



Kenzie Sawyer, 4-K class

Prairie du Sac, WI

April 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Last week another shooting happened at Stoneman Douglas High School. This week the Governor is scheduled to sign a bill approving 100 million dollars to help schools improve their building security. Who knows what will happen next week. All I know is that fear exists and we will respond, sometimes in helpful ways and sometimes in less helpful ways.

After the church shootings in Sutherland Springs, TX, many church councils, including our own, had conversations about what we might do to protect ourselves against such horrific acts. It was clear that any actions aimed at keeping us safe on Sundays would mean finding a way to identify and keep out potential perpetrators. The problem is we cannot tell who they may be.

Several years ago, we invited Lt. Travis Hillard, a member of the Sauk Prairie Police Department, to come and help us think about safety at church. From that conversation we made the decision to change some procedures and make some building safety improvements. These were needed and welcomed changes.

Before going to seminary, I worked for six years selling security systems to large companies; locks requiring card readers, security cameras that hooked up to computers, gate controllers and hi-tech sensors that activated alarms if you got too close to fences or structures. All of them required people trained in how to respond if a problem was detected. All promised more security. None of them were fool proof.

St. John's has done reasonable things to improve security. Having said this, a few months ago someone threw a rock through our front door and broke the glass. No one entered, no one was at church when it happened and no one was caught and charged with the damage. If we had an alarm, it may have gone off. If we had cameras, they may have seen who did it. Yet even if we did have all that, someone could have worn a mask and left before any police would have shown up.

Fear is one reaction to situations in which we have no control. I wish I could say shootings would never happen again. I wish I could say that there were solutions that would ensure this wish. The fact is, I cannot. As a country, we can do some things to improve safety, but I am sure that more situations will present themselves in which we have no control, and thus we may again be afraid.

Please know that St. John's does what it can reasonably do to keep people safe. We run background checks on our teachers, we seek out police advice to protect our people and property, and we secure our building when not in use.

We also have mechanical openers on our doors to help people, who may have some kind of mobility issue, to more easily enter our building. After all, we want people to feel welcome.

And there is the rub. How do you secure a place without making it into a prison? How do you design a space to be welcoming and yet secure? There is always a tradeoff. I think we have a good balance.

I pray that our country will continue to talk about the issues we face as a people and that wisdom, compassion and understanding will provide a basis in which we can shape reasonable responses to the issues we face, whether they relate to gun violence or a host of other difficult issues.

Shalom,



Thank you

To my St. John's family,
I want to thank you for your generous support of my first semester at Wartburg. It has been an incredible semester so far. The Holy Spirit is with me every step. I want to give you an update on my collaborative learning program – I have been placed in a congregation in Marxville, Black Earth, St. John and St. Paul. I am loving the weekly sermon writing and the people of this wonderful congregation. God bless you all. Kathi Matthews-Risley

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
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Director of Music: Connie Burton connie@stjohnssaukprairie.org
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Youth-Education: Abby Bennett abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org
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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 April 8th. 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:

Applesauce
Peanut Butter
Soup

Hamburger Helper
Pudding Cups
Crackers

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 April. The day is in parentheses.

Eldor Fruehling (3)
1515 Fairview Drive
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Helen Bjelde (5)
S7534 Oak Road
Merrimac, WI 53561

Edna Lauer (10)
217 – 7th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jacki Berger (16)
Pine Villa
950 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Dick Uttech (25)
209 – 12th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Inez Zitlow (26)
205 – 4th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

LaVonne Knuth (29)
408 Lueders Road, Apt. 1
Sauk City, WI 53583

Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Thursday, April 19, 6:15 p.m. at St. John's Library, childcare is provided

Lydia Circle: Thursday, April 12, 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Library, Bev Clason, hostess

Martha Circle: Thursday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. at Mary Weeks, 273 Park Ave., Prairie du Sac

Ruth Circle: Monday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. at the Blue Spoon, Prairie du Sac, Marian DeGiovanni, hostess

Sarah/Mary Circles: Tuesday, April 3, 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Library



In March, 37 ladies attended Circle Meetings with Anne Klinkner, Carol Benson, Marge Erlandson, Marian DeGiovanni, and Jeannine Robertson leading the Bible Study. In April, Anne Klinkner, Dorothy Halverson, Marilyn Larson, Marian DeGiovanni, and Kathy Lester will lead the study.

