



*Lillyann Nurkala, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade*

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Prairie du Sac, WI

July 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is hard to believe that soon we will be welcoming another intern. As you may have heard, last year's intern, Halcyon Bjornstad is now working at Wartburg Seminary running a new program working with students from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, who feel called to become pastors. She is overseeing a six year college/seminary track, resulting in completing their BA and MDiv. You can see more about this at <http://www.wartburg.edu/ordained-ministry/>

Like I said, it is hard to believe that another intern is coming. But before we welcome our newest intern, we first must say goodbye to our current intern, Derek Rosenstiel, along with Becky and Theodore. We have been blessed by their presence amongst us. As our intern, Derek has brought gifts and talents that have served St. John's and our common ministry. I have heard from many of you that Derek will be missed and I echo that feeling. I am a better pastor for his being here and I am grateful for his partnership in ministry. Please join me and the entire staff of St. John's as we say goodbye to Derek, Becky and Theodore on Sunday, July 22. We will have one service that day at 9am with a reception to follow.

When we first considered becoming an intern site, I told you that in order for an intern to be fully immersed into congregational life, your pastors would need to 'pull back and make room' for the intern. This process is hard.

Now we have a new intern coming, Elisabeth Himmelman. Elisabeth is married to Jacob and they have a son named Jens. They will arrive on August 6<sup>th</sup> and we again will need to 'pull back and make room.' 'We' includes staff, congregational members as well as our current intern. As Halcyon left and made room for Derek, Derek will leave and make room for Elisabeth.

Now you may say, "That makes sense." Yet let me tell you what this 'pulling back and making room' looks like. Derek will not be coming back to the Sauk Prairie area this next year. He will not call you to see how you are. He will not send you letters, texts, emails or Facebook message you to catch up on things. He will do this not because he doesn't care about the people of St. John's, rather it is *because he cares deeply*, and thus he will 'pull back and make room' for Elisabeth. He will do this to help us do the hard work of letting go of one intern so we can fully embrace another intern. When Elisabeth leaves she will have to do the same.

It is hard to leave behind people that you have grown to love. Yet when leaders such as pastors and interns leave a congregation, they are both expected and required to 'pull back and make room.' They do this so a congregation, especially one that has grown to love their pastor or intern, can embrace the person that will follow. Pulling back is a sign of the deep care that interns and pastors have for their congregation. It is a sign of their desire for a new person to have the same opportunity they were afforded, and thus to be fully integrated into this new community of faith.

I hope you can join us on July 22 as we say good bye to the Rosenstiels and have another opportunity to express our gratitude for all the care we received through their presence amongst us.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

### **St. John's Web Page**

Be sure to go online and look at our web page. See the changes at [stjohnssaukprairie.org](http://stjohnssaukprairie.org).

## 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: position currently vacant

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

(c) 370-7148

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 July 8. 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:

Pork and Beans	Mac and Cheese
Spaghetti	Tomato Sauce
Applesauce	Powdered Lemonade Mix

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

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

### **Birthday Greetings**

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

Yvonne Brewer (3)	Mac McCluskey (9)
Greenway Manor	1050 Prairie Street
501 S. Winsted Street	Prairie du Sac, WI 53578
Spring Green, WI 53588	

Christine Leaf (24)  
220 – 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

### **New Address**

Dick and Shirley Uttech have a new address. They are now living at: 100 Brookmont Rd., Apt. 143  
Akron, OH 44333.

They moved to be closer to their son. Any cards, notes or visits are most welcome.

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

All St. John's Circles: Combined Circles Picnic

Thursday, July 19, 9:30 a.m. at The Blue Spoon of Prairie du Sac.



30 ladies attended Circle meetings in June, with Fay Rentmeester, Barb Salveson, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester leading the Bible Study.

