

Lilly Weittenhiller, 4th grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

January 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Change is part of life. As we enter 2022, I suspect you look forward to making some of those changes: changing habits to more exercise, eating less fatty foods, seeking renewed vision as you move into the future or setting a goal to make the best use of the time you have.

The new year also brings changes that we do not seek: continuing to deal with a pandemic, adapting to the death of a loved one, changes in friendships or marriages or financial hardship.

Change can bring new life and vitality. It can also be draining and exhausting. In any case, change is something that comes no matter what.

St. John's has had its fair amount of change. Even in these past few months, we have seen change. The end of the summer brought a new roof and a newly coated parking lot. Just as the roof was being completed, we discovered that our sanctuary cooling system broke. It became clear, due to the age of the unit and the cost to repair, that it made much more sense to replace the unit. The Property Committee began seeking bids. As we moved from fall into winter, the heating unit for the sanctuary also broke down. We quickly created a worship space in our fellowship hall and didn't miss a beat.

During our fund-raising efforts for the roof and parking lot; we experienced again the generosity of our congregation. Gifts were given that covered our initial \$170,000 request as well as allowed us to order replacement roof units for both our sanctuary and fellowship hall. Both were installed back in 1997 during the remodel and the one that still works, is also dying.

Due to these changes and our constitutional requirements, we need to have a congregational meeting to vote on four items. First, we need to vote on spending \$140,000 to replace our heating/cooling units which includes making some repairs to the roof area under those heating/cooling units, and replacing the duct work that sends air into the building. Second, we need to vote on adopting changes the council made to the constitution* (mostly updating it to be in line with the ELCA model constitution). Third and fourth, we need to elect members to attend the synod assembly in May and confirm members of the nomination committee who volunteered to serve after the last congregational meeting.

We have scheduled our congregational meeting to be at church between services on Feb 6, 2022. As in the past, we will also have members join us via Zoom.

As I mentioned before, we have had some generous gifts given toward our roof/parking lot project. Due to this, we have already been able to order the roof top units (delivery time is expected 10-14 weeks after order). We are expecting that we will need roughly \$40,000 to complete this project.

Regarding the heating of our sanctuary, we have rented an outdoor heater that will keep the sanctuary warm so that pipes and other issues do not create more damage. This expense is roughly \$925 a month. By the time you read this, I am hoping that we will have been able to move our worship back to our sanctuary. Currently we have been working through some issues related to the operation of the outdoor heating unit and hope to have them resolved soon.

We are fortunate in many ways, but these changes continue to tax the work of our staff, committees and Parish Planning Council. Please take time to express your gratitude to Lon Kaderavek, Gina Varley, Linda Hines, Ruellene Seymour, the choir, our handbell choir, Roger Seymour and our tech group, John Hines, Pastor Sally, and anyone I missed, for all the work that has been done behind the scenes. It is hard to understand how much change can affect so many unless you are in the midst of it. I am so grateful for the capacity of so many to make changes daily, and sometimes hourly. We are blessed with gracious leadership. Please take a moment and let them know of your thankfulness.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'J' or similar character.

*A paper copy of the constitution can be found in the church office or can be emailed to you.



Parish Planning Council Members:

Executive Director	Janelle Hupp	643-0653
Assistant Exec Director	Nancy Kaufman	963-0151
Secretary	Cathy Yanke	434-4869
Treasurer	Donna Nelson	393-4660
Evangelism Board	Sheila Dittberner	370-1550
Fellowship Board	Linda Michaels	643-8286
Lay Ministry Board	Gina Varley	544-5002
Member-at-Large	Roger Seymour	588-3198
Parish Education Board	James Newman	512-7623
Properties Board	Lon Kaderavek	434-2928
PR and Social Concerns	Patty Barritt	393-5218
Stewardship Board	Anne Klinkner	393-6453
Women of ELCA	Marian DeGiovanni	643-4514
Youth Board	Megan Tarnutzer	963-0396
Youth Member-at-Large	Jonah Richard	347-0488

The Staff:

Pastors: Fred Rilling fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org 963-4706

Sally Williams sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 643-7810

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour

ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 588-3198

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

St. John's Lutheran Church
100 Oak Street
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 23
Prairie du Sac,
Wisconsin 53578

