



*Ava Shimpach, 6<sup>th</sup> grade*

---

Prairie du Sac, WI

May 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As I look out my window today (April 19) I am witnessing the beauty of the recent five plus inches of snow that fell last night. I can see bushes bent over by its heaviness and birds scrambling to find food. The temps this weekend will be in the 60's and thus much of the snow will be gone.

These late April storms cause a lot of havoc and plans get changed. We canceled church last Sunday. We canceled confirmation and our choir practices this Wednesday and schools continue to scramble to figure out how to deal with numerous cancellations, delays and the effects weather has on their planned activities. This is not even mentioning farmers who will have field work delayed, construction companies who expected their staff to be building, or local towns and villages who had to again send out trucks late in the season to clear roads.

Plans – we have them, but I am made aware again of the reality that we may have plans for today and the days to come, but that much of our lives are lived changing those plans. Whether it is something simple like a practice that is rescheduled, a school delay or a speaker who cannot come for an event, plans change. Sometimes something more significant happens, like a new body ache that creates fear of a reoccurring health issue, an unexpected

change in an important relationship or the news of a loved-ones' death, every day we wake up with plans and many days those plans change.

This week I attended our internship committee's monthly meeting. I spoke of meeting our next intern. Elisabeth is her name and the plan is she will be joining us in August. I also spoke of my thankfulness for Derek's wonderful ministry with us these past eight months and for the committee's fine work with him. His last day with us is July 22. It feels like it was only last month that Theodore was born but it was actually Sept 13, 2017. It is hard to believe that our planning to become an internship site back in 2014 has resulted in such blessings.

Plans are important. They help us move forward. They provide a structure that allows us a way to address the world around us. But plans are not a guarantee that what we have on the calendar will actually happen. They are only what we have written on paper or put in our phones/computers. They are temporary place markers for a future that is unknown.

I rejoice as we move forward with our plans, that many of us have a community that surrounds us, celebrating highs and being near during lows. Congregations can be such a community. But remember, not everyone is so fortunate to have a community of care and support. And even if they do, sometimes those communities come up short. So as you look around and are aware of the plans of others that unfold, be there for them in both their joys and sorrows. Be present to others, for plans are always changing.

Shalom,



## **Synod Assembly**

Three-hundred plus members of 140 congregations of this synod will gather on May 5-6, at the Dells for the annual Synod Assembly, the annual meeting of our synod. St. John's voting members will be: Jim Dregney, Mary Weeks and Maren Andersen-Boerger. Jack Boerger will go as our 'under 18' voting member and Katlyn Rilling will go as our 'under 30' voting member. Pastors Fred and Sally will go as clergy voting members. Intern Derek will be attending as a visitor. Please thank your voting members for serving on your behalf and look for more information on what happened at the Assembly in the June Visitor.

**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 May 13. 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	Canned Stews
Tuna	Tuna Helper
Shampoo	Bath soap

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 May. The day is in parentheses.

Liz Groth (3)  
S7849 State Hwy 78  
Merrimac, WI 53561

Hazel Graf (4)  
Pine Villa  
950 Prairie Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Julie Allen (21)  
8048 Lueth Road  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Denise Baars (21)  
400 Washington Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Lila Laufenberg (24)  
Maplewood of Sauk Prairie  
245 Sycamore Street  
Sauk City, Wi 53583

## **Women of the Church News (WELCA)**

Hannah Circle: Thursday, May 17, 6:15 p.m. at St. John's Library, childcare is provided

Lydia Circle: Thursday, May 10, 1:00 p.m. at Lynn Wick's, 2012 Mustang Drive, Prairie du Sac

Martha Circle: Thursday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. at Ruth Dresser's, 1011 Eagle View Ct., Prairie du Sac

Ruth Circle: Monday, May 14, 9:00 a.m. at Marcia Thompson's, W13492 State Hwy 60, Prairie du Sac

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



In April, 43 ladies attended Circle Meetings with Anne Klinkner, Dorothy Halverson, Marilyn Larson, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester leading the Bible Study. In May, Anne Klinkner, Bev Clason, Mary Weeks, Maren Anderson Boerger and Kathy Lester will be leading the study.