The WELCA Baraboo Conference Meeting will be held at Zion Lutheran Stone Church (near Rock Springs) on Saturday, April 21st. The guest speaker will be a representative from the newly formed "Reedsburg's Boys and Girls Club". A portion of the offering will be given to the Boys and Girls Club. The program is followed by a luncheon. Cost for the luncheon is \$7.00.

We hope to have a good representation of St. John's ladies attending this meeting. Let the office know if you would like to be included in the car pool. We will leave the church at 8:15 a.m. There will be coffee and goodies served before the meeting which starts at 9:30 a.m.

Read this month's Prayer for Peace found in this Visitor on April 20th.

Lydia Circle has been visiting Special Friends during February and March. Ruth Circle will visit them in April and May.

The Bible Study Leaders' Meeting for May will be on Tuesday, April 24th at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Book Club

On April 24th we will discuss Kindred by Octavia Butler at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. A copy has been ordered for St. John's library and should arrive soon. There are a number of copies in the public library system. Get your name in now to get your copy!

Palm Sunday Breakfast

The Fellowship Board thanks all the volunteers that helped to make the Palm Sunday Breakfast a success! Without the willing hands, prep cooks, dishwashers and donations of food, we would not have had such a wonderful day. Thank you too, to those who came to share the meal and fellowship of the day! Your smiles are worth a million!

St. John's Fellowship Board

Older Wiser Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

All 55+ members and friends of St. John's are invited to gather together at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 19th. Mary Ann Marx will join us to teach us and lead us in meditation and mindfulness. We hope you can join us!

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

Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle will meet on Thursday, April 19th, 2018 at 6:15 p.m. in the church library. Childcare is provided.

Thank you

Dear St. John's,

Thanks so much for letting the Sauk Prairie Lions Club use your facilities for the Chili Feed. This was the first time we had this fund raiser. St. John's helped us succeed!

God Bless,

Leslyn Stamer, Sauk Prairie Lions Treasurer

Adult Education

April 8 we will wrap up our conversations on diversity and discrimination (though the conversation must continue in our daily lives). Then we will shift our conversation to the topic of death and dying. Intern Derek will be teaching us about and leading us in a Death Café at the end of this three week series. We will meet in room 1 at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays.

Text Study

Text Study reconvenes on Wednesdays in April at 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We will look at the upcoming Sunday's Gospel and talk about the intersection of scripture and our lives. All are welcome! We meet in room 1.

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

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world
as your love would have it:
a world where the weak are protected,
and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the riches of creation are shared,
and everyone can enjoy them;
a world where different races and cultures
live in harmony and mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with justice,
and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Serve one another with the gifts you have received.” 1

Peter 4:10.

This verse was my senior class’s graduation verse, and it also is the verse that is on my banner from my internship site that I look at every single day I’m in my office.

This verse has always had special meaning to me because of its connection to my journey as I left internship, finished up my senior year, and headed out to my first call (St. John’s!). But lately it has taken on an even deeper meaning.

This summer we will experience a great amount of transition. Connie Burton will retire. Abby Bennett will be on maternity leave. Intern Derek will return to Wartburg. A new intern will begin.

Some days these transitions feel really stressful. Some days they make my cup overflow. These transitions bring to life this verse from 1 Peter. Serve one another with the gifts you have received. Wow, the gifts possessed by the people I mentioned above are incredible, diverse, and immeasurable.