Instead of having our individual Circle meetings in July, we have reserved the Blue Spoon River Room for our annual Summer Picnic on July 19<sup>th</sup>. This will begin at 9:30 a.m. and we will have a light brunch. We are planning to have some good musical entertainment and we feel so fortunate that Intern Derek has consented to leading the Bible Study on prayer from the Gather magazine. Even though....very soon after that....he will be leaving us. We hope EVERYONE will be there so we can give Derek a good send-off! We are all REALLY going to miss Derek. Be sure to mark July 19<sup>th</sup>....9:30 a.m.....Blue Spoon on your calendar. Come and bring a guest. We plan on having rolls, fruit, coffee or tea. This will be paid for by a free will offering. (Suggested amount is \$5.00.)

Read this month's Prayer of Peace in this [Visitor](#) on July 20.

Sarah Circle is visiting Special Friends during June and July. Martha Circle will visit them in August and September.

Each Circle will be "doing their own thing" in August, such as eating out, or whatever else the group likes to do together.

We will resume our regular meetings in September with the beginning of a Bible Study on Repentance. As always, all ladies are invited to join a Circle and get in on these very interesting studies and good fellowship.

There will be a synod-wide spiritual FALL RETREAT on September 22, 2018, at New Life Lutheran Church, 7584 Cottage Grove Road. "Listening for God – Walking with Jesus". We hope some ladies from St. John's will be able to attend.



## **Women's Book Club**

Our July book club will discuss The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorn. We will meet on Tuesday, July 31 at 10am in the church library. A copy is in the church library, and there are several copies in the public library system.

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

OWLS will not meet during July or August. See you again in September! If you have any ideas for future programs contact Pastor Sally Williams.

## **Adult Education**

Adult Education and Text Study will not meet during July and August, but you are encouraged to continue your own study and conversation with one another informally. We will resume our group study together in September.

## **Sing for Fun**

If you like to sing and/or play an instrument just for fun, please join us! Don't worry if you are not an expert, just come to have fun. Let's get together at church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. Open to all! If you have questions, call Ruth Lohr at 608-225-8477. Hope to see you there!

## **Sharing Stitches**

Sharing Stitches will not meet in July or August, but resume again on September 11. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting, or learning how to knit or crochet, is welcome.

## **Mobile Meals Volunteers**

We thank the following volunteers from St. John's for their help and support of the Mobile Meals program here in Sauk Prairie. They delivered meals in June.

Ed Nimmow	Ginny Nimmow
Fay Rentmeester	Darlene Holl
Eunice Yanke	Sally Williams
Katie LaVigne	Alexi Pippin
Marsha Key	Rodney Key
Dan Baun	Janis Baun
Kim Larson	Nadine Lauer
Rich Frey	Kris Frey

## SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Creator God,  
In love you have fashioned the human family  
in a variety of races, languages, and cultures.  
Do not let our diversity divide us,  
but help us to welcome the gifts  
we can give and receive from one another.  
Save us from prejudice, arrogance and fear,  
and teach us how to live together  
as members of one family,  
sharing one home,  
as the children of one God.  
Amen.

### **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Norma Newman on the death of her niece, Terrie de LaGarza.

Steve and Holly Kindschi and their family on the death of Steve's mother, Alice Kindschi.

Gloria Moles on the death of her husband, Alvin.

Jackie and Dan Frosch on the death of Jackie's stepfather, Ed Hamre.

Cheryl, George, Corey and Alesha Cody on the death of Cheryl's aunt, Phyllis Goerks.

Debby Mahoney, Michelle and Justin Grosse, Crystal and Shawn Fahrenkampf and Thomas R. and Sonya Mahoney and their families on the death of their mother and grandmother, Josephine Froese.

The family and friends on the death of Eleanor Ferry

Maureen Patterson, Robyn Patterson, Randy and Marie Patterson and their families on the death of Paul, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather

Please keep these families in your prayers.



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

St. John's reports many of the names of our hospitalized and recently discharged members in the monthly newsletter. We include only those who have given us permission to print their names. You may send cards or telephone them and pray for their improved health.

### **Hospitalized/Recently Discharged**

Steve Barritt

Ruth Dresser

### **Baby Congratulations**

Elias Haakon Ederer was born May 30, 2018 to Tim and Paige Ederer. Elias is welcomed home by his brothers, Cam and Teddy. His great-grandparents are Haakon and Janice Carlson.