Eunice Yanke, Marge Erlandson, Sandra Frey and Ruth Dresser attended the WELCA Baraboo Conference Meeting at Zion Lutheran Church (near Rock Springs) on Saturday, April 23. Pastor Erich Hartenberger gave the Devotion with the emphasis on Jesus and the children. There were 32 ladies in attendance. A representative from the newly formed "Reedsburg Boys and Girls Club" was the main speaker and she gave a very interesting talk about how it all works. It started with procuring a vacant hardware store which they fixed up so that children can have a place to go after school. They provide a lot of activities, homework help, and many other things, including food. They have high school students involved, helping with sports and even giving guitar lessons. It is so well organized and a blessing to their community. It is financed strictly by donations. People in the community donate a large sum of money each year and a generous couple then matches that amount. A few of the workers are paid, but there are MANY volunteers. The offering at our meeting was \$334 and will all go to the "Reedsburg Boys and Girls Club".

Helen Sheahan (Synod President) and Hildy McGowan (Baraboo Conference Liaison) were present at the meeting and gave us some synodical information. Plans are underway for a 2018 synod-wide women's spiritual retreat at New Life Lutheran Church 7564 Cottage Grove Road on September 22, 2018. **SAVE THIS DATE!** We will be hearing more about this.

St. John's will be hosting the WELCA Baraboo Conference in the Spring of 2019. The host church sets the date, provides the food and arranges for a speaker and program. We have some planning to do!

SAVE THE DATE! We have set a date of July 19 for the WELCA Combined Circles Summer Picnic, which will be held at the Blue Spoon of Prairie du Sac. We will have more details in the June Visitor.

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

Ruth Circle is visiting Special Friends in April and May. Sarah Circle will visit them in June and July. Martha Circle will visit them in August and September, and Mary Circle is visiting in October and November.

The Bible Study Leaders' Meeting for June will be Tuesday 29 at 9:00 a.m.

### **Women's Book Club**

On May 29 we will discuss Keeping the Sabbath Wholly by Marva Dawn at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. This book is not in our public library system, so two extra copies have been ordered for our church library and should arrive soon. June's book discussion will be on I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou. A copy will arrive in the church library in the near future.

### **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, May 17. Intern Derek Rosenstiel will lead us in conversation about how we can share our stories of life which ultimately witness to the larger story of God at work in this world and in each and every one of us. We hope you can join us!

In June we will meet with Mary Ann Marx, who will teach us about meditation and mindfulness.

If you need a ride to the OWLS gatherings, please call Darlene Holl at 643-8413.

OWLS will not meet during July or August.

### **Adult Education**

We will continue our conversation and experience of the Death Café with a video on May 6 and concluding conversation on May 13. On May 20 we will gather to brainstorm some ideas for next year's topics. We will meet in room 1 at 9:15 a.m.

Adult Education and Text Study will not meet June, July, and August. We will resume our group study together in September!

## **Text Study**

Text Study continues on Wednesdays in May 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.

Text Study will not meet in the summer months. Join us again in September.

## **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, July 15 at the 9:30 a.m. worship service followed by a reception in their honor. In the weeks preceding this reception we will have orientation sessions on Wednesdays, June 13, 20, and 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend these sessions, but would like to join please see one of the pastors.

The Friends of Sauk Prairie Healthcare are sponsoring a **Red Cross Blood Drive** on Monday, May 7, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. It will take place at Graceway Church, 65 13th Street, Prairie du Sac. Appointments are preferred; walk-ins are always welcome. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). All presenting donors will receive a 'Give a Pint, Get a Pint' coupon from Culvers. Life is a gift. Give more of it. Donate blood!

## **Geraniums for Pentecost**

Karen Bader will be in the gathering area between services on May 6 to sell red geraniums that will decorate our church on Pentecost Sunday. 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.

## **Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Event**

Sauk Prairie Healthcare is sponsoring a remembrance event for babies lost to miscarriage, stillbirth, and early infant death on Thursday, May 3 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. We will gather in the hospital conference room. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

# SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle;  
the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding;  
and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what  
we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the  
power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world  
emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer  
lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring  
suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task  
of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power  
to fulfill the destiny for which we and all people were created.

Amen.

## **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this  
month:

Mary Ellen Beich, on the death of her husband, Dale

Kyle and Ryan Lapp, on the death of their mother, Michelle

Chris and Jennifer Stephan and their family, on the death of

Chris's grandmother, Velma Zelle

Christine Leaf, on the death of her nephew Wesley Bryant

Steve and Tamara Pacholke and their family, on the death

of Steve's uncle, David Schara

The family and friends of Judy Boehmer

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



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This May we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism of our 9<sup>th</sup> graders, we will have a prayerful send off for our graduates, and we will give thanks for our current and outgoing education volunteers. My heart could not be any fuller.