As these people come and go, new gifts from new people, along with gifts from long time members will surface. And the gifts each of you have are incredible, diverse, and immeasurable. But sometimes we are better at hiding our gifts, or minimizing them, than we are celebrating them and using them.

Please don’t minimize your gifts. I see Christ in you each day. Sometimes it’s through a smile or holding the door for someone. Or someone who volunteers for the 11pm-3am lock-in shift with our youth. Other times it’s when you come into my office with a difficult question or a challenge to how we are doing ministry in this place. I see Christ in you. I see your gifts, and they are beautiful.

As we face all of these transitions together this summer, I pray that you will allow your gifts to rise to the surface and use them for the good of St. John’s, Sauk Prairie, and for the world so that they may see Christ too.

Peace,

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

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

Let's talk about death. This may be a strange and morbid opening sentence to you, but I truly believe that the health of our society is suffering because of a lack of conversation around the topic of death. I believe it has become engrained into the narrative of our culture that we must avoid acknowledging our mortality at all costs. If you look at ads and the covers of magazines, you will often encounter a bombardment of images that all deny that death is even a part of the life process. A speaker that I heard on a TED talk from January 2018 said something that I really think rings true. That speaker, Michelle Knox, said this – "Life would be a lot easier to live if we talked about death now."

During the month of April we will have three adult education sessions focused on the topic of death and dying. These will occur on the Sundays of April 15th, 22nd, and 29th at 9:15 a.m. in between church services. On the final session, I will be hosting a Death Café for all who come that day. The objective of the Death Café organization is 'to increase awareness of death with a view of helping people make the most of their (finite) lives'. Simply put a Death Café is: an occasion for people to gather, enjoy goodies and refreshments, and to have an intentional discussion about death. It is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session. This discussion will be held in a respectful and confidential space with no intention of leading people to any conclusions, product or course of action. These are meant to simply promote conversation on the topic of death and foster spaces where people can feel safe and comfortable doing this.

Our Christian faith centers on many images of death and new life. The very makeup of our liturgical calendar is meant to point to the cycles of death and rebirth that are spoken of in our scriptures and experienced in our daily living. What would it look like if we had a more robust or full understanding of the importance of conversing about death? Would this enrich and grow our understanding of our faith and our lives as a whole? I believe so, and because of this I invite you to join me in the conversation. I hope to see you in adult education! I pray that you are having a beautiful spring so far and that you had a blessed Easter as well!

God's Peace,
Intern Derek

With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

The family and friends of Dorothy Enge

Raymond and Rhonda Bolton, on the death of Ray's aunt Clara Bolton

Jane Burdick

The family and friends of Hubert Ramaker

Ed and Ginny Nimmow and Donna Hosking and their families on the death of Ginny and Donna's cousin, Charles Gilmore

Hospital

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

Diane Elsing
Tony Corrao
Paul Bringle
Anita Key

Baby Congratulation

Mitch and Jennifer Lohr welcomed a baby girl, Grace Evelyn into their home on March 9, 2018. Grace joins big brother Ethan. Ruth and Dave Lohr are the proud grandparents.

Geraniums for Pentecost

Karen Bader will be in the gathering area between services on April 29th and May 6th to sell red geraniums to decorate our church on Pentecost. Afterwards the flowers will be planted on the church grounds. Flowers may be given in honor of or in memory of others. Donors' names will be included in the bulletin on Pentecost Sunday. The cost is \$5 each.

New Automatic Door

The west entrance to the parking lot has a new automatic door installed. The work was completed mid-March and is ready for use. We thank the Properties Board for their research and work on this very helpful project.

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. April's items are: individual packages of pretzels or Cheez-Its, and \$25 gift cards to Piggly Wiggly, Sauk Prairie Market, Kwik-Trip or Walmart. (These will allow individuals to shop for specific needs for the student.) Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations.

THANK YOU

Thank you all for your continued generosity to the Stock the Schools program. Your response has been overwhelming! Thank you for remembering our Sauk Prairie School District students!