Jake and Nicole Kraus are happy to welcome their daughter, Emma Grace. Emma was born on June 4, 2018 and is welcomed home by her brother, Andrew.

### **Wedding Congratulation**

We rejoice with Bethany Varley and Mike Treffert on their June 8, 2018 wedding. Bethany is the daughter of Tom and Gina Varley.

We also celebrate with Alec Rilling and Molly Sarles. They were married June 23, 2018. Alec is the son of Pastor Fred and Kris Rilling.

Please remember to keep these newlyweds in your prayers as they begin their new life journey together.

### **Milestone Ministry Events: Anniversaries**

We will recognize and celebrate Milestone Anniversaries on Sunday, July 15 at both services. We will lift up in prayer all marriages and relationships, and have special recognition for those who have been married 20+ years. We hope you can join us!



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In lieu of writing my own article this month, I feel it is important to make you aware of the response from our greater church body and others to the separation of families at the border.

“The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has convened ELCA ecumenical and inter-religious partners in a statement addressing concerns over a recent U.S. government policy calling for more stringent enforcement of federal immigration laws. The policy will most likely result in an increase in family separations.

The letter follows:

Recently, the Administration announced that it will begin separating families and criminally prosecuting all people who enter the U.S. without previous authorization. As religious leaders representing diverse faith perspectives, united in our concern for the wellbeing of vulnerable migrants who cross our borders fleeing from danger and threats to their lives, we are deeply disappointed and pained to hear this news.

We affirm the family as a foundational societal structure to support human community and understand the household as an estate blessed by God. The security of the family provides critical mental, physical and emotional support to the development and wellbeing of children. Our congregations and agencies serve many migrant families that have recently arrived in the United States. Leaving their communities is often the only option they have to provide safety for their children and protect them from harm. Tearing children away from parents who have made a dangerous journey to provide a safe and sufficient life for them is unnecessarily cruel and detrimental to the well-being of parents and children.

As we continue to serve and love our neighbor, we pray for the children and families that will suffer due to this policy and urge the Administration to stop their policy of separating families.”  
<http://elca.org/News-and-Events/7935>

This is not about being a Republican or Democrat. This is not about being a Trump fan or foe. This is about the well-being of our sisters and brothers in Christ. This is about making Christ's call to justice and mercy be louder, broader, and more important than money, political parties, and our own beliefs.

Peace,



Greetings Siblings in Christ,

Gardening has always been a spiritual practice for me. It is an outlet for me to keep alive my ties to the land, having grown up on a farm. These past few months have been such a joy in this way. It is always a relief after a long winter to finally be able to get some soil on my hands again.

This time of working with my hands in the garden also provides me with a space to think. As I was pulling up some weeds this past week, I suddenly had to pause. A question popped into my mind: Who am I to be the judge of which plants belong here and which don't? Immediately I came up with the response: Well, these are weeds. Of course they don't belong. Yet, much later in the day that question resurfaced and my response did not feel adequate still.

Labels are something we oftentimes place upon others and things in order to rationalize our exclusion of them. According to the dictionary "a 'weed' is a plant considered undesirable in a particular situation, 'a plant in the wrong place'." This label of "weed" is something that I use in order to judge between one plant and another. Now I am not saying I am going to stop weeding my garden. But the question I am grappling with stuck there I think because it has everything to do with how we exclude certain people in life as well.

I think this question has to be asked continually. In our lives and in our communities, faith and otherwise, who are we labeling "weeds"? Who are we excluding because we believe that they are a "person in the wrong place"? If we want to live into and extend the radical inclusion and all-encompassing love that is shown to us in Christ, these questions need to be asked.

Our little family has felt welcomed into this beautiful faith community from day one, and for that we are so very thankful! I pray this day and every day that St. John's continues to be the place of radical love and welcome which we have experienced it to be. May the questions that I was pondering in the garden continue to be asked here in this "garden" of sorts, so that all people may be nourished in their faith here in this place.