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christ,
our strength
and refuge,
calling us
to serve

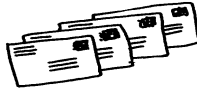


Food Pantry Sunday is January 2nd. Food, paper products and cleaning supplies may be brought to the table in the gathering area. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Pancake Mix | Syrup |
| Canned Stews | Large cans of Tuna |
| Salt | Pepper |
| Dish Soap | Shampoo |

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

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



Birthday Greetings

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

Marge Erlandson (4)
1425 Hemlock Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Mel Lohr (4)
S9591 Church Road
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jim Weeks (13)
930 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Bonnie McGuine (17)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Arlene Foell (18)
7343 Tetiva Road
Sauk City, WI 53583

Carol Benson (19)
713 Madison St., Apt. 111
Sauk City, WI 53583

Glenn Herschleb (20)
129 Washington Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Anniversary Congratulations

Bob and Almay Nelson celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on December 30th. If you wish to send a card, their address is: 821 Hanksfield Place, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578.

Women of the Church News

Hannah Circle: Thursday, January 20, 6:00pm, at St. John's Library

Lydia, Martha, Ruth, Sarah and Mary Circles:

Combined Circles Meeting – Thursday, January 13, 10:00 a.m. at St. John's Fellowship Hall, 100 Oak Street, Prairie du Sac. Hannah Circle members are, of course, most cordially invited to attend this meeting!



28 ladies and 1 guest attended Circle meetings in December. Diane Elsing, Cynthia Pletcher and Kathy Lester led the Bible Study. Ruth Circle discussed it as a group, and Hannah Circle did not meet in December.

The final amount for the ThankOffering is \$513.25.

As we have done in past years, most Circles will not meet at their regular times in January. We have planned a Combined Circle meeting for Thursday, January 13th, at 10:00am in the fellowship hall. We will not have food, due to Covid restrictions. Pastor Sally has graciously consented to lead the Bible Study for us.

After the Study, we will have our Candlelight Memorial Service for members of St. John's who passed away during 2021. Members of families who have lost loved ones are most welcome to come and light a candle for the person at this very impressive service. Anyone in attendance who has lost someone dear may light a candle for that person, even though not necessarily a member of St. John's. We are looking forward to seeing many St. John's ladies at this meaningful occasion.

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

February and March: Sarah/Mary Circle

April and May: Lydia Circle

June and July: Ruth Circle

August and September: Martha Circle

October and November: Sarah/Mary Circle

December and January 2023: Lydia Circle

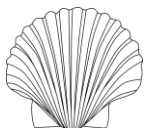
Remember to look in this Visitor for a Prayer for Peace to be read on January 20th.

The Bible Study Leaders' Meeting for February will be on Tuesday, January 25th at 9:00 a.m.

Respectively submitted, Ruth Dresser

Thank You!

The quilters of St. John's thank all who have generously donated fabric for our ministry to the world in need. We are also grateful for memorials that support our baptismal quilt gifts. We continually need large pieces of fabric, and we welcome volunteers. No sewing skills are needed.



Milestone Ministry: Baptism Anniversary

All children of God who were baptized in 2021 are invited to take part in a special Baptism Anniversary celebration on Sunday, January 9 at either service and on Zoom. Please mark your calendars and invite your congregational sponsors to attend worship with you and your children that day. A message of invitation was sent in December. If you didn't get this invitation, please contact Pastor Sally. We look forward to celebrating with you!



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. Contact one of the pastors if you would like more information.

Adult Education Schedule

We will resume text study after Christmas break on Sunday, January 9 at 9:15am in the library. The scripture lesson for January 9 will be John 2:1-11. Contact Pastor Sally with any questions. All are welcome!



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I had the privilege of gathering on Zoom with some of our youngest members as we learned about John the Baptist, a faithful messenger of Jesus. We talked about being messengers of the Good News – of the hope that Jesus brings us in his birth.

We talk a lot about being messengers of his birth at Christmas time. We talk a lot about that hopeful expectation of the Advent season and stilling ourselves to hear the Word in the busyness of the season of preparation.

