



Andrew King, 6th grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

January 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“People of God, do you promise to support the person's name and pray for them in their new life in Christ?” This is part of our baptismal liturgy and the question the congregation is asked when someone is baptized. Our response is, “We do.”

At the end of the baptismal liturgy we continue with, “We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.”

Baptism is an amazing moment! A person is forgiven and granted eternal life, made a member of the body of Christ AND a congregation promises to support them, pray for them and be a co-worker with them in the mission of Christ.

The first part of this moment is God's promise of grace. I am confident that God follows through on God's promise. The second part, the second promise is ours. My question is, “How are we doing with this?”

Part of how we do this is through sponsors, those who are invited to make sure that the baptized child/adult is raised in faith.

Another part of that is through the congregation's involvement. To strengthen that aspect, several years ago we added 'congregational sponsors,' individual members who represent our larger congregation's commitment to the partnership in ministry we share in baptism, to join in "bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world."

So again I ask, "How are we doing with this?" Whether your answer is 'good' or 'not so good,' let me suggest we continue following the example of our congregational sponsors. These members are encouraged to remain in contact with the baptized, helping to grow in faith, share their gifts and build connections with St. John's to spread God's good news. One way to do this is by remembering the anniversary of the baptized. Send a card, make a call, and remind individuals and families of that day when God's Word of promise and the water of baptism ushered them into the kingdom.

On Sunday, January 7, we will celebrate the baptism of our Lord. Consider this a day to reach out and contact someone you know who was baptized this last year. Remind them that their 'family' is larger than they might remember and continue to let them know of the support, partnership and mission we share as members of Christ's body.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fred', written in a cursive style.The words 'Thank You' written in a large, elegant, cursive script.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Thank you for all the cards and expressions of kindness this Christmas season. Thank you also for the kind words and support you have given us over this past year. We are blessed to be part of this church and community. May the blessings of the Christ child continue to abound!

Fred, Kris, Alec and Katlyn Rilling

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 January 14th. Food, paper products and cleaning supplies may be brought to the table in the gathering area. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| Pancake Mix | Syrup |
| Canned Stews | Soup |
| Dish Soap | Shampoo |

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 January. The day is in parentheses.

Luella Bever (14)
798 Water Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Arlene Foell (18)
323 John Adams St.
Sauk City, Wi 53583

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.

Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Thursday, January 18, 6:15 p.m. at St. John's Library, childcare is provided (PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME) Hannah Circle will meet the third Thursday at 6:15 p.m. January through May, 2018.



Lydia, Martha, Ruth, Sarah and Mary Circles: Combined Circle Meeting Thursday, January 11th, 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (Members of the Hannah Circle are, of course, also most cordially invited to this meeting.)

In December, 43 Circle members, plus one guest attended Circle meetings with Anne Klinkner, Fay Rentmeester, Barb Salveson, Marian DeGiovanni, Eunice Yanke and Jeannine Robertson leading the Bible Study.

As we have done in the past several years, most Circles will not meet at their regular times in January. We have again planned a combined circle meeting on Thursday, January 11th. This will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, with everyone bringing something to eat...whatever you have to share...such as Christmas cookies, cheese, fruit, or whatever you have on hand. Intern Derek Rosenstiel has graciously consented to lead the Bible Study: "Washing Hands with Distant Hearts" (Mark 7:1-8).

After the study, we will have our Candlelight Memorial Service for those members of St. John's who died in 2017. Members of families who have lost loved ones during 2017 are most welcome to come and light a candle for that person at this very meaningful and impressive service. ALL WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S AND GUESTS ARE VERY WELCOME!

The final amount for the Thankoffering is \$301.00.

Mary Circle is visiting Special Friends during December and January. The schedule to follow will be:

February and March: Lydia Circle

April and May: Ruth Circle

June and July: Sarah Circle

August and September: Martha Circle

October and November: Mary Circle

December and January: Lydia Circle

Remember to look in this Visitor for a Prayer for Peace to be read on January 20th.

The Bible Study Leaders' Meeting for February will be on Tuesday, January 30th at 9:00 a.m.

At the 2017 Triennial convention of the WELCA, there was a resolution designating the time period (January 11 through February 4, Super Bowl weekend 2018) as a TIME OF PRAYER

TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING. These prayer petitions, one for each day, were written up and can be picked up on the name tag table at church beginning in January. The sheet of prayers is for everyone to take, whether you belong to a circle or not.