Grace & Peace to You Always,  
Intern Derek

## **Ordination Anniversary**

Many of you know Rev. Eldor Fruehling. You may know him through his work on the Prairie du Sac Village Board or from his periodic teaching and leading of worship here at St. John's. If you have been a member for more than 26 years, you also know he served as pastor to this congregation from 1957 until he retired in 1992. Prior to coming to St. John's, he also served Christ Lutheran Church in LaMars, Iowa from 1953-1957. He graduated from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and was ordained on July 5, 1953.

On July 8, 2018, we will celebrate Rev. Eldor Fruehling's 65<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary. Please join us in celebrating this milestone in Eldor's life and the life of St. John's. Pie will be served between services.

## **Fellowship with Pie**

In honor of Rev. Eldor Fruehling's ordination anniversary the Fellowship Board will be serving pie between services on July 8. We would love help from the congregation! (More varieties of pie are more fun.) If you will bring a pie, please sign up on the kiosk.

Thank you for your help.

St. John's Fellowship Board

## **New Member Reception**

Every year we are delighted to welcome new members to our congregation. The official New Member Installation and Reception will take place on Sunday, July 15 at the 9:30 a.m. service. Please contact Pastor Williams with any questions or concerns.

Following the service we will have a reception in honor of our new members. Please come to meet and welcome them.

## **Happy July Birthday!**

*The day is in parenthesis*

### **Our Youngest:**

Clare Ryan (1)	Cameron Johnson (22)
Marryn Osgood (24)	Gabbi Argall (27)
Brigum Riha (30)	

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

Jaret Buckles (1)	Jaelyn Sorg (2)
Ethan Anderson (4)	Briggs Ludowitz (4)
Isabelle Kolnik (6)	Madyn Ludowitz (6)
Emelynn Miller (9)	Aubrey Ellerman (13)
Brock Esser (14)	Clark Kelter (15)
Pria Steinmetz (17)	Kennedy Colby (18)
Lillyann Nurkala (18)	Teddy Ederer (20)
Will Sandberg (24)	Evan Louis (25)
Amber Dregney (27)	Lillyan Deegan (29)
Jace Schultz (30)	Mylea Schultz (30)
Avery Jorgenson (31)	

### **Our Youth:**

Jaxson Dunn (1)	Brianna Kurt (1)
Emma Kinnamon (7)	Madison Marshall (8)
Colby Elsing (12)	Chloe Wernsing (12)
Eleri Fester (16)	Anna Francour (16)
Anna Bruckert (19)	Kaitlyn Kruchten (20)
Dylan Sawyer (25)	Joshua Schweitzer (27)
Jordan Chao (28)	

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

Paige Pistono (1)	Paige Beattie (6)
Sarah Peterson (8)	Sydney Peterson (8)
Jacob Guentherman (12)	Katelyn Ederer (16)
Emmalyn Carlson (19)	Chad Keller (25)

## Serving in July

### Ushers:

July 1

8:00 a.m.

Austin Bruckert

Additional help needed

July 8

Andrew King

Additional help needed

July 15

Brody Ballweg

Shawn Ballweg

Additional help needed

July 22

9:00 a.m. Wyatt Urban

Additional help needed

July 29

Jaxson Dunn

Chris Dunn

Additional help needed

9:30 a.m.

Jonah Richard

Rob Richard

Gerry Westphal

Deb Westphal

Ethan Jones

Andy Jones

Jaxson Dunn

Chris Dunn

### Acolytes:

July 1

8:00 a.m.

Annika Braund

Jozie Braund

July 8

Wesley Himebauch

Michael Blau

July 15

Wesley Himebauch

Erelyn Apel

July 22

9:00 a.m. Charlie Homp, Lily Fauerbach

July 29

Megan Small

Wyatt Urban

Gavin Tompkin

Lily Fauerbach

### Readers:

July 1

8:00 a.m.

Karlie Harpod

Donna Knickmeyer

July 8

Crystal Lautenbach

July 15

9:00 a.m. Roxanne Small

July 22

July 29

Jama Graves

9:30 a.m.