Let's make sure that talk doesn't stop now that the Christmas season is over. Not only the talk, but the action. Let's make sure these important aspects of our faith don't come to a halt, but instead have just been started.

I know you're tired, St. John's. I see it in you. I hear it from you. I hear the yearning for a simpler time, the yearning for stillness, and a hope you can count on in the face of illness, broken relationships, and ongoing emotional distress. A real, tangible hope that has nothing to do with transmission rates and masks.

Let's keep up with the practice of stillness and active waiting. Let's keep up with the practice and challenge of being messengers of the Hope we can truly count on. The light that has come into the world through Jesus Christ.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:1-5

The Light of world has come. Is here. And He is here for you. To bring you hope in your darkness. In our collective darkness. Let's spread the Good News that Christ is here, in us and all around us.

Peace be with you,

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

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

O God of steadfast love, trusting you, we devote our hearts to learning and our lives to walking.

Teach us truth, that we may walk with courage.

Teach us mercy, that we may walk with humility.

Teach us forgiveness, that we may walk with compassion.

Teach us grace, that we may walk with strength.

Teach us wonder, that we may walk with praise.

Teach us goodness, that we may walk with those in need.

O God of steadfast love, learning from you, may we walk well.

Amen.

— J. Bradley Wigger



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Ginny Nimmow, Sandra Frey, Donna Hosking and John Laughnan on the death of their uncle, Maurice Schaefer.

Deanna Moore and Rob Shively on the death of Deanna's brother, Randy Mack.



Stormy Weather Approaching

How will you know if St. John's is closed for worship services and Sunday School? You can call the church office; the answering machine message will state the times of service or the news that the church is closed. You can also look at our facebook page. We will send you an email if we have your address. If you have any doubt about road conditions and your ability to maneuver, don't risk a fall or an accident. Please stay home and catch us on ZOOM.

Thank you!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

Fred and Kris Rilling.

*Thank
You*

Your gifts and messages of Christmas joy filled my heart this season. Thank you for your partnership on this journey that has most definitely been filled with many twists and turns! Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Epiphany blessings to you all.

Pastor Sally



Thank You

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

St. John's Staff

Those Serving in January

Ushers:

January 2

January 9

January 16

January 23

January 30

8:00 a.m.

Dale Haroldson

Colby Frey

Sophia Hanson

10:30 a.m.

Steve Kindschi

Holly Kindschi

Jason King

Cannon Esser

Jenna Shimpach

Acolytes:

January 2

January 9

January 16

January 23

January 30

8:00 a.m.

Noelle Small

Lauren Endres

Hannah Stephan

Ella Stephan

Micah Boerger

Josie Frey

Lauren Endres

10:30 a.m.

Kylie Hutchins

Jenna Shimpach

Tyler Jorgenson

Ryan Jorgenson

Ezra Bauer

Lillyann Nurkala

Jason King

Readers:

January 2

January 9

January 16

January 23

January 30

8:00 a.m.

Mary Halweg

Colby Frey

Patty Barritt

Dale Haroldson

10:30 a.m.

Kathy Lovell

Judy Hanna

Jama Graves

Carol Benson

Cantors:

January 2

January 9

January 16

January 23

January 30

8:00 a.m.

Melani Wheeler

Bill Burton

Becky Weittenhiller

Katie LaVigne

Janelle/Marv Hupp

10:30 a.m.

Dennis Fisher

Megan Tarnutzer

Becky Weittenhiller

Katie LaVigne

Lisa Davis

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

January 2

January 9

January 16

January 23

January 30

Jordan Small

Donna Knickmeyer

Marv Hupp

Janelle Hupp

Connie Burton

10:30 a.m.