Milestone Ministry: Baptism Anniversary

All children of God who were baptized in 2017 are invited to take part in a special Baptism Anniversary celebration on Sunday, January 7 at either service. Please mark your calendars and invite your congregational sponsors to attend worship with you and your children that day. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Older Wiser Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

All 55+ members and friends of St. John's are invited to gather together at 9:30am on Thursday, January 18. 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!

 **THANK** *you!*

Thank you to all of you! You have made the past 20 years a JOY rather than a JOB. Thank you for your caring, your patience, your kindness and your encouragement through those years. I truly enjoy working at St. John's. I am very thankful for my day of recognition and all the wonderful blessings I have received from you all. God bless you!

Linda Hines

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 orientation sessions on Sundays, January 21, 28, and February 4 at 9:15am in the Youth Room. If you are unable to attend these sessions, but would like to join please see one of the pastors.

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.

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.

Thank you

Dear Friends at St. John's,

Thank you so very much for your donation of \$325.34. It will be put forth to good use here at St. Vincent's Food Pantry.

God bless you all!

Sincerely, your friends at St. Vincent's de Paul

St. John's shared our offering from the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service.

Women's Book Club

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.

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 Macchiavelli 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!

Agrace Volunteers

In January, Agrace Hospice and Palliative Care will offer volunteer orientation in Baraboo for those interested in brightening the lives of people with serious illnesses. Orientation sessions are Thursday, January 11, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, January 31, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at its Baraboo office. Before orientation, volunteers will complete an application and an interview process with Agrace staff. Call (608) 327-7163 to register.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Back in December I preached a sermon on the first Sunday in Advent where I used action movies to talk about how it sometimes seems like life is exploding all around us, but that we need to take the time to slow down to see what God is doing within us and among us.

So I'm wondering...what has God been doing in you lately? *2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come! Isaiah 43:19: Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.*

Over the weeks of Advent we encouraged you to slow down, listen, and be aware of how God was moving and working within you and around you. Now we encourage you to take the time and share what you discovered!

Drop me a note, tell your neighbor, call up a friend, talk to your kids or grandkids. Share with them where you discovered God working in unexpected places. Or tell them those times where God always seems to show up.

Be bold in this new year and tell everyone about the good news in Christ Jesus!

Peace,

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

A Note of Thanks

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your kindness and generosity shown to me and to my family throughout the entire year, but especially this Christmas season. I give thanks to God for the privilege that it is to be your pastor. To sit with you in the hospital, to walk with you to a graveside, to hold your newborn babies, to have coffee dates, and to worship and give thanks and praise to God together. You are a great blessing on this journey of faith!

Pastor Sally

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

Blessings to you this New Year and I pray that you all are finding 2018 to be a year filled with much renewal and peace so far! I don't know if you are like me but I am sure that as this New Year begins I will find my mind constantly hiccupping while I try to write down the correct date of 2018 as opposed to 2017. I so often find that for the first few months of any given year my thoughts and even emotions are constantly pulled back towards the previous year. While it may be simply a slip of the mind that I write the wrong date; it can be fruitful on the other hand to have a conscious practice of reflection of this past year. We can do this by taking the time to look back on all that happened in the previous year and begin to ask ourselves some questions that can help us to gain some perspective. I want to explore just a few of these questions with you in this article, and I encourage you to add to this short list as well!

One question I usually start with is kind of a two-parter that goes like this: 'What has brought me great joy and great sorrow this last year?' Each passing year brings with it memories that can run the whole gamut of human experience. Life is filled with so many occasions for us to give thanks to God for the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. It is also filled with times when we cry out to God in pain and are yearning for peace and healing. A reflection upon these experiences can reveal to us where we most clearly see Christ's sustaining and abiding presence in our lives.

Another question I ask myself is this: 'After all that has transpired this last year, am I still living into my various callings in life, and in a way that is life-giving both for myself and others?' We all are living into many callings in our travels through life. We daily have to decide how or if we are going to live into our various callings. Callings such as Disciples of Christ, parents, siblings, friends, caretakers, care-receivers, employees, citizens, neighbors, and many other callings. These steps and decisions in life can pass us by without us even taking note, but I have found it fruitful to consciously pause and do a self-appraisal of my successes and failures along the way.

What other questions would you add to this practice of New Year reflection? There is so much that can happen in a year. Life is beautiful and messy all at the same time, and I for one find it amazing that we have a God that promises to be present and work grace into the midst of this beauty and chaos. Pausing to reflect upon the experience of God's work in and through our lives can be an occasion to renew our current commitments or change the

direction we may be heading in. Feel free to send me an email or come up and share with me any reflections you may have on your past year! I would love to talk with you about this! Until then, good luck with your transition into this year of 2018 and don't sweat it if you still write 2017 on occasions, I am right there with you!