We are very grateful for our education staff:

Sunday School Teachers, Assistants and Substitutes:

Sarah Hupp, Maggie Harter, Tekla Nimmow, Sara Lane, Alysia Bahe-Henitz, Liz Leith, Christina Himebauch, Jordan Small, Jack Boerger, Madison Marshall, Mariah Chao, Carrie and Rob Richard, Jonah Richard, Maren Harms, Anna Francour, Ruth Lohr, Danielle Lohr, Kim Larson, Jay Dregney, Linda Yanke, Ellen Domine, Meadow Liedtke, Laura Hutchins, Jennifer Brennan, Joanna Jones, Julia, Lilly, Ethan Jones, Kyle Dregney, Marge Erlandson, John Hines, Paige Ederer, Crystal Lautenbach, Sarah Goetsch, Paige Beattie, JoAnnah Sorg and Becky Francour

Confirmation Teachers: Marv Hupp, Haakon Carlson and Ally Dunnum, Laura Collins, Melani Wheeler (Sub), Pastor Fred, Intern Derek, Maren Anderson Boerger (Sub)

Librarians: Penny and Samantha Johnson

Director of Music: Connie Burton

Meal Coordinator: Donna Nelson

Parish Ed Board: James Newman (Chair), Ruellene Seymour, Anne Klinkner, Derek Rosenstiel, Becky Francour, Abby Bennett.

We give a special thanks to Becky Francour, Sunday School Superintendent, who is stepping down after this year. She served our students with enthusiasm, dedication, and great care. Thank you, Becky!

Please join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 20, our last day of Sunday School, for Singspiration and a short program where we will thank our teachers.

Thank you all for your dedication to God's children.

With Gratitude,

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

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

I have been thinking a lot about the recent adult education series that just ended last month. I can say it has been a privilege and an honor to have been a part of the conversations that took place during this. It is both difficult and sometimes painful to talk about the brokenness and sin that exist in our world. Especially about the brokenness of our human condition that reveals itself through the many different forms of prejudice. At different times we all stay silent about and take part in these acts of prejudice. Yet, at the same time these hard conversations are necessary if any form of reconciliation and healing is to be hoped for.

I have been empowered and brought hope through the conversations that I was able to be a part of here in this community of faith. Just as we are nourished, enriched and motivated by spiritual practices such as prayer and the study of scripture; we are also given the strength and the courage we need to face the injustices in this world through conversations such as these. Conversation is just a start and the real test is how we respond to injustices through word and deed in our daily lives.

In Christ, God has shown us how to love one another unconditionally and how to serve our neighbor in acts of justice. This example that has been set before us is something we continually fall short of but is something we are called to strive for each and every day. God's forgiveness and mercy is for all people, including ourselves. Even when we fail to love our neighbor as we ought. This forgiveness propels us to pick ourselves back up and strive all the more even in the face of systems of injustice which seem insurmountable.

So the conversation continues, and the work must be carried on. We live in the hope that Christ will come again to bring the fullness of God's kingdom and will make all things new. As we live in this hope we carry forward with the calling that has been given to us. Walking side by side we strive for a world where all people are recognized for who God claims them to be. To be seen as beloved children of God who deserve the fullest extent of love and life.

God's Grace & Peace to You,

Intern Derek

# **THANK YOU**

Thank you to all who took the time to take part in my request for formal sermon feedback these past few months! I am so very grateful for all the kind words of encouragement and helpful suggestions for areas of growth. I continue to be amazed by the amount of support and love that this community of faith gives me each and every day. Thank you for everything that you all do to make this year both positive and fruitful for me!

Intern Derek Rosenstiel

## **Advanced Placement (A/P) Testing**

The Sauk Prairie High School will be using St. John's fellowship hall for A/P Testing May 7 – 11 and May 14 – 18. The students will be in the building from 7:15 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. We ask that you respect the rules of the testing proctors and do not enter the fellowship hall while the students are testing. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation for this program. The Advanced Placement is a great help to many students when they enter college in the fall.

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**

Tony Corrao  
Paul Bringle  
Anita Key  
Marv Hupp

## **Baby Congratulations**

Matt and Angela Kaul proudly welcomed Ezekiel Hanson into their home on April 5. David and Lois Kaul are Zeke's joyful grandparents.

Steven and Rachel Kaul are happy to welcome Cora Rose into their family. Cora was born April 15 and her elated grandparents are also David and Lois Kaul.

