors)       | Shirley Anding       | Dave Clason         |
| (Side doors)        | Gina Wyttenbach      | Candy Buckles       |
| Feb. 11 (Sanctuary) | Gil/Kathy Danz       | John/Aletha Ballweg |
| (Front doors)       | Jackie Frosch        | Doris Lohr          |
| (Side doors)        | Monte/Lynette Wick   |                     |
| Feb. 18 (Sanctuary) | Karlie Harpold       |                     |
| (Front doors)       | Anna Francour        | Jon Bennett Family  |
| (Side doors)        |                      |                     |
| Feb. 25 (Sanctuary) | Fay Rentmeester      | Caroline Morrow     |
| (Front doors)       | Darlene Holl         | Darin/Kristin Pape  |
| (Side doors)        | Jeannine Robertson   | Bob/Dede Egan       |

**Congregational totals**

|               | <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Offering</b> |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| December 3    | 287               | \$10,615.80     |
| December 10   | 308               | \$ 9,751.50     |
| December 17   | 295               | \$11,249.25     |
| December 24   | 120               | \$10,200.05     |
| Christmas Eve | 955               | \$ 9,180.75     |

**Lent begins February 14**

Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2018. This marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We will have worship services on Wednesdays at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. There will be a meal served before each service, at noon and 5:20 p.m. respectfully. As we have done in the past, our Wednesday Lenten offerings will be divided among other organizations that reach out to help our neighbors. This year the Stewardship Committee has chosen suicide prevention and the Sauk Prairie Schools Homeless Program.

# Sunday School News

## Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars, our 2018 Vacation Bible School will be August 6-10, 2018. Sign up will be in April, and stay tuned for more details!

| <u>Sunday School</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| January 7            | 60                | \$43.75         |
| January 14           | 53                | \$13.50         |
| January 21           | 63                | \$21.00         |

## Bake Sale to Fight Hunger

On Sunday, February 4, St. John's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have a bake sale to raise funds for ELCA's Barnyard Animals fight against hunger program. The sale will be held in the gathering area and begins at 9:00 a.m. The students will be selling decorated cookies, pies, quick breads and other goodies.

The students have been working very hard in preparation for this sale. Please come to support them and see their young faith in action!

## Middle and High School News

### Middle and High School Upcoming Events

February 14 – Ash Wednesday – Confirmation runs until 7:30pm

March 14 – Confirmation Mentor Night

**Congrats** Emily Cafilisch on completing your sermon notes!

## Thank you!

You are touching lives for Christ. You have enabled us to share God's Word in prisons, hotels and motels, schools and colleges, as well as hospitals, medical facilities and more.

Please accept our deepest appreciation on behalf of those who have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior because of your generosity.

The Gideons Society

# Thank you!

To all VOLUNTEERS of

St. John's Lutheran Church

To show our appreciation for all you do,  
we invite you and your family to lunch on

Sunday, February 25, at 11:45 a.m.

in the fellowship hall where we will honor you for your  
dedication and generosity.

We know that there are many, many things that are being done here at St. John's for the benefit of all our members and visitors alike. We know these things are being done by many, many caring, dedicated people for the sake of others. Often times the caring, dedicated people do their "jobs" during the week when not so many others are here. Some work when no one else is in the building, coming very early in the morning or staying late into the evening. Some work outside of the building, clearing snow, mowing lawn, tending the memorial garden. Some work at home and bring the fruits of their labor to St. John's. This last group includes teachers preparing lessons, quilters cutting, measuring and sewing fabric, those who purchase groceries to prepare meals, those who take communion cloths home to wash, kitchen towels to launder and those that deliver home communion or mobile meals. There truly are many kind and generous souls that keep St. John's running so smoothly.

The Fellowship Committee wishes to thank all who help here at St. John's, from doing the smallest task to the grandest. Please accept our invitation to join us for a meal in your honor on February 25.



## Mattresses for the Orphanage

Help purchase much needed mattresses for the House of Jesus' Children Orphanage. Each one costs \$50. They need 100 mattresses in order to replace those that have literally fallen apart, along with adding additional ones to meet the growing size of the orphanage.

Whatever you can give, please indicate on your gift, 'Orphanage Mattress Project.' We will continue collecting money for mattresses through May, 2018. We currently have collected \$3691. Thank you!

## Thank You

On behalf of the Help Excite Little People (H.E.L.P.) Project, heartfelt thanks for your involvement. We greatly appreciate the generous donations that you shared. On the day of our distribution, the toys and items for teens were made available to 65 adults.

Many thanks for making the holidays happier for Sauk Prairie families. Wishing you the best in 2018!

With thanks and respect,  
Margaret McFarlane  
H.E.L.P. Coordinator

 **THANK you!**

On behalf of the Salvation Army, I would like to thank you for your involvement in the 2017 holiday bell ringing. We greatly appreciate your gift of time.

\$9,096.72 was collected the weekends during Advent.

Great job, everyone! A breakdown of the donations is below:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Blackhawk-Bethlehem United Methodist Church | \$ 466.00  |
| Concordia United Methodist Church           | \$3,663.30 |
| First United Church of Christ               | \$1,691.97 |
| Personal Checks                             | \$ 190.00  |
| St. John's Lutheran Church                  | \$3,085.45 |

God's blessings to you in 2018!

With thanks and gratitude,  
Pastor Bill Kapp, First United Church of Christ