God's Peace be with you today and always,

Intern Derek

A big THANK YOU to all those who graciously gifted us with treats and other loving gifts during this holiday season! Little Theo, Becky, and I have enjoyed these many gifts and are continually grateful for the love and kindness of this beautiful community of faith here at St. John's. Thank you so very much for everything our siblings in Christ!

In Gratitude,
Intern Derek, Becky and Theodore Rosenstiel

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Heavenly Father, Comfort of our hearts,
I ask You to bring peace into the world of humanity, to eliminate all armed conflicts and the suffering caused by them, and to give the people of this planet abundant harmonious love for one another so that together we can prosper and be happy.

In deep gratitude, I thank you for the coming peace.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Jessica Yanke and family on the death of Jessica's aunt,
Rita Haas

Roberta Yoder and Wade Taylor on the death of their
daughter, Zara Star Yoder-Taylor

Jim and Fay Neumaier on the death of Jim's brother, Larry

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

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

Marlene Wilson

Leo Joyce

Brett Herschleb

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.

Stock the Schools

In cooperation with 6:8, St. John's will be 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. January's items are: folders, markers, glue sticks and granola bars. Look for the red bin in the gathering area to drop off your donations.

Prayers to end Human Trafficking

At the 2017 Triennial convention of the WELCA, there was a resolution designating January 11 through February 4, 2018 as a TIME OF PRAYER TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING. These prayer petitions, one for each day, were written up and can be picked up on the name tag table at church beginning in January. The sheet of prayers is for everyone to take. Please take a moment to pray for victims of trafficking.

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.

Happy January Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Molly Philo (6)	Clare Kaderavek (12)
Emma Naggs (27)	Cadence Schwartz (30)

Our Sunday School Students:

Kaden Ballweg (2)	Jarod Steinhorst (3)
Colt Neubauer (5)	Caprina Keiser (6)
Jordan Signorile (7)	Keira Breunig (10)
Lily Maier (11)	Zander Gieck (13)
Noelle Small (13)	Isabelle Worzalla (13)
Douglas Jolicoeur (15)	Emery Yanke (17)
Declan Ryan (23)	Vanessa Breunig (28)
Sophia Hanson (29)	Nicholas Keyser (31)
Andrew King (31)	Brielle Schell (31)

Our Youth:

Jack Boerger (7)	Elisabeth Miller (7)
Jackson Rasmussen (7)	Maggie Hartman (16)
Chesney Schonenberger (17)	
Carley Frosch (18)	Samuel Beattie (28)
Karley Blau (29)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Samantha Kreutzmann (5)

Serving in January

Ushers:

January 7

8:00 a.m.

Jason Himebauch
Wesley Himebauch

10:30 a.m.

Meta Hartman
Maggie Hartman

January 14

Lon Kaderavek
Mary Richardson
Jack Gorsuch

Sean Ballweg
Brody Ballweg

January 21

Lon Kaderavek
Kristin Pape
Ashley Pape

Greg Lohr
Briar Lohr

January 28

Nick Goetsch
Haylee Goetsch

Acolytes:

January 7

8:00 a.m.

Michael Endres
Jenna Pistono
Ben Levers
Michael Endres
Jonah Richard
Wesley Himebauch
Meadow Liedtke
Ethan Jones

10:30 a.m.

Anna Francour
Kyle Dregney
Briar Lohr
Molly Ballweg
Ethan Jones
Charlie Homp
Wyatt Urban
Emma Kinnamon

January 14

January 21

January 28

Readers:

January 7

January 14

January 21

January 28

8:00 a.m.

Karlie Harpold
Marilyn Straub
Carrie Richard
Marilyn Herschleb

10:30 a.m.

Cora Dunnum
Dale Clason
Becki Braund
Dale Clason

Cantors:

January 7

January 14

January 21

January 28

8:00 a.m.

Karley Blau
Bill Burton
Marv/Janelle Hupp
Chris Stephan

10:30 a.m.

Katie LaVigne
Senior Choir
Cathy/Katie Yanke
Melani Wheeler

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

January 7

January 14

January 21

January 28

Megan Small
Marilyn Herschleb

Linda Hines

10:30 a.m.

