

Kate Endres, 4th grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

March 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Lent is fast approaching. March 2 is Ash Wednesday. This year our Lenten theme will revolve around this word: Promise.

Scripture is full of stories of God's promises to us, made fully known in Jesus. But God's promises have been there from the beginning. This Lent we will look at five stories in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) where God's promises appear.

Genesis 9:8-17: A bow in the clouds

Promise – Never again

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16: Ancestor of nations

Promise – You have a Future

Exodus 20:1-17: The 10 Commandments

Promise – You shall be a Treasured Possession

Numbers 21:4-9: Fiery Serpents

Promise – I will be with you in Suffering

Jeremiah 31:31-34: Written on our hearts

Promise – I will be your God

This theme and format comes from Barn Geese Worship (license CC-BY-NC-4.0) Here is what they say about God's promise to us.

"Have you ever been changed by a promise? Sure, you have. We all have. Maybe it was a girl whose pinky-sworn friendship strengthened you to slay the dragons of childhood. Maybe it was a partner whose promise of faithfulness gave you the

courage to build a chosen family. Maybe it was a community whose tender vow to embrace you gave you the vulnerability to grow. And definitely it was the God who searched your heart and knew it completely, all of its little joys and great sorrows and haunting mistakes and glorious triumphs, and then said in a voice that cracks mountains and causes rivers to flow: "DIBS."

God forms God's people through promises—the fancy church word for this being "covenant." And while technically covenants are supposed to be a two-way street, with both God and us promising something, the truth that we learn over and over again through scripture and through our own experience is that God is by far the more faithful party in these arrangements. While humanity breaks its word again and again, God's promises never fail."

Join us these five Wednesdays of Lent as we look at the faithfulness of God's promises to us and how such promises shape us into a people of God.

Shalom,



PS. Look to barngeeseworship.com for more on this ministry.



Birthday Greetings

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

Stan Mallon (6)
N1617 Fjord Circle
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Larry Sawyer (11)
W14284 Golf Road
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marvin Beuthin (17)
624 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Gracie Roemer (22)
200 Webster St. #17
Sauk City, WI 53583

Betty Page (24)
930 Prairie St., Apt. 209
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Barb Salvesson (27)
200 Webster St. #2
Sauk City, WI 53583

Bob Wilson (28)
9411 Lakebend Preserve Ct.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135



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.

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our strength
and refuge,
calling us
to serve

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Wisconsin 53578



Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is March 2. We will have two worship services that day, at 1:00 and 6:00pm. (Please note the time change of the evening service, from 6:30 to 6:00pm.) Both services are available on Zoom also using the same connection as Sunday mornings.

Lenten Services

Our Lenten worship services will be held each Wednesday of Lent, March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6. **We will have one service each week, at 1:00pm ONLY.** The services are held in the church sanctuary or on Zoom. This year's Lenten theme is Promise.

Our Lenten offerings will be sent to Just Bakery in support of their program which works with individual who are experiencing significant barriers to employment (homelessness, justice involved, lack of education, and/or lack of work history or skills). The program offers a promise of support and education for a better way of life, in addition to God's promise for a new start. And the participants make a promise too, to sincerely try to overcome their set-backs while working hard to better their own positions in life.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services will be at 1:00 and 6:00pm. These will also be available on Zoom.


Easter Worship Services

St. John's will offer Easter worship services at 7:00, 8:00, 9:00 and 10:30am this year. Because we wish to keep everyone safe and healthy, and because services are very well attended, we will have a sign-up for each service as we did for Christmas Eve. We ask that you go online or call the church office to RSVP for the service you would like to attend. The church office number is 608-643-2439 and to sign up online:

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Enter this link into your device to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/CAVzcg>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Click Save and Done!

Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Hannah Circle</u> Thursday, March 17, via Zoom (go to www.stjohnssaukprairie.org and click on “Join Us Live for Worship”)	6:00pm
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, March 10, at Carol Benson’s, 713 Madison, St., Apt. 11, Sauk City	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, March 3, in St. John’s Library	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, March 14, in St. John’s Fellowship Hall	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, March 1, in St. John’s Fellowship Hall	9:30am

Twenty-five ladies attended Circle Meetings in February. (One circle did not meet.) Anne Klinkner, Diane Elsing, Barb Salveson, and Marian DeGiovanni were the leaders of the first 2 sessions of “The Kingdom of God” by Mark Alan Powell. In March, Session 3 of “The Kingdom of God” will be led by Anne Klinkner, Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Patty Barritt and Kathy Lester.