Lucas and Emily welcomed Cole Timothy into their family on April 16. Cole's delighted grandparents are Dave and Ruth Lohr.

## Memorial Day Remembrance

This year we would like to honor and remember those members of St. John's who have died while/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 27. Bring your photos to the church office before Thursday, May 26 so that we may include them in the display.

## Like To Sing Just For Fun??

If you like to sing and/or play an instrument just for fun please join us! Several people have voiced an interest in getting together with other adults to just sing some favorite songs, both Christian and secular, old and new. You don't have to be good at singing or playing you instrument. You just have to want to have fun. We will decide when and how often at our first meeting. Let's get together at church on Wednesday, May 30 at 6:00 p.m. just to get organized. Open to all! If you have questions, call me at 608-224-8477. Hope to see you there!! Ruth Lohr

## 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. May's items are: **granola bars, toothbrushes and full-sized toothpaste.** Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations.

Thanks

St. John's,

Thanks for letting us hold the annual Service of Remembrance at St. John's. Being able to honor community members who have died during the past year speaks to our wounded hearts and minds at a level beyond words. Thanks for allowing us to host a special quality of healing.

Sincerely, Maplewood of Sauk Prairie,  
Hooverson's Funeral Home, Home Health United

# Happy May Birthday!

*The day is in parenthesis*

## Our Youngest:

Ethan Lohr (1)	Iann Louis (22)
Oliver Newman (24)	Charlotte Schreiber (26)
Riley Jorgensen (30)	

## Our Sunday School Students:

Delaney DuFour (3)	Colby Frey (3)
Ian Porto (3)	Malcolm Leith (5)
Hunter Carthew (7)	Lyle Opie (7)
Cooper Rennie (9)	Clay Hutchins (11)
Austin Bruckert (15)	Adam Louis (15)
Bryce Argall (16)	Evelyn Bahe (17)
McKenzie Lautenbach (18)	Macelyn Krintz (19)
Sophie Witecha (19)	Claire Handschke (22)
Ben Patterson (23)	Hallie Ballweg (24)
Lainey Dillion (24)	Liam Leith (25)
Ian Quayle (25)	Leah Kruchten (28)
Ava Handschke (30)	Amara Hubbard (30)
Ryder Breunig (31)	Nadia LaVigne (31)

## Our Youth:

Maggie Harter (5)	Jacob Pape (8)
Emily Caflisch (12)	Julia Jones (12)
Tarren Nimmow (18)	Mariah Chao (23)
Kailey Evert (27)	Ethan Yanke (27)
Malea Niesen (29)	Grace Sandeman (30)

## College and Career-age Young People:

Emily Bradley (1)	Teresa Bradley (1)
Hannah Schutt (8)	Josh Wheeler (10)
Tanner Wideen (19)	Garrett Kippley (22)
Jake Foster (26)	Ryan Ladd (30)

## Serving in May

### Ushers:

May 6

### 8:00 a.m.

Steve Kindschi  
Jeff Ballweg  
Anna Ballweg  
Steve Kindschi  
Brad Kraemer  
Chris Dunn  
Jaxson Dunn

### 10:30 a.m.

Dave Lohr  
Greg Lohr  
Briar Lohr  
Dave Lohr  
Mary Richardson  
Jack Gorsuch

May 13

May 20

Jeff Ballweg  
Roxanne Small  
Megan Small

Dave Lohr  
Steve Kindschi  
Graduate  
Graduate

May 27

### 8:00 a.m.

### 9:30 a.m.

Dave Lohr

### Acolytes:

May 6

### 8:00 a.m.

Chloe Wernsing  
Cayden Wernsing  
Cora Dunnum  
Charlie Homp  
Ava Roach  
Karley Blau