Kyle Dregney
Dale Clason
Gerry Westphal
Dale Clason

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

January 7	Marv Hupp
January 14	Karlie Harpold
January 21	Chloe Wernsing
January 28	

10:30 a.m.

Marv Hupp
Karlie Harpold
Chloe Wernsing

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

January 7	Darlene Holl
	Diane Williams
January 14	Jaxson Dunn
January 21	Darlene Holl
	Diane Williams
January 28	Linda Hines

10:30 a.m.

Barb Salvesson
Molly Ballweg
Deb Lohr-Foster
Deb Lohr-Foster

Nursery Staff:

January 7	Cora Dunnum
	Ava Roach
January 14	Scott Graves
	Megan Small
January 21	Drew Marshall
	Wyatt Urban
January 28	Jordan Chao
	Malea Niesen

10:30 a.m.

Kyra Manning
Jenna Pistono
Scott Graves
Ben Levers
Meadow Liedtke
Courtney Lautenbach
Chesney Schonenberger

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

January 7	Carley Frosch
January 14	Scott Graves
January 21	Linda Yanke
January 28	Linda Yanke

9:00 a.m.(Serve)

Carley Frosch
Scott Graves
Olivia Joyce
Haylee Goetsch

Sunday Stewards

January 7	Kathy Lovell
January 14	Sheila Peak-Dittberner
January 21	John Schmidt
January 28	Kathy Lovell

10:30 a.m.

Kathy Lovell
Sheila Peak-Dittberner
Sheila Peak-Dittberner
Kathy Lovell



The 2018 offering envelopes are ready for you to take home. 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.

<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Jan. 7 (Sanctuary)	Ann/Paul Kippley	Monte/Lynette Wick
(Front doors)	Darlene Holl	Wolfgang/Diane Reich
(Side doors)	Steve/Holly Kindschi	Dave Clason
Jan. 14 (Sanctuary)	Dick/Jan Dobrzynski	Gerry/Deb Westphal
(Front doors)	Linda Lintl	Shirley Anding
(Side doors)	Karen Bader	John/Ellen Mast
Jan. 21 (Sanctuary)	Olivia Joyce	Ruby Sandeman
(Front doors)	Ben Levers	Olivia Joyce
(Side doors)	Meadow Liedtke	Malea Niesen
Jan. 28 (Sanctuary)	Cliff/Cindy Thompson	Ruth/Dave Lohr
(Front doors)	Jeannine Robertson	Jeff/Becky Nimmow
(Side doors)	Roger Maynard	

Congregational totals

	Attendance	Offering
December 3	287	\$10,615.80
December 10	308	\$ 9,751.50
December 17	295	\$11,249.25
December 24	120, 955	\$19,380.80

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 \$3450. Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you for your donation of \$325.34 to the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry. Every donation helps us work toward our goal of helping feed families in the Sauk Prairie School District. We are grateful for your support.

Carol Gagnon, Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry
St. John's shared our offering from the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service.

Sunday School News

THANK YOU!

On December 17th, we had around 70 very talented Sunday School kids put on a phenomenal Christmas Program! What a way to get into the Christmas spirit – by hearing our favorite Christmas Carols, and hearing the children proclaim Christ's birth!

Many thanks go to everyone who helped make the program a success!

- Connie Burton and Ruth Lohr for accompanying the carols
- JoAnnah Sorg for teaching and leading the songs
- Wesley Himebauch and Tom Olmstead for playing their trumpets, JoAnnah Sorg and Anna Francour for playing their flutes, Mariah, Jordan and Ben Chao and Ava Roach for playing their violins, and Amber Dregney for playing the piano
- All of the Sunday School teachers, St. John's staff, and Becky Francour for their organization help
- The wonderful kids for practicing so hard!
- Stacy Williamson for writing the script
- Linda Hines for preparing the bulletin
- John Hines for cleaning up
- The Fellowship Board for serving cookies

Blessings and Thanks,
Abby Bennett
Youth and Education Coordinator

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
December 3	77	\$38.30
December 10	65	\$26.00
December 17 Sunday School Program		\$338.94

Bake Sale to Fight Hunger

On Sunday, February 4, St. John's 5th and 6th graders will have a bake sale to fight against hunger. The sale will be held in the gathering area and begins at 9:00 a.m. The kids will be selling decorated cookies, pies, quick breads and many more goodies.

Middle and High School News

Middle and High School Upcoming Events

- January 3rd – Confirmation Mentor Night – guest speaker
John Ranthum
- January 17th – Youth Gathering Meeting – 7pm
- January 21 – Kalahari Trip 12:30-5:30pm

Kalahari Indoor Waterpark Trip!