Mark your calendars now for April 9th. That is the date set for a Spring Gathering of the Baraboo Conference at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Loganville. It is an opportunity to meet with women from several other Lutheran churches in this district. Registration is from 8:30-9:30am with the meeting and lunch from 9:30 to noon. This is always a very enjoyable day and (because of covid) we haven’t had one of these get-togethers since we hosted it here at St. John’s in April of 2019....so we are excited about this! Give your name to Marian DeGiovanni or Linda in the office if you would like to attend this event. RSVP by April 4th to Lorinda Broughton at 608-727-2200 or broughton.lm@gmail.com. REGISTRATION fee of \$10 can be paid on Saturday the 9th. We will car pool and we would like to have a good representation from our church. We are praying that covid numbers will continue to go down so there won’t be any necessity to cancel. We will have more details as they become available and (with the help of Linda) we will keep you posted.

Sarah/Mary Circles are visiting Special Friends in February and March. In April and May, Lydia Circle will be visiting them.

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

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for April will be Tuesday, March 29th at 9:00 a.m.

Hannah Circle

Come join us for an open Bible Study. All are invited. Instead of the regularly scheduled Hannah Circle meetings during March and April, 2022, the material will be covered in 2 Zoom Bible Studies.

We invite you to click on the “Join Us Live for Worship” link on the website to join us. (It’s the white rectangle near the top of the opening page.) The dates and topics of study will be:

Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 6:00pm – “The Kingdom of God: Here and Now, Eternal Life in the Gospel of John”.

Thursday, Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 6:00pm – “The Kingdom of God; Looking to the Future, Living Forever with God”

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom in March and April. May God bless and keep you.

Adult Education Schedule

We look forward to welcoming back our weekly text study on Sundays at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, March 6th. All are welcome to join the exploration of our Sunday Bible stories. Contact Pastor Sally with any questions. All are welcome!

Agrace Offers Two Virtual Support Groups in March

Agrace is offering two professionally led, virtual (accessible via Zoom with a tablet, computer or smartphone) grief support groups in March.

- **Bridges** is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. In March, meetings are March 2, 16 and 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Pre-registration is required.
- **Spouse/Partner Loss Support Group** is a six-week grief support group series for adults whose spouse or partner has died. It meets Mondays, March 15 to April 19, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required.

These groups meet online and are open to the public. There is no fee for people whose family member was in hospice care in the past 12 months; fees for others can be lowered or waived, if needed. Pre-registration is required; call (608) 327-7118 with questions or to register.

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others;
Open my ears that I may hear their cries;
Open my heart so that they need not be without relief;
Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,
Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
And use me to bring them to those places.
And so open my eyes and my ears
That I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee.

- Alan Paton, South Africa, United Methodist Hymnal #456



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Bev and Roger Clason on the death of Bev's brother-in-law, Harold Haag.

Cliff and Cindy Thompson on the death of Cliff's uncle, Don Kuhn.

Patti and Randy Cook on the death of very good friend, Pam Dickson.

Carol Anderson, Tonya Anderson and their families on the death of Carol's son and Tonya's husband, Aaron Anderson.



First Communion

First Communion Sunday was February 20, 2022. We celebrate with the following students:

Grace Hanson	Avery Jorgenson
Beckett Suchla	Graham Roloff
Will Sandberg	Sam Krueger
Aubree Deuman	

Congratulations to all on this milestone in your life! Please remember these students in your prayers as they continue through their life in the church.



Dear Friends in Christ,

This has been a time of change, pivoting, readjusting, and changing again, and two people who have surely felt this on a regular basis are our Sunday School Co-Superintendents, Megan Tarnutzer and Katie LaVigne.

After two years of faithful service to this position, they are stepping down at the end of this academic year. We are very grateful for their organization, flexibility, hard work, and the joy they brought to our programming. We will miss them in this position!

We are starting the search for our new superintendent(s) as we look ahead to the 2022-23 academic year. Those in this position work closely with me (and future Youth Director) 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!