Kyra Manning

Hunter Lohr

Arthur Ness

Dale Clason

### Cantors:

July 1

8:00 a.m.

Marv/Janelle Hupp

July 8

Derek Rosenstiel

July 15

Melani Wheeler

July 22

9:00 a.m. Megan Small

July 29

Katie LaVigne

9:30 a.m.

Jordan Small

Derek Rosenstiel

Doris Lohr

Katie LaVigne

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

July 1                      Jonah Richard  
 July 8                      Donna Knickmeyer  
 July 15                     Roger Clason  
 July 22                    9:00 a.m.       Dede Egan  
 July 29                     Nadine Lauer

**9:30 a.m.**

Kyra Manning  
 Deb Westphal  
 Dale Clason  
 Dale Clason

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

July 1                      Karlie Harpold  
 July 8                      Bob Wilson  
 July 15                     Bev Clason  
 July 22                    9:00 a.m.       Bev Clason  
 July 29                     Jordan Small

**9:30 a.m.**

Karlie Harpold  
 Bob Wilson  
 Bev Clason  
 Jordan Small

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

July 1                      Dorothy Halverson  
 July 8                      Audrie Nurkala  
 July 15                     Bonnie Kehl  
 July 22                    9:00 a.m.       Kim Larson  
 July 29                     Shirley Orr

**9:30 a.m.**

Dave/Dale Clason  
 Ashley Pape  
 Deb/Gerry Westphal  
 Linda Hines  
 Dale/Dave Clason

**Nursery Staff:**

July 1                      Karley Blau  
                               Michael Blau  
 July 8                      Audrie Nurkala  
                               Claire Thiede  
 July 15                     Ellery/Erelyn Apel  
                               Claire Thiede  
 July 22                    9:00 a.m.       Audrie Nurkala,  
 July 29                     Jozie Braund  
                               Annika Braund

**9:30 a.m.**

Kyra Manning  
 Dylan Quayle  
 Scott Graves  
 Ellery/Erelyn Apel  
 Carly Coy  
 Emma Kinnamon

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

July 1                      Randy Trudell  
 July 8                      Austin Bruckert  
 July 15                     Anna Bruckert  
 July 22                    9:00 a.m.       Fellowship Board  
 July 29                     Jaxson Dunn

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

Randy Trudell  
 Austin Bruckert  
 Anna Bruckert  
 Jaxson Dunn

**Sunday Stewards**

July 1                      Jon Sandeman  
 July 8                      Kathy Lovell  
 July 15                     Roger Clason  
 July 22                    9:00 a.m.       Eunice Yanke  
 July 29                     Butch Passehl

**9:30 a.m.**

Eunice Yanke  
 Shelia Peak Dittberner

<b><u>Greeters:</u></b>	<b><u>8:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 a.m.</u></b>
July 1 (Sanctuary)	Roger/Bev Clason	Bob/Dede Egan
(Front doors)	Darlene Holl	Lee Ann Goelz
(Side doors)	Fay Rentmeester	Doris Lohr
July 8 (Sanctuary)	Dick/Jan Dobryznski	Dave/Ruth Lohr
(Front doors)	Shirley Anding	Denny/Bonnie Dederich
(Side doors)		
July 15 (Sanctuary)	Chloe Wernsing	Brody Ballweg
(Front doors)	Colin Wernsing	Ellery/Erelyn Apel
(Side doors)	Andrew King	Jack Gorsuch
July 22	<b><u>9:00 a.m</u></b> (Sanctuary)	Monte/Lynette Wick
	(Front doors)	Bob/Dede Egan
	(Side doors)	Linda Lintl
July 29 (Sanctuary)	Karen Bader	Ed/Ginny Nimmow
(Front doors)	Roger Maynard	Jeff/Becky Nimmow
(Side doors)		

### **Congregational totals**

	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Offering</b>
May 27	226	\$5,915.00
June 3	315	\$11,469.25
June 10	282	\$8,008.75
June 17	221	\$8,589.93
June 24	242	\$6,307.02

*Thank you for your continued support, Stewardship Board*

*Thank you*

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you from the Friends of Sauk Prairie Healthcare for letting us use your fabulous facility for our fundraiser luncheon, card party and bake sale. Your hospitality is exceptional and we appreciate the use of your space so much. Our event was a success! Thanks again!