Susan Baumann-Duren, AODA Coordinator

Happy April Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Henry Ganser (1) Sofia Stephan (4)
Lauren Schulenburg (21)

Our Sunday School Students:

Dylan Rhyner (1)	Carter Kruchten (3)
Elianna Greene (4)	Alex Kirk (5)
Eli Dillon (9)	Ethan Mittenzwei (9)
Gillian Fritsch (10)	Parker Pacholke (13)
Hank Lochner (15)	Reid Hart (16)
Henry Hart (17)	Emily Ramirez (17)
Sam Hubbard (20)	Sari Hubbard (20)
Samuel Halverson (21)	Isabelle Jolicoeur (23)
Wyatt Frey (28)	Graysen Dunn (29)
Elleigh Harter (29)	Coraline Miller (29)
Noah Wells (29)	

Our Youth:

Rachel Collins (3)	Ava Roach (4)
Molly Pistono (8)	Jay Liedtke (9)
Anna Osgood (9)	Owen Kolnik (10)
Meadow Liedtke (15)	Scott Graves (16)
Kyle Dregney (17)	Charlie Homp (22)
Cameron Manning (24)	Emily Schutt (28)

College and Career-age Young People:

Matthew Bradley (5)	Michela Breunig (8)
Hunter Dittberner (26)	Nolan Joyce (27)

Serving in April

Ushers: 6:30 a.m.

April 1 Glenn Herschleb, Ava Roach

April 8

April 15

April 22

April 29

8:00 a.m.

Terry Roach
Hunter Dittberner

Stephen Dittberner
Wesley Himebauch

Jason Himebauch
Doug Nelson

Donna Nelson
Ben Levers

Beth Levers
Linda Meyer

Judy Tobias
Jack Gorsuch

Mary Richardson
Charlie Homp

Dave Homp
Jordan Small

10:30 a.m.

Kyle Dregney
Jim Dregney

Brody Ballweg
Shawn Ballweg

Ethan Jones
Andy Jones

Emma Kinnamon
Dave Kinnamon

Briar Lohr
Greg Lohr

Acolytes:

April 1

April 8

April 15

April 22

April 29

8:00 a.m.

Chloe Wernsing
Cayden Wernsing

Michael Endres
Carley Frosch

Carley Frosch
Wesley Himebauch

Karley Blau
Jordan Chao

Anna Ballweg
Michael Endres

Wesley Himebauch

10:30 a.m.

Audrie Nurkala
Ethan Jones

Carley Frosch
Anna Francour

Wyatt Urban
Quinn Baier

Gavin Tompkin
Cora Dunnum

Emma Kinnamon
Annika Braund

Readers:

April 1

April 8

April 15

April 22

April 29

8:00 a.m.

Chloe Wernsing

Nancy Kaufman

Marilyn Straub

Mary Halweg

Marilyn Herschleb

10:30 a.m.

Briar Lohr

Doris Lohr

Dale Clason

Arthur Ness

Dale Clason

Cantors:

April 1
 April 8
 April 15
 April 22
 April 29

8:00 a.m.

Senior Choir
 Melani Wheeler
 Marv/Janelle Hupp
 Congregation
 Bill Burton

10:30 a.m.

Senior Choir
 Cathy/Katie Yanke
 Deb Lohr-Foster
 Congregation
 Melani Wheeler

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

April 1 Jayne Carlson, Megan Small
 April 8 Roxanne Small
 April 15 Nadine Lauer
 April 22 Nadine Lauer
 April 29 Roxanne Small

10:30 a.m.

Jay Dregney
 Kathy Lovell
 Dale Clason
 Gerry Westphal
 Dale Clason

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

April 1 Chloe Wernsing
 April 8 Jordan Small
 April 15 Marv Hupp
 April 22 Audrie Nurkala
 April 29 Megan Small

10:30 a.m.