If you or someone you know are interested in this volunteer position, please contact me or James Newman; Parish Education Chairperson. While this volunteer position can be done by one person, we are more than happy to welcome co-superintendents to share the work.

When you see Katie and Megan, please be sure to thank them for their great work in these chaotic years!

Blessings,

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

Worship Services at 8:00 and 10:30am

At the meeting on February 20, it was decided by the PPC members present, Pastors, Staff and Sunday School Superintendents that St. John's will begin holding worship services at 8:00 and 10:30am on the first Sunday of March (March 6) and forward. Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Ed. classes will resume meeting in the building also. Other groups, such as the Senior Cardplayers, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will also be invited to hold their meetings here. We will require masks at this time.

Sunday School News

Sunday School

We are excited to welcome our students and teachers back into the building beginning Sunday, March 6th. Thank you for being flexible in these trying times. Our Zoom Sunday School lessons were greatly enjoyed by Pastor Sally! As we enter into Lent our curriculum is shifting to Spark Lectionary where we will learn about the Bible stories heard in worship each week. We're excited to continue our learning together!

Middle and High School News

Confirmation

We are excited to continue our exploration of Music as an Expression of faith with our confirmation students back in the building beginning March 9th. We will not have class together on March 2nd. Students and parents are encouraged to join Ash Wednesday services that night whether in the building or on Zoom. We are not holding evening Lenten services this year, so our regular schedule will remain 6pm-7pm in our individual classes.

The March calendar is as follows:

March 2 – Ash Wednesday worship with parents/families

March 9 – Class 6pm in building

March 16 – No class: Spring Break

March 23 – Class 6pm in building

March 30 - Class 6pm in building



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. March's items are: individual bags of pretzels, Goldfish crackers or Ritz crackers, and new or gently used leggings or sweatpants. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations.

Serving in March

Ushers:

March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27

8:00 a.m.

Sophia Hanson
Parker Frosch
Thea Harpold
Colby Frey

10:30 a.m.

Carter Kruchten
Colby Frey
Ella Stephan
Evelyn Bahe

Acolytes:

March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27

8:00 a.m.

Josie Frey
Lauren Endres
Josie Frey
Kate Himebauch

10:30 a.m.

Kylie Hutchins
Josie Frey
Ella Stephan
Kylie Hutchins

Readers:

March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27

8:00 a.m.

Gary Tomter
Carrie Richard
Noelle Small
Crystal Lautenbach

10:30 a.m.

Marilyn Herschleb
Bob Nelson
Marilyn Herschleb
Jon Sandeman

Cantors:

March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27

8:00 a.m.

Pastor Sally
Becky Weittenhiller
Lisa Davis
Katie LaVigne

10:30 a.m.

Doris Lohr
Becky Weittenhiller
Marv/Janelle Hupp
Katie LaVigne

Assisting Ministers:

March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27

8:00 a.m.

Janelle Hupp
Jordan Small

10:30 a.m.

Janelle Hupp
Jordan Small

Donna Knickmeyer

Donna Knickmeyer

Sunday Stewards

March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27

8:00 a.m.

Janelle Hupp
Patty Barritt
Marian DeGiovanni
Cathy Yanke

10:30 a.m.

Janelle Hupp
Patty Barritt
Gina Varley
Linda Michaels

Greeters:

8:00 a.m.
 Mar 6 (Sanctuary) Milt/Mary Risgaard
 (Front doors) Cliff/Cindy Thompson
 Mar 13 (Sanctuary) Dale Haroldson
 (Front doors) Shirley Anding
 Mar 20 (Sanctuary) Noelle Small
 (Front doors) Ella Stephan
 Mar 27 (Sanctuary) Don/Vi Bohler
 (Front doors) Rob/Carrie Richard

10:30 a.m.

Cathy/Herb Yanke
 Sally/Jake Degenhardt
 Roger/Marcia Howard

 Ava Sandeman
 Jason King
 Candace Buckles
 Jon/Carin Sandeman

Technology:

8:00a.m.
 March 6 Lisa Davis
 Amy Nelson
 March 13 Ellen Jorgensen

 March 20 Eric Kaul
 Nicole Sandberg

 March 27 Ellen Jorgensen
 Malcolm Leith

10:30 a.m.