Theresa Douglas, Friends of SPH

## **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School will be running the week of August 6 through August 10, 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). If you have questions please contact Abby Bennett via email at [abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:abby@stjohnssaukprairie.org).

## **Vacation Bible School Craft**

We are looking for 4 x 6 picture frames to decorate at VBS. The framing itself should be wide enough for the children to decorate with stickers, buttons, gems, etc. Bring the frames to the church office. Thanks.

Dear St. John's,

6:8 and Sauk Prairie Against Hunger would like to personally thank you for donating to our 2017-2018 Backpack program! It is because of people like you that 165 families in the Sauk Prairie School District were able to receive much needed food during their breaks throughout the school year. We could not have done this without you! Have a safe and blessed summer.

God bless,

Your friends at 6:8 and SPAH

*St. John's Sunday School's offering was donated to the Blessings in a Backpack program this year. We were able to send a total of \$1,392.76.*

## **Middle and High School News**

**Congrats** Karlie Harpold on completing your sermon notes!



## **Stock the Schools**

In cooperation with the Sauk Prairie community, 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. July's items are **individual packages of applesauce and sturdy backpacks** (with working zippers). Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations. Thank you.

## **Sunday School Teachers Needed**

Are you interested in working with children? Encouraging them in their faith through stories, lessons, arts and crafts, and music? We are looking for some more people to join our Sunday School team! Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be a teacher, helper, or perhaps even the Sunday School Superintendent! Our openings include:

- 3yr olds – 1 teacher
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 1 teacher

Please contact Pastor Sally or Abby Bennett if you are interested in serving in any of these positions. We are flexible with schedules and encourage more than one teacher in each room so that you are not committed every weekend.

## **Sunday School Superintendent Needed**

We are looking to fill the position of Sunday School Superintendent. This person works closely with our Youth Coordinator, Abby Bennett, to find teachers, choose curriculum, gather attendance and offering, serve on the Parish Education Board, work with volunteers to create and implement activities and events, and have a lot of fun getting to know our children! (We are open to co-superintendents!)

Please contact Pastor Sally or Abby Bennett if you are interested!

## **Intern Derek's Last Sunday**

Derek Rosenstiel's last Sunday at St. John's will be July 22. *We will have one service that day at 9am.* Following that service we will have a time of fellowship and an opportunity for conversation. Please join us this day as Derek, Becky and Theodore continue on their journey.

We will be serving appetizers and finger-foods during our fellowship time. Watch the kiosk for a sign-up sheet and let us know what you will bring.

## **Update from Halcyon Bjornstad:**

I have graduated from Wartburg Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree and I am so excited to step into my new role at Wartburg Theological Seminary as the Director of the Integrated BA/MDiv Degrees Program. What is that you may ask? It is a brand new program in partnership with Wartburg College which enables a student to earn a Bachelors Degree from Wartburg College and a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Seminary in six years instead of the traditional eight. Through collaboration with the two schools we are able to streamline education and get well prepared pastors into congregations a full two years earlier than was previously possible. This will save students time and money without compromising their education.

## **SCIENCE FICTION RETURNS TO EVENING BOOK GROUP**

After a great discussion in June of *Change Agent* by Daniel Suarez, **July 31** brings another sci-fi read/binge watching option: ***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood.** This book is "funny, unexpected, horrifying, and altogether convincing..., at once scathing satire, dire warning, and tour de force." If you want to be an overachiever, pick up *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. It is really short.

The August 28 selection is *Us Against You* by Frederik Bachman. You might call this Sport Fiction (It is about hockey, after all.) which provides a great format to discuss "right/wrong, fear/courage, love/hate, the importance and limits of friendship and loyalty, and more."

We continue to meet the last Tuesday of the month at the Blue Spoon.

## **Columbarium Meeting**

There will be a columbarium meeting on Sunday, July 15 at 10:45 a.m. This meeting is for anyone interested in learning more about a proposed columbarium here at St. John's. The committee will answer any questions you may have regarding this proposal.