Open to grades 6-12. Sunday, January 21st 12:30 pm-5:30pm. Please arrive at St. John's by 12:15 for on time departure. We will return by 5:30pm. The cost is \$30/person which includes, water park ticket, slice of pizza & soda, and transportation. Kids should bring a towel and extra spending money if they wish. Lockers will not be needed as we will staff a few tables where bags can be left. As always, friends who are not members of St. John's are welcome to come. Please see Pastor Fred or Pastor Sally if the cost of the trip may prohibit your child from attending. We always have full scholarships available for youth activities. This was a VERY popular trip last year. To ensure your child's spot on the bus please have them sign-up on the Youth Activity Board ASAP. Payment should be made on the 21st, checks made out to St. John's.

Wanted: Mobile Meals Delivery Volunteers!

St. John's has committed to delivering meals the weeks of January 22-26 and January 29-February 2. We need two volunteers every weekday. One should plan to drive his/her car on the route, and one should plan to "run" the meals to the houses. Meals are ready for pickup at the Sauk Prairie Hospital between 11:20 and 11:30 a.m. Total delivery time is usually one hour. Routing and delivery instructions are provided when you pick up the meals. This is a very rewarding volunteer experience.

If you are available to help, please add your name and phone number to the schedule on the kiosk.

Dedication of Memorial Gifts

On Sunday, December 3 we dedicated the following gifts purchased from memorials:

Intern Welcome Gifts	Lenten Devotional Booklets
Seminarian Donation	Christmas Candles
Laptop Computer	Messenger Music
Sewing Group Shelving	Sewing Machine
Coffeemaker	Building Fund
Quilting Fabric	Serving Pans
WELCA Donation to Safe Harbor	
St. John's Synod Benevolence	

We also dedicated handmade Prayer Shawls and Baptismal Cloths made by volunteers of our congregation.

St. John's is very grateful to the many friends and family members who have given memorial gifts to our church. The memorial items above were given in memory of the following loved ones:

Jean Yanke	Jane (Hart) Royston
Helen Derleth	Wayne Schulz
Gloria Beuthin	Judy Lamberty
Ewald Hanson	John Morrow
Lorraine Sawyer	Gerald Halverson
LaVera Page	Les Floeter
Bill Knickmeyer	Linda Lou Rowe
Don Hamlin	

Thank You

Thank you to all the many hands that helped with our candles for the Christmas Eve services. Those who helped set up the candelabra, those who put fresh candles out for each service, those who helped to put the candelabra away at the end of the evening and especially those who kept an eye on the burning candles to save us from a fire during our services. It takes many to create such a beautiful service and we thank you all for helping out.

St. John's Staff

THANK YOU

Because of your generous giving and sharing of your time, St. John's was able to contribute \$3,085.45 to the Salvation Army. We thank the bell ringing volunteers who helped this great cause.

Tom Olmstead	Alice Chenoweth
Nancy Kaufman	Dan and Janis Baun
Garry and Gale Bahe	Gerry and Deb Westphal
Roger Clason	Kris Frey
Norma Newman	Martin and Carol Ohlson
Haakon Carlson	John and Ellen Mast
Bonnie Dederich	Eunice Yanke
Marsha Key	LaVigne family
Nancy and Tim McCauley	Steve and Patty Barritt
Bob Nelson	Sue Ann Schwanke
Roxanne and Noelle Small	Mittenzwei family
Diane, Brian and Molly Williams	
Kelly and Jay Breunig family	
Bob and Dede Egan and Hazel Dekalb	
Paul and Ann Kippley	Bill Wardwell
Roger and Marcia Howard	Deb Lohr-Foster and Singers
Anne Klinkner	Miranda Jager
Connie Henry	Fred and Brenda Schweitzer
Beth Levers	

Thank
You!

Sandy and I wish to convey our sincerest thank you to all who contributed whatever you could to the 2017 Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner in Sauk City-Prairie du Sac.

This event would not have been a success without the involvement of so many fine people in this community. Because of your involvement we were able to provide a delicious meal to many grateful people who might have had to go without. We surpassed last year's total by 100 people.

So, we take this opportunity to wish you a heartfelt "Thank You". We look forward to working with you again next year.

Warm regards,

Mitch and Sandy Maier, Coordinators

St. John's Youth Gathering attendees peeled potatoes for the dinner.