Chloe Wernsing
 Jordan Small
 Marv Hupp
 Audrie Nurkala
 Megan Small

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

April 1 Jayne Carlson, Marilyn Herschleb
 April 8 Ashley Pape
 April 15 Nadine Lauer
 April 22 Linda Hines
 April 29 Linda Meyer
 Patty Passehl

10:30 a.m.

Dale/Dave Clason
 Molly/Brody Ballweg
 Barb Salveson
 Deb/Gerry Westphal
 Ginny/Ed Nimmow

Nursery Staff:

April 1 Annika Braund
 Carly Coy
 April 8 Jordan Chao
 Ashley Pape
 April 15 Drew Marshall
 Gavin Thmpkin
 April 22 Cora Dunnum
 Meadow Liedtke
 April 29 Anna Francour
 Jay Dregney

10:30 a.m.

Meadow Liedtke
 Wyatt Urban
 Molly Ballweg
 Haylee Goetsch
 Haylee Goetsch
 Ben Levers
 Ava Roach
 Ruby Sandeman
 Ruby Sandeman
 Claire Thiede

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

April 1	Pastor Sally Williams
April 8	Carley Frosch
April 15	Sam Beattie
April 22	Ashley Pape
April 29	Sam Beattie

9:00 a.m.(Serve)

Bill Burton
Carley Frosch
Haylee Goetsch
Kyle Dregney
Kyle Dregney

Sunday Stewards

April 1	Melani Wheeler
April 8	Kathy Lovell
April 15	Megan Tarnutzer
April 22	Melani Wheeler
April 29	

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

Sheila Peak-Dittberner
Kathy Lovell
Jon Sandeman

Greeters:

April 1 (Sanctuary)	
(Front doors)	C Kruchten family
(Side doors)	
April 8 (Sanctuary)	Gil/Kathy Danz
(Front doors)	Jerry/Nancy Kaufman
(Side doors)	John/Linda Hines
April 15 (Sanctuary)	Courtney Lautenbach
(Front doors)	Drew Marshall
(Side doors)	Jonah Richard
April 22 (Sanctuary)	Eunice Yanke
(Front doors)	Dorothy Halverson
(Side doors)	Fay Rentmeester
April 29 (Sanctuary)	Roger/Bev Clason
(Front doors)	Dan/Kathy Lovell
(Side doors)	Gina Wyttentbach

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

Deb/Gerry Westphal
Shirley Anding
Jon Bennett family
Curt/Peggy Johnson
Caroline Morrow
Ben Levers
Anna Ballweg
Charlie Homp
Denny/Bonnie Dederich
John/Ellen Mast
Roxanne Small/Girls
Diane/Wolfgang Reich
John/Aletha Ballweg

Congregational totals

	Attendance	Offering
February 21, Lent	148	\$769.00
February 25	253	\$9,093.12
February 28, Lent	174	\$873.00
March 4	291	\$13,605.20
March 7, Lent	155	\$551.00
March 11	291	\$6,323.58
March 14, Lent	169	\$810.76
March 18	312	\$10,688.19

Thank you for your continued support, Stewardship Board

Important Sunday School Dates to Remember

April 1st – Easter – no Sunday School

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
February 25	70	\$27.87
March 4	50	\$18.00
March 11	51	\$21.58
March 18	61	\$31.94
March 25	No Sunday School – Spring Break	

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be running the week of August 6th, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and will be Monday **THROUGH** Friday. Please note that it will be **FREE OF CHARGE**, for both the Preschool camp (3 and 4 year olds), and the older kids (Kindergarten through 6th grade). Sign up will be April 29th and May 6th, between services.

Summer Camp

Summer may seem very far away, but Bible camps are getting ready for your children's registrations. See the Youth Board for information regarding camps at Sugar Creek, Lutherdale, and Bethel Horizons.

St. John's Lutheran Church contributes \$80 towards the cost of camp for those youth who attend a week at an ELCA Bible camp, and \$35 for a 2 or 3 day camp.