Jordan Small

Donna Knickmeyer

Marv Hupp

Janelle Hupp

Connie Burton

<u>Greeters:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Jan. 2 (Front doors)	Steve/Cheryl Sprecher	
(Sanctuary doors)	Donna Knickmeyer	Cathy Yanke
Jan. 9 (Front doors)	Cliff/Cindy Thompson	Roger/Marcia Howard
(Sanctuary doors)	John/Patty Schmidt	Jake/Sally Degenhardt
Jan. 16 (Front doors)	Landon Schultz	
(Sanctuary doors)		
Jan. 23 (Front doors)	Milt/Mary Risgaard	Linda Yanke
(Sanctuary doors)	Vi/Don Bohler	Cathy Yanke
Jan. 30 (Front doors)	Marilyn Brecka	Wolfgang/Diane Reich
	Shirley Anding	
(Sanctuary doors)	Steve/Patty Barritt	Deb/Gerry Westphal

<u>Sunday Stewards</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
January 2	Patty Barritt	Marian DeGiovanni
January 9	Nancy Kaufman	Linda Michaels
January 16	Janelle Hupp	James Newman
January 23	Nancy Kaufman	Marian DeGiovanni
January 30	Sheila Peak-Dittberner	James Newman

<u>Technology Team</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
January 2	Ellen Jorgensen	Lisa Davis
January 9	Ellen Jorgensen	Roger Seymour
January 16	Eric Kaul	Eric Kaul
January 23	Eric Kaul	Roger Seymour
January 30	Ellen Jorgensen	Roger Seymour

Congregational totals

	Attendance	Offering
November 21	175	\$11,368.43
November 28	166	\$ 5,694.52
December 5	186	\$18,276.00
December 12	214	\$ 9,784.63
December 19	191	\$11,038.20

thank you!

Member at Large Report

A big Thank You to our "Techies" (Erik Anderson, Lisa Davis, Ellen Jorgensen, Eric Kaul, Amy Nelson, and Roger Seymour) for their dedication, flexibility and team spirit in making audio/video/Zoom happen for our congregation.



The 2022 offering envelopes are ready for you to take home. If you give your offering electronically you will not have envelopes on the tables. If you want envelopes, or if your name was inadvertently missed, please leave a note for Linda or call the church office (643-2439) and we will gladly give you envelopes.



Youth Director

St. John's is looking for a Youth Director to join our staff. For a complete job description check out St. John's web page at www.stjohnssaukprairie.org or contact Pastor Fred at 643-2439 or fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org.



First Communion Instruction

First Communion instruction will be Monday, February 7 from 6-7pm. If you would like to explore the possibilities of first communion for your children, no matter what their age, please sign up by calling the church office. Taking the class does not obligate anyone to begin communing nor is it a requirement for communion. The class is simply a time to explore what this gift of God might mean for you. Children are welcome to start communing at any time, but we will have a special First Communion Sunday on February 20 so the congregation can honor your children in this important milestone! See the pastors with any questions and to sign up.

Education News

Education Schedule

Sunday School:

We will resume classes after Christmas break on Sunday, January 9 at 9:15am.

Confirmation:

We will resume classes on Wednesday, January 5 at 6pm. We will be scheduling some youth events this winter so keep your eyes out for information to come!

We have been enjoying your students and are very grateful for all of our teachers and helpers!

Zoom Sunday School Lessons

Hey Sunday School Families! Are you doing at-home/virtual Sunday School this year or maybe chose not to enroll this year but would like to participate in a lesson via Zoom? Pastor Sally is hosting lessons on January 23, February 27, and March 27 at 9:30am. We will meet for about 30 minutes. Use the link we send out for worship and join at 9:30. If you don't have that link email sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org and she'll send it to you!

Young Adult Updates

New job? Accepted into a new program? Won an award? Need prayers for something specific? Please email Pastor Sally at sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org or message her on Facebook with any updates, so that we may continue to celebrate and pray for you in your life in Christ.



Stock the Schools

In cooperation with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's will be collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. Each month we will have different items to collect that will help our local students. January's items are: granola and breakfast bars, and new or gently used zip hoodies, sizes S-2XL. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office door to drop off your donations.

Handbell Choir



Handbell Choir News:

By the time you receive this newsletter, the handbell choir will have played for one of the Christmas Eve services. If you attended the 1:00pm, you will have heard us, and hopefully enjoyed "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime." As we move into January, we will be looking for another ringer or two; at least one of our ringers will be leaving town for the winter months. If you think you would like to give it a try, and have Thursdays from 6:00-7:00pm open in your schedule, please give Ruellene a call (608-588-3198) or send an email (ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org). This choir is open to teens as well as adults. We will likely play sometime in February and again for Easter.