Eric Kaul
 Charlie Kruchten
 Amy Nelson
 Jeff Sandberg
 Lisa Davis
 Liz Leith
 Malcolm Leith
 Eric Kaul

Congregational totals**Attendance****Offering**

January 30	101	\$ 5,344.00
February 6	109	\$ 8,143.04
February 13	114	\$ 5,800.00



Food Pantry Sunday is March 6th. 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:

Granola Bars	Canned Stews
Soup	Crackers
Ketchup	Mustard
Cornbread Mix	Kleenex

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.

Thank You!

Dear Friends of St. John's,

Thank you so much for your expressions of sympathy and your support after the death of my Mom Irene. It has made a difference for my family.

Thank you.

Kris Vanags Rilling and family

THANK YOU

Dear St. John's Staff and Members,

Thank you for remembering our Sauk Prairie School District students with snacks and clothing. Now that we have had several cold fronts come through, the clothing and snacks really help the students.

Sincerely, Susan Baumann-Duren, SPSPD Social Worker



Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your support this past year. We are honored to be trusted with your financial donations. We are thankful for your latest donation of \$200.00.

May your year be blessed!

In service, John Ramthun, 6:8 Executive Director
(A Christmas Cheer donation was sent from St. John's WELCA women.)

THANK YOU

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church WELCA,

Thank you for your 2021 year-end donation of \$200.00 to Hope House. Your generous donation helps us to reach and support the communities of Sauk, Columbia, Juneau, Marquette, and Adams Counties. Your donation will help us keep our 24/7 helpline open. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely, Jaime Sathasivam, Hope House
(A Christmas Cheer donation was sent from St. John's WELCA women.)

LENT

What is Lent? Lent is the season of the church year when we focus on simple living, prayer and fasting so we can grow closer to God.

This year our Lenten services will explore the theme “Promises.” In keeping with that theme, perhaps you would like to make a Lenten donation box for those people in Sauk Prairie who are food insecure as a promise to care for them. Below are some suggestions.

Lenten Box: find a good sturdy medium-sized box and collect one item each day of Lent (not counting Sundays). This can be added to a prayer time or family devotional time.

Pancake Mix	Kleenex
Syrup	Paper Towels
Cereal	Toilet Paper
Soup	Toothbrush
Crackers	Toothpaste
Cookies	Shampoo
Canned Vegetables	Paper Plates
Canned Fruit	Dish Soap
Rice	Hand Soap
Gravy	Laundry Soap
Instant Potatoes	Dryer Sheets
Noodles	Napkins
Spaghetti Sauce	Tuna
Kids' Cereal	Salad Dressing
Applesauce	Pudding Cups
Cake Mix	Frosting
Brownie Mix	Vegetable Oil
Granola Bars	Instant Coffee
Peanut Butter	Jelly
Bottled Juice	Chicken/Beef Broth

Please feel free to add other items to the box as you see fit. If you have children, get them involved. Have them help shop for their favorite cereal, fruits and veggies or pick out a fun shape of noodles! Or check out your own cupboards for those extra items that you may have at home. Substitutions are allowed! This box is to get us thinking about those in need and how we might help make their life situation a little easier.

Donations will be collected and given to the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 6, 2022

(In building and via Zoom platform)

PPC President, Janelle Hupp, confirmed at least 50 members present and called the meeting to order at 9:54 am. The purpose of the meeting is to approve: 1) expenditures for replacing and installing heating/cooling units, 2) changes to our constitution, 3) volunteers for the nominating committee, and 4) volunteers to attend Synod Assembly meetings in May.

The minutes of the previous October 10, 2021, Congregational meeting were read by secretary, Cathy Yanke. Motion to approve was made by Nancy Kaufman and 2nd by Donna Nelson. Janelle Hupp then asked three times if there were any objections. No objections were given, motion was approved by unanimous vote, and the minutes were approved as read.