Sixth Grade Parent/Student Confirmation Orientation Reminder

All Sixth grade parents and students interested in beginning St. John's confirmation program next fall should plan on attending the orientation on May 9th at 6:00 p.m. We will give an overview of the program as well as explain the worship job requirement and have stations to demonstrate how to perform each job. It is important that both youth and a parent be present for this orientation. Please contact Abby Bennett if you cannot attend.

Middle and High School Upcoming Events

May 2nd – Last Day of Confirmation/Student Led Worship – 6 p.m.

Potluck – immediately following worship

Affirmation of Baptism Practice for **ALL 9th graders and parents!!!** – immediately following the potluck

May 9th – 6th Grade Confirmation Orientation – 6 p.m.

May 13th – Affirmation of Baptism – 10:30 a.m. service

May 20th – Senior Recognition – 10:30 a.m. service

Congrats Jay Dregney, Haylee Goetsch, Courtney Lautenbach, Audrie Nurkala, Jenna Pistono, Jonah Richard, Briar Lohr, Chesney Schonenberg, Emma Kinnamon, Anna Ballweg and Molly Ballweg on completing your sermon notes!

Confirmation End of Year Celebration Worship and Potluck

The final class for all confirmation students will be Wednesday, May 2nd. Our student led worship service will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck to follow. Please bring a dish to pass. Drinks and table service will be provided by St. John's.

Attention 9th Graders!

Mark your calendars for our Affirmation of Baptism rehearsal on Wednesday, May 2nd, immediately following the confirmation potluck. **Parents, please accompany your student!** We will gather for Confirmation on Sunday, May 13th at 9:15 a.m. for pictures followed by a reception. Students will be confirmed at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please contact either pastor with any questions you may have.

Senior Recognition

Come join us on Sunday, May 20th at our 10:30 a.m. service as we recognize our graduating high school seniors. Students should gather at 9:15 a.m. for a class photo with the pastors. A reception will follow. Please come and celebrate this important event in the lives of our young people.

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

Baptized

We welcomed new members into the family of Christ following baptism during the month of March.

Eric Jonathon Louis, son of Jason and Cassie Louis was baptized March 4th. His sponsors are Sirlene Wesolowski and Ed Wedelstadt. His congregational sponsor is Laura Collins.

Raelynn Debra Magee, daughter of Blaine and Jamsie Magee was baptized March 11th. Her sponsors are Breanne and Derek Fournier. Arielle Kaufman is her congregational sponsor.

First Communion

Congratulations to Leah Kruchten, Charlie Homp and Simon Homp who celebrated their first communion on March 18th. Please keep these children of God in your prayers as they celebrate this milestone in their lives.

Mattresses for the Orphanage

We have reached our first goal of providing new mattresses for the House of Jesus' Children Orphanage! They needed 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. Additional funds collected will be used for sheets, towels, pajamas and mosquito nets.

Whatever you can give, please indicate on your gift, Orphanage Mattress Project. We will continue collecting money through May, 2018. We currently have collected **\$5,203**. Thank you!

Bereavement Service

Maplewood Health & Rehabilitation Center, Home Health United, Hooverson Funeral Home & Sauk Prairie Healthcare invite you and your loved ones to a Service of Remembrance honoring those who have died during the past year. Memorials and rituals often speak to our own wounded hearts and minds at a level beyond words, and therefore, have a special quality of healing.

This nondenominational service will take place on Thursday, April 19th, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church, Prairie du Sac. This healing celebration is open to anyone who has lost a loved one in the past year. No RSVP is required and attendees are invited to join in a time of fellowship and refreshments following the service.

For more information, please call 608-643-3383.

NEW Evening Book Discussion in 2018

This group is open to all: men and women, young and old, members and non-members, anyone who enjoys reading and talking about it. We want to know, How did this book affect you?

We read from any genre: best seller, classics, fiction, non-fiction, fantasy, thriller, biography, or graphic novel. We hope to find books we enjoy that stretch us in new directions. Even books we've read before.