Wanted: Mobile Meals Delivery Volunteers!

St. John's has committed to delivering meals the weeks of January 17-21 and January 24-28. We need two volunteers every weekday. One should plan to drive his/her car on the route, and one should plan to "run" the meals to the houses. Meals are ready for pickup at the Sauk Prairie Hospital near the Emergency entrance between 11:20 and 11:30 a.m. Total delivery time is usually one hour. Routing and delivery instructions are provided when you pick up the meals. This is a very rewarding volunteer experience.

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

Thank You

St. John's Lutheran Church family,
We would like to extend a huge, HUGE thank you to all of the congregation, families and volunteers for collecting, loading and delivering over 1,530 pounds of food (so far) for the SPA Food Pantry. The overwhelming volume and effort are to be commended. We are so incredibly grateful for all of you!

Thank you so much for helping us continue to provide a service to many in our community. You should all be very proud. I know I am, for without people and organizations like you we would not be able to exist! Thank you so much!

Kris and the rest of the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry Family

Parish Planning Council Minutes December 7, 2021, 6:30 PM

Present: Janelle Hupp, Donna Nelson, Cathy Yanke, Fred Rilling, Sally Williams, Lon Kaderavek, James Newman, Roger Seymour, Marian DeGiovanni, Jonah Richard, Gina Varley, Patty Barritt, Anne Klinkner, Linda Michaels, Nancy Kaufman, Sheila Dittberner.

Absent: Megan Tarnutzer

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:26 p.m. by Janelle Hupp. Janelle asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Donna and seconded by Marian. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer called Grateful Ground from Living Lutheran by Janelle.

Secretary Minutes:

The November minutes were submitted online by Cathy Yanke. A motion to approve minutes was made by Donna and seconded by Patty. Motion carried.

Treasurer report:

The committee reviewed and discussed the November 2021 Treasurer Report submitted by Donna Nelson.

- It was almost a normal month for expenses and income. Net income \$663.
- Received a special benevolence for Raymond that was paid out this month as well.
- Investment fund of about \$36K was cashed out and placed in savings.
- Added PPP loan to income in April 2021 when loan was forgiven. Total about \$63K.
- Donna requested that any remaining 2021 expenses be turned in before year end.

A motion to approve the November financial report was made by Nancy and seconded by Gina. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Evangelism: Sheila Peak-Dittberner

- Discussed graduation kits and getting them out, Pet Blessing (10/10/2021) pictures were edited and submitted, discussed annual report information needed. Guest book is being monitored by Gwen. Email list/items to purchase.

Fellowship: Linda Michaels

- Faithful Service with St. Johns. Are receiving postcards back and are being recorded.
- Homebound. Plan to reach out to the homebound in the new year.
- Reached out to Zoom worshipers. Linda Michaels reported a very positive response.
- No meeting will be held in December.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley

- Made plans for Christmas Eve services
- Welcomed Connie Burton to Lay Ministry as Altar Candles and Paraments volunteer
- Scheduled decorating sanctuary for Thanksgiving
- Start live altar flower sign up beginning in January
- Next meeting December 14th

Parish Education: James Newman

- Email meeting was held.
- Advent/Christmas lessons are done for Sunday School and crafts are being finalized.
- For Sunday School from March through May, we will be ordering and using a curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. This will combine with current efforts to maintain meaningful lessons all year.
- Confirmation is going well. No additional curriculum needs are expected.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek

- Shut down heating unit in the sanctuary this month.
- Temporary heating system to be installed next week. Will have updated information tomorrow.

PR and Social Concerns: Patty Barritt

- Just Bakery: orders due Dec. 12th, and delivered Sunday, December 19th in time for Christmas.
- Continue to look at different ways of advertising programs and upcoming events at St. John's to our members and the community.
- Abbey Nolden volunteered to promote events and information on St. John's website and social media sites. She will work directly with Pastor Sally and Pastor Fred for social media.