Janelle described the circumstances requiring expenditures for replacing and installing 2 heating/cooling units that serve the sanctuary and fellowship hall, and the need to repair the roof area around those units and replace the remaining 2 of the 3 ceiling heating/cooling units. These units were last replaced in 1997 when the addition was completed. We have currently collected \$125K of the \$140K cost for the project. A motion to approve the heating/cooling unit replacements was made by Marv Hupp and 2nd by Brian Weeks. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The changes to our constitution were described as bringing our document in line with the synod's model constitution and wording clarifications, punctuation changes, etc. The updated document has been available in the church office and electronic copies were emailed if requested. A motion to approve the changes was made by Sheila Dittberner and 2nd by Mary Weeks. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

During our October meeting, John Hines volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee and after that meeting, Eunice Yanke and Dale Haroldson agreed to serve. A motion to approve Eunice and Dale was made by Bob Nelson and 2nd by Jerry Kaufman. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The final item was to elect congregational members to attend the May 6-7 Synod Assembly. This event provides an opportunity to see how the business of the synod is undertaken. We can send 3 adults (must be either 2 males and 1 female or 2 females and 1

male), 1 young adult (under 30 years old) and 1 high school youth. Pastor Fred and Pastor Sally are also voting members.

Connie Burton, Nancy Kaufman and Lon Kaderavek volunteered. If any adult under 30 or a high school youth is interested, please contact Janelle Hupp. A motion to approve the volunteers was made by Mary Weeks and 2nd by Donna Nelson. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Jerry Kaufman made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was 2nd by Sheila Dittberner. Janelle Hupp asked three times if there were any objections and after receiving none, she adjourned the meeting at 10:13 am.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Yanke

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: February 1, 2022

Present: Janelle Hupp, Donna Nelson, Nancy Kaufman, Cathy Yanke, Fred Rilling, Sally Williams, Linda Michaels, Jonah Richard, Roger Seymour (Zoom), Gina Varley, Marian DeGiovanni, Patty Barritt, Sheila Dittberner, Anne Klinkner

Absent: James Newman, Megan Tarnutzer, Lon Kaderavek

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Janelle Hupp. Janelle asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Nancy and seconded by Gina. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Janelle on behalf of James Newman called God Pause.

Secretary Minutes:

The January minutes were submitted online by Cathy Yanke. A motion to approve minutes was made by Nancy and seconded by Gina. Motion carried.

Treasurer report:

The committee reviewed and discussed the January 2022 Treasurer Report submitted by Donna Nelson.

· A donation of \$20K given “to be used to the glory of God when and where it is most needed”, has been added to the furnace fund. A huge thank you for this support.

- The furnace fund increased a total of \$21,290 in January bringing the total to \$125,518 raised for the anticipated expense of \$140K for the total project. To fully fund the furnace project, we need to raise only an additional \$14,482.
 - The annual audit was completed, and all year-end numbers were correct as reported.
 - The income for January was sufficient to pay all bills.
- A motion to approve the financial report was made by Gina and seconded by Anne. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- January 9, 2022, meeting
- Annual report info confirmed and year end receipts submitted
- Pet Blessing photos printed and poster created.
- Committee annual contacts to be made
- Grad kits mailed 12/28/2022

Fellowship: Linda Michaels reported:

- Faithful Service with St. Johns. We have received 238 responses and will feature the five that have been here the longest. All those with 50 years or more will be listed in our notifications.
- Home Communion Delivery. Thirty baskets were made to be delivered the first two weeks of February.
- Pi Day. Discussing. We wanted to coordinate with Just Bakery but may not be able to do that.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Lay Ministry Board did not meet in January.
- Corresponded via email to update usher, greeter and reader schedule after it was decided to scale back to one Sunday service at 9 am.

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

- Meeting on January 11, 2022
- Vacation Bible School will be returning to Lutherdale and Sugar Creek to prepare and teach.
- Thank yous to Sunday school and confirmation volunteers to be delivered in May and include a card, Culver's gift card, chocolate covered pretzels, and laminated ornaments of class photos.
- Sunday school curriculum for in-person and students at home, are shifting for missed days due to Covid increase. Planning to switch to new curriculum on March 13th.

- This is Katie and Megan's final school year as Sunday School Superintendents. They served through a very challenging time and have done an amazing job. We cannot thank them enough for all their efforts. With Pastor Sally going on Sabbatical in June, we should recruit replacements before then.
- Adult Ed continues with a few new faces added. Once a month from January through March, Pastor Fred will lead Adult Ed while Sally is teaching the Zoom lesson for Sunday school.
- Confirmation parents are helping with behavioral issues of students.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Nothing to report

PR & Social Concerns: Patty Barritt reported:

- PR and Social Concerns did not meet in January.
- Decided to pause our monthly "Just Bakery" order/delivery until April. We thank all of you who support this program.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- The 2021 church audit was completed on January 19, 2022. Audit results will be discussed at the February 2022 Stewardship Board Meeting.
- The annual 2021 report will be presented at the February 6, 2022, Congregational Meeting.
- There was a joint meeting of the Properties and Stewardship Boards on January 25, 2022. A report will be forthcoming from the Properties Board in the future.
- Budget work will start in May 2022. Individual boards are encouraged to work on them earlier if they want to.