### 10:30 a.m.

Jay Dregney  
Gabe Harter  
Chloe Wernsing  
Annika Braund  
Emma Kinnamon

May 13

May 20

May 27

### 8:00 a.m.

Karlie Harpold  
Meadow Liedtke

### 9:30 a.m.

Charlie Homp  
Claire Thiede

### Readers:

May 6

May 13

May 20

May 27

### 8:00 a.m.

Chloe Wernsing  
Roxanne Small  
Marilyn Herschleb

### 10:30 a.m.

Kyle Dregney  
Dale Clason  
Graduate

### 8:00 a.m.

Bev Clason

### 9:30 a.m.

Dale Clason

### Cantors:

May 6

May 13

May 20

May 27

### 8:00 a.m.

Karley Blau  
Derek Rosenstiel  
Senior Choir

### 10:30 a.m.

Ruellene Seymour  
Derek Rosenstiel  
Senior Choir

### 8:00 a.m.

Connie Burton

### 9:30 a.m.

Connie Burton

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

May 6 Chloe Wernsing  
 May 13 Kathy Lovell  
  
 May 20 Linda Hines  
 May 27 **8:00 a.m.**  
 Marilyn Herschleb

**10:30 a.m.**

Ethan Jones  
 Cayden Wernsing  
 Briar Lohr  
 Sarah Hupp  
**9:30 a.m.**  
 Dale Clason

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

May 6 Bev Clason  
 May 13 Donna Knickmeyer  
 May 20 Donna Knickmeyer  
 May 27 **8:00 a.m.**  
 Jordan Small

**10:30 a.m.**

Bev Clason  
 Confirmand  
 Donna Knickmeyer  
**9:30 a.m.**  
 Jordan Small

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

May 6 Alice/Joe Chenoweth  
 May 13 Maggie Hartman  
 May 20 Nadine/Bryce Lauer  
 May 27 **8:00 a.m.**  
 Dorothy Halverson

**10:30 a.m.**

Dale/Dave Clason  
 Annika Braund  
 Dave/Dale Clason  
**9:30 a.m.**  
 Deb/Gerry Westphal

**Nursery Staff:**

May 6 **8:00 a.m.**  
 Courtney Lautenbach  
 Jenna Pistono  
 May 13 Drew Marshall  
 Wyatt Urban  
 May 20 Jenna Pistono  
 Cole Douglas  
 May 27 **8:00 a.m.**  
 Megan Small

**10:30 a.m.**

Colden Harter  
 Scott Graves  
 Colden Harter  
 Gabe Harter  
 Maggie Hartman  
 Meadow Liedtke  
**9:30 a.m.**

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

May 6 Jaxson Dunn  
 May 13 Linda Yanke  
 May 20 Scott Graves  
 May 27 Linda Yanke

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

Jenna Pistono  
 Jay Dregney  
 Maggie Hartman  
 Linda Yanke

**Sunday Stewards**

May 6 **8:00 a.m.**  
 Melani Wheeler  
 May 13 John Schmidt  
 May 20 Megan Tarnutzer  
 May 27 **8:00 a.m.**  
 Melani Wheeler

**10:30 a.m.**

James Newman  
 Sheila Peak-Dittberner  
  
**9:30 a.m.**  
 Sheila Peak Dittberner

<b><u>Greeters:</u></b>	<b><u>8:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 a.m.</u></b>
May 6 (Sanctuary)	Steve/Holly Kindschi	Dave/Dale Clason
(Front doors)	Darlene Holl	Monte/Lynnette Wick
(Side doors)	Ann/Paul Kippley	Bob/Dede Egan
May 13 (Sanctuary)	Linda Lintl	Michael Endres
(Front doors)	Karen Bader	Kyle Dregney
(Side doors)	Dick/Jan Dobryznski	Molly Ballweg
May 20 (Sanctuary)	Karlie Harpold	Graduate
(Front doors)	Claire Thiede	Graduate
(Side doors)	Jack Gorsuch	Graduate
	<b><u>8:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>9:30 a.m.</u></b>
May 27 (Sanctuary)	Jeannine Robertson	Dave/Ruth Lohr
(Front doors)	Cliff/Cindy Thompson	Dan/Janis Baun
(Side doors)	Roger Maynard	Lee Ann Goelz

### **Congregational totals**

	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Offering</b>
March 21, Lent	144	\$699.10
March 25	309	\$8,865.40
March 29, Maundy Thurs	114	\$707.25
March 30, Good Friday	339	\$1,478.80
April 1 and Easter	638	\$16,578.55
April 8	281	\$10,020.91
April 15	Services Canceled	\$5,503.00
April 22	299	\$8,447.52

*Thank you for your continued support, Stewardship Board*

### **Worship Time Change**

We will change to our summer worship times on Sunday, May 27. Services will be at 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.



## **Important Sunday School Dates to Remember**

May 6 – Bible School Sign up between services  
May 20 – Last Day of Sunday School

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
April 1	Easter – No classes	
April 8	68	\$19.00
April 15	No classes – icy weather	
April 22	68	\$5.00

## **Blessings in a Backpack**

The Sunday School children have been donating their offering to 6:8's Blessings in a Backpack program this year and we are happy to announce that they have collected \$1,298.01 for that program so far! What a wonderful blessing!