Stewardship: Anne Klinkner

- Presented information to congregation on Stewardship Sunday.
- Planning for annual report.
- Will need a congregational meeting for upcoming HVAC needs and other

Women of the ELCA: Marian DeGiovanni

- Thank you to all who were able to participate in our Thankoffering! We will collect until 12/19.
- Pastor Sally to lead combined Circle meeting Bible study Thursday Jan. 13 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- Planning a Candlelight Remembrance for those who joined the Church triumphant in 2021.

Youth: Megan Tarnutzer

- No formal meeting this month
- Meetings continue for the upcoming National Youth Gathering
- Youth shopped for the caring tree. Thanks to the parents and Pastor Fred for going along.
- Looking ahead 2022 to schedule some outings. Snow tubing and trampoline park have been considered.

Member-at-Large: Roger Seymour

- No update.

Youth Member-at-Large: Jonah Richard

- Construction at the high school continues and the pools are now open to the public.
 - Winter break is Dec 23 - Jan 3.
 - Sauk Prairie Music put on a successful production of Mamma Mia!
 - Girls swim team placed 9th as a team at State and the 200 Free Relay Team placed 5th and broke the school record.
- Congratulations to Savannah Acker, Kassandra Miller, Ashley Pape and Kaylee Oleson.

Executive Director Report

- Attended an Intern Committee Meeting on 11/16/21. This team is a wonderfully dedicated, insightful and motivated group of St. John's members. More under the New Business section.
- The Executive Committee met with Pastors Fred and Sally on 11/23/21 to review the updated job description for the St. John's Youth Director. Job description was approved and recruitment has begun. More details under the New Business section.
- We are in the heat of battle with the 4th Covid surge. Covid transmission is very high within our State and within Sauk and Columbia Counties. There is a critical shortage of hospital beds within our region and across the State. Healthcare systems are working at peak capacity. It's important that we remain vigilant about our safety protocols to protect our St. John's members and those outside of our walls.

7:15pm Pastor's reports

Fred's report

- Completed final draft of Youth/Education job description (now Called Youth Director). Executive Committee approved final draft and salary range. Job has been posted on synod newsletter.
- Minneapolis Gathering youth will meet next on Wednesday, Dec 15, from 5-6 pm.
- As you know, during the summer our AC stopped working in the sanctuary. Since our last PPC meeting, the heating part of the sanctuary roof unit also stopped working. Worship space is set up in the fellowship hall for the time being. A big thank you to all who have had to make changes to how we gather. Thank you to Linda, John, Sally, Ruellene, the choir and bell choir, the Lay Ministry Board, the Property Board, confirmation students, the quilting group and a host of others who have adjusted to the new setting for worship. Being nimble has been the ongoing status for us all. Thanks also to our congregational members for rolling with these changes. I am grateful for their support. A special thanks goes to Lon and property committee. Lots of work has gone into adapting to our current status. Please see Lon's report regarding the work to prevent issues related to freezing pipes and such.
- We will need to schedule a congregational meeting to vote on changes made to the constitution and to approve future spending on AC/Heating repairs.
- Christmas services are in place. A big thanks to Sally and Linda for overseeing the sign-up process. Currently our 1 pm service is filled but the remaining service times still have room.
- I will be working with the Intern Committee on the process for applying for an intern for 2022-23.

Sally's report:

- Adult Ed: We've been blessed to have two guest speakers in the recent past in class; Jeff Wright, District Superintendent, and Bishop Joy Mortensen-Weibe. December 5th we will view the webinar, "The ABC's of Refugee Resettlement."
- I held a Zoom Sunday School lesson with some of the kids who are doing at home/virtual learning this year. The plan is to hold these every 1-2 months to stay connected with our families.
- We currently have 346/500 slots filled on signup.com. We have about another 100 signed up via the office/kiosk. The first service is full. Plans are underway for how we will decorate, light candles, etc! Thank you for Roger for calling so many folks to make sure they know of the sign up. Please continue to spread the word. The

original deadline to sign up was Dec 5 but because there are still openings, we invite people to continue to sign up.

- I have been grateful for our staff's flexibility and hard work in the midst of the constant changes and pivoting, but even more now as the busyness of this season is intensified by heating issues, the constant moving of chairs, and everything else. We have the best staff. Thank you, John, Linda, Ruellene, Donna, and Bob! Thank you to Pastor Fred for sharing the responsibilities of Confirmation and chaperoning youth events.