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 containers holding the ashes of cremated remains. The columbarium used as an example in the tri-fold brochure is a pre-assembled unit with 64 niches made by Eickhof Columbarium. Each niche has space for two containers. The vault in the example is a circular unit that stands 5 feet high and is 5-foot, 4-inches in diameter. An artist's rendering of the columbarium is available to view in the church office. The above mentioned brochures are available on the name tag table or in the church office.

Feel free to 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)) if you have questions.

## **Congregational Vote**

In order to actually purchase a columbarium, we will need to have a congregational meeting at which we vote on whether or not we make that purchase. Before we can bring this matter to the congregational meeting, we need to secure pre-subscriptions for 15 niches. The deadline to secure the pre-subscriptions is September 30.

## **School Kit Supplies**

We are asking for your help in gathering supplies for our School Kits again this year. The kits are sent to Lutheran World Relief each fall. LWR asks that we do not use items with a U.S. flag, military symbols, camouflage or religious symbols on them. Each kit needs:

**Four** 70-sheet notebooks

**One** 30 cm. ruler (or one with inches and cms.)

**One** pencil sharpener

**One** blunt scissors

**Five** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers

**Five** black **or** blue ballpoint pens

**One** box of 16 **or** 24 crayons

**One** 2 ½ inch eraser

Bring items to the church office. Watch for sales and have fun shopping!

To St. John's,

Thank you very much for your gift of a scholarship for my schooling at UW-Oshkosh. I intend to work hard and use it well.

Sincerely, Daniel Hill

*(St. John's contributes to Sauk Prairie School's Dollars for Scholars fund and Daniel was the recipient this year.)*

## **THANK YOU**

On behalf of the Sauk Prairie School Board, I would like to thank the people of St. John's for the generous donation of \$1,796.43 to the Sauk Prairie School District in support of homeless students. This generosity is most sincerely appreciated will assist these students and their families in a number of ways.

Thank you. Sincerely, Cliff Thompson, Superintendent  
*(A portion of our Lenten offerings was designated for this program.)*

Dear Members of St. John's Parish,

Every May, Pastor Fred and Pastor Sally graciously offer your Fellowship Hall to Sauk Prairie High School, so that we can have a space to conduct Advanced Placement testing for our students. We want to recognize Linda and John Hines for all of the extra time and effort they put in to set up the room so that it not only adheres to the College Board requirements, but is also a comfortable working environment for the students. Linda and John not only work tirelessly making sure there are enough seats, which are spaced correctly, but they do it with a smile. We thank them!

We also realize that having high school students take over your facility for two weeks places a burden on everyone else who uses the building. We want to thank ALL of you for your kindness, generosity, and understanding.

The AP Students and Teachers salute St. John's Parish!

Warmly,

Kim Penza -Co-ordinator

Kirsten Johnson-Teacher

Mike Rauls-Teacher

Lynn Frick-Teacher

Ryan Mussack-Teacher

Niki Ederer-Teacher

Tim Denison-Teacher

Kathy Bruno-Test Proctor

Wayne Bruno-Test Proctor

Melani Guentherman-Teacher

Kurt Rossbach-Teacher

Cindy Duban-Teacher

Mary Walz-Teacher

Chad Harnisch-Principal

## **THANK YOU**

Dear St. John's Congregation,

Thank you for your financial assistance on our mission to Thoitte, Haiti. Your gifts enabled me and a teammate to provide care for the people of Thoitte and those who traveled great distances for a chance of regaining sight. The obstacles were enormous and the experience was deeply gratifying. It is humbling to be part of such a great cause and your assistance made it possible. We saw hundreds of patients and provided the gift of sight for over 30 people who could not see before surgery. The experience was simply amazing, gratifying and at times, extremely emotional. I am truly grateful for your financial assistance and your heartfelt caring for the people of Thoitte. Thank you again!

Sincerely, Bruce Goodman

*St. John's Stewardship Board budgets money for travel grants to Haiti each year.*