Apr. 24 *Worse than Slavery: Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice* by David M. Oshinsky
A sensitively told tale of suffering, brutality, and inhumanity; an epic history of race and punishment in the deepest South from emancipation to the civil rights era—and beyond.

May 29 *Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway
The story of four people who serve as a microcosm of country as it faces a war. Discusses hatred and the other; **war**, civilians and humanity; **art**, culture and the fragility of civilization, the ease with which society can be torn apart by the political machinations.

June 26 *Change Agent* by Daniel Suarez
This story is an exhilarating sci-fi thriller exploring a potential future where CRISPR genetic editing allows the human species to control evolution itself.

Contact Susan Heide, sheide@merr.com, if you have any questions or suggestions.

COLUMBARIUM

We are pleased to let you know that St. John's is in the niche reservation phase for a Columbarium.

In order to move forward with the next phase of St. John's Columbarium project, it is necessary to secure the pre-subscription of a minimum of fifteen niches by individuals or families. This initial reservation period will close September 30, 2018. Soon thereafter the congregation will hear a report from the committee and what the next step might be.

Please feel free to contact Nick or Kathy Lester, 608-643-4145 or the church office, 608-643-2439 for more information or to indicate interest.

WHAT IS A COLUMBARIUM?

A columbarium is a vault with niches for urns containing the ashes of cremated remains. We've used as an example a pre-assembled unit with 64 niches made by Eickhof Columbarium. Each niche has space for two urns. Urn selection will be a family's choice and cost, but must fit within the 12"X12" space. Refer to the DESCRIPTION section for details.

WHY?

The loss of a dear loved one is one of the most difficult things in life. How we remember, honor and care for our loved ones after death can be a difficult decision, but also an important part of the healing process.

Just as the church cemetery next to the old country church was a powerful reminder of the "Community of Saints". So, having a columbarium on the church grounds is a meaningful way to strengthen the bonds of the community of faith. It sends a powerful message that the faithful are one in life and death.

COLUMBARIUM DESCRIPTION

Granite single niche fronts

Columbarium Dimensions:

5'-0" high X 5'-4" diameter

64 12'X12" niche spaces. Each will accommodate two urns that are 5 ½"x7" or two 6" diameter by 10" high vase style urns. Price of the niche includes perpetual care and full name & dates inscriptions.

Landscaping and benches will be part of the project.

Friends of Sauk Prairie Health Care Center Card Party

The Friends of SPHC will be holding a card party with luncheon at St. John's fellowship hall on Sunday, April 22 beginning at 11:00 a.m. St. John's members are invited to attend. Watch the kiosk for the reservation number to call.

Upcoming Spring Events

Spring brings many events for St. John's and its members. Below is a list of some of those events:

Community Bereavement Service, April 19th at 6:00 p.m. here at St. John's

Confirmation students lead a worship service that they have created at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2nd. The service is followed by a potluck supper. Then the Affirmation students will have practice in the sanctuary.

Synod Assembly meets in Wisconsin Dells May 5th and 6th.

Sauk Prairie AP Testing uses St. John's fellowship hall during the weeks of May 7th – May 11th and May 14th – May 18th.

May 9th St. John's will have our 6th grade students here for Confirmation Orientation at 6:00 p.m.

Affirmation of Baptism is held at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 13th.

We will recognize our graduating seniors at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 20th.

May 20th is also Pentecost and the last day of Sunday School classes before the summer break.

Trinity Sunday is May 27th. It is also Memorial Day weekend so our service times will change to 8:00 and **9:30** a.m.

More details of many of these events will be in our next *Visitor*.

Memorial Day Remembrance

This year we would like to honor and remember those members of St. John's who have died after serving their country in the armed forces. If you have a picture of your loved one and wish to share it with us, we will have a display on Sunday, May 27th. We will have more details in the May *Visitor*.