Old Business

- Christmas Service updates. 1 pm service is full. About 355 are registered online and 100 in person.
- Sunday Steward Recruitment. Duties are listed on the vault in the workroom and include wiping down high touch areas and reminding people to sign up for Christmas Eve services.
- Updates related to heating/AC replacements (Lon). Sanctuary unit shut down in mid-November. Concern is for freezing of pipes and other items not intended to freeze. Sunbelt Rentals in Watertown is working with us for temporary natural gas heat for the sanctuary for about \$1000 per month. Mid-Feb is the expected date for a new unit. Waiting until spring to install is best to make a complete install.
- Working on a new dishwasher for the parsonage.
- Nominating Committee Recruitment (we still need 1 PPC member). Patty Barritt volunteered to be on the committee.

New Business

- Update from Intern Committee. The committee is working to evaluate exit feedback from previous interns, is looking to get the congregation involved with the intern and providing feedback. The committee will be looking for future members.
- Review finalized job description for the half time Youth Director. Answered questions, adjusted job to now be less Sunday school and more confirmation (60%) and grades 9-12 (40%).
- Church admin help to cover Linda when she is off. Congregation member, Alice Chenewith has offered. She has previous experience in church office work.
- Schedule congregational meeting. Feb 9, 2022, after 8 am church. Plan for Zoom attendance for those who choose to do so.

Vote to approve the volunteers for the Nomination Committee
John Hines was elected at the meeting but no others volunteered at that time. Following the meeting Eunice Yanke and Dale Haroldson agreed to serve. Dale and Eunice will be officially voted on at the Feb meeting.

Vote to approve our new constitution. Janelle Hupp will send a final form to Linda so that we can have one (or more) available for anyone who would wish to read it. Electronic versions can also be sent out (an attachment in our Friday Notes.)

Vote to elect voting members for the Synod Assembly to be held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells on either May 6-7 or May 7-8. Final dates will be known soon. We can elect 3 adults (must be either 2 males and 1 female or 2 females and 1 male). We can also send 1 young adult (under 30 years old) and 1 high school youth. Both Pastor Sally and I are also voting members.

Vote to approve the expenditures for replacing and installing two heating/cooling units (including needed duct work) that serve the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We will also repair the roof area around those units and replace the remaining two of the three ceiling heating/cooling units. One serves the library and the other one serves the two pastors' offices and the intern office. All of these units were installed in when the 1997 addition was made. The cost for this project will be \$140,000.

Next meeting is Tuesday, January 4, at 6:30 pm. Devotion will be given by Lon Kaderavek. Adjourn and Prayer of Lord's Prayer.

Motion to adjourn 1st by Nancy and 2nd by Donna. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the families we serve, thank you so much for your support. Together we can build homes, communities and HOPE. Your recent donation of \$1,000 is a great help to our program for improving lives.

Sue and the Habitat for Humanity team
(This money comes from our budgeted Benevolence Fund.)

Thanks

Dear St. John's members,

Thank you so very much for all the wonderful new and used coats, snow pants, hats, gloves and scarves. Thanks to all of you my coat closet is full and awaiting colder weather! Have a wonderful holiday season and thank you for remembering the Sauk Prairie School District students.

Sincerely, Susan Baumann-Duren SPSD Social Worker



Happy January Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

James Johnson (14)

Our Sunday School Students:

Eric Louis (1)

Jarod Steinhorst (3)

Molly Philo (6)

Jordan Signorile (7)

Clare Kaderavek (12)

Parker Pape (18)

Cole Haug (23)

Emma Naggs (27)

Cadence Schwartz (30)

Brielle Schell (31)

Our Youth:

Kaden Ballweg (2)

Jack Boerger (7)

Noelle Small (13)

Douglas Jolicoeur (15)

Leo Hartman (16)

Chesney Schonenberger (17)

Declan Ryan (23)

Sophia Hanson (29)

Karley Blau (29)

Andrew King (31)

Nicholas Keyser (31)

College and Career-age Young People:

Elisabeth Miller (7)

Carley Frosch (18)

Samuel Beattie (28)