## **Bible School Sign Up!**

Look ahead to summer! Vacation Bible School will be August 6-10 (Monday through Friday) this year, for kids entering Kindergarten-6th grade from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. each day. Members from our congregation will be leading games, worship, arts and crafts, and bible studies. There is NO COST. We also offer a preschool option for 3 & 4 year olds, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, which is free of charge. Sign up for Bible School will be May 6 between services, or forms will be available in the office through June 1. You can also email Abby ([abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org)) to sign up via email. We realize that this sign up is early, but please plan ahead! See Abby Bennett for more information.

## **Looking to Get Involved this Summer?**

We need adult volunteers during Vacation Bible School August 6-10 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to lead Bible Studies, prepare and clean up the snack, and help with games. Youth help is also welcomed, and will count as a service project in the fall. If you can help all week, one day, or even a couple hours, please contact Abby Bennett ([abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org)).

## **Summer Camp**

Summer may seem very far away, but Bible camps are getting ready for your children's registrations. See the Youth Info Board, located in the hallway before the pastors' offices, 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.

## **Middle and High School Upcoming Events**

May 2– Final Night of Confirmation (student led worship service followed by potluck)

Affirmation of Baptism practice to follow

May 9 – 6th Grade Confirmation Orientation – 6:00 p.m.

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

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

**Congrats** Brody Ballweg, Ashley Pape, Jack Gorsuch and Cora Dunnum on completing your sermon notes!

## **Confirmation End of Year Celebration Worship and Potluck**

The final class for all confirmation students will be Wednesday, May 2. 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 2, immediately following the confirmation potluck. **Parents, please accompany your student!** We will gather for Affirmation on Sunday, May 13 at 9:15 a.m. for pictures followed by a reception. Students will be affirmed at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please contact either pastor with any questions you may have.

## **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 9 at 6:00 p.m. We will give an overview of the program as well as explain the worship job requirements 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.

## **Senior Recognition**

Come join us on Sunday, May 20 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.

## **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? What do you take away from this book?

Come and join us at the Blue Spoon in Prairie du Sac on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

### **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 of 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](mailto:sheide@merr.com), if you have any questions or suggestions.

## **Mattresses for the Orphanage**

We have reached our first goal of providing 100 new mattresses for the House of Jesus' Children Orphanage! Additional funds collected will be used for sheets, towels, pajamas and mosquito nets for use at the orphanage.

Whatever you can give, please indicate on your gift, Orphanage Mattress Project. We will continue collecting money through May, 2018. We currently have collected **\$5,590**. Thank you!

The words "Thank You" are written in a flowing, cursive script. The "T" is large and loops around the "h", and the "Y" is also large and loops around the "o".

To the members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the \$4,000 you raised for the purchase of new mattresses for the House of Jesus' Children Orphanage. I was in Haiti in January and the need for mattresses is great. I am so excited to think of those sweet, innocent children sleeping on new mattresses! Words cannot express the appreciation I feel for the love and support you have shown me. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of children in a third world country. God's blessings to you.

Love to all, Mary Parry

*(The \$4,000 was the first portion of our Mattress Project donations to be sent.)*

## **Thank you!**

Hello Mary (Parry),

We do not see how to thank you for all these efforts! We want to take the time to ask you to say thank you to the leaders and all the faithful of the church for the fund raises that will allow us to buy other mattresses for the children. We do not stop praying for them. We promise we will use the funds for the blessings of the children.

Blessings to you, Lesly and Anna

*(Lesly is the owner and director of the House of Jesus' Children Orphanage.)*

## **Columbarium Update**

In October 2017, at a congregational meeting, the Columbarium Committee presented information on the possibility of building a columbarium on St. John's property. The first step, which is still in process, is to gauge interest. In order to make the second step, which would be a congregational vote on purchasing a columbarium, we need to secure pre-subscriptions for 15 niches. The deadline for this is September 30. An artist's rendering of the columbarium will soon be available to view in the church office.

For more information please pick up the tri-fold brochure on the columbarium in the church office or contact one of the committee members; Nick or Kathy Lester, 643-4145 (kcnl@merr.com), Linda Hines at the church office, 643-2439 ([linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org)) or Roger Clason 576-0343 ([rclason43@gmail.com](mailto:rclason43@gmail.com)).

## **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 below for details.

## **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 also be part of the project.