Women of ELCA: Marian DeGiovanni reported:

- The Combined Circles Meeting scheduled for Thursday; January 13th was postponed due to the COVID surge. Separate Circles will meet in February, using the precautions for COVID.
- February Bible Studies will be led by Anne Klinkner, Diane Elsing, Barb Salvesson, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester.
- At <https://www.gathermagazine.org> please find the January and February video sessions for the Gather Bible Studies for winter by author Mark Allan Powell. These are a great supplement to our in-person gatherings or for those unable to attend in person.
- Martha Circle has been visiting Special Friends in January. Sarah/Mary Circle will visit them in February and March.
- Remember to read a Prayer for Peace in this Visitor on February 20th.

- The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for March will be on Tuesday, February 22nd at 9:00am.
- Please check February Visitor for when and where Circles are meeting.

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- Youth Board did not meet in January
- Still planning a tubing trip and/or trampoline park outing when Covid numbers decrease
- National Youth Gathering meetings are taking place to prepare for the summer trip.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- Nothing to report

Youth member at Large: Jonah Richard reported:

- Sauk Prairie hosted a Show Choir Invitational on January 29th
- Juniors at SPSHS are preparing to take the ACT on March 8th
- The applications for high schoolers and adult chaperones for the 6:8 mission trip to Joplin, MO are due February 1st. The trip will be June 11-18.
- The 6:8 Souper Bowl supporting the Circles Program is Feb 6th. I am helping to coordinate this as part of my individual service project for NHS.
- The date and location for Junior Prom has been set for May 7th at the Vintage Brewing Company.

Executive Comments – Director:

- The transition to one worship service at 9am on Sundays has gone well. Many attendees are using the virtual platform. Those who choose to attend in-person have plenty of room to spread out in the sanctuary. This change, as well as other changes to youth programming and meetings within our facility will remain in effect through the end of February. A follow-up meeting to include PPC members, Pastors, Church Staff and Sunday School Superintendents will happen on 2/20/22 to re-evaluate and create a plan going forward.
- The Congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, 2/6/22, following the 9am worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to:
 - 1) Vote to approve the volunteers for the Nominating Committee. John Hines was approved at the last congregational meeting, but since that meeting, Eunice Yanke and Dale Haroldson have agreed to serve.

2) Vote to approve the changes to our constitution. The updated document is available for review in the church office and will be available electronically (as an attachment to the "Friday Notes") for the month leading up to the 2/6/22 Congregational Meeting.

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

4) Vote to approve the expenditures for replacing and installing 2 heating/cooling units that serve the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We will also repair the roof area around those units and replace the remaining 2 of the 3 ceiling heating/cooling units. One serves the library and the other one serves the two pastor's offices and the intern office. These units were installed when the 1997 addition was completed. The cost for this project is \$140,000.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Fred's Report:

- Minneapolis Gathering youth will meet on Sunday, Feb 27, at 10:15am. (As of 2/1, the gathering was cancelled).
- Thanks to Sally for her work with our Confirmation program during this transition. I am grateful for her skills and dedication to our congregation.
- Sally and I are working on a Lenten theme and wondering about our Easter service schedule as they typically are well attended.
- I am very grateful for the generosity of our congregational members. Our year-end financial report shows just how generous the congregation has been (see Treasurer's report).
- Yearly staff reviews have been finished. I continue to be grateful for our staff and their capacity to do good work no matter what the situation might be.
- Waiting to hear about Synod Assembly dates. The original hotel contract was for May 6-8 (Friday to Sunday). They synod has been working on reducing the days from three to two. It will depend on costs related to changing the dates.
- As of this report, we have not received any applications for the position of Youth Director.

Sally's Report:

- Confirmation student project while not in the church building - Music as an Expression of Faith. Their work (both Zoom and at

home) will culminate in a final discussion with their mentors who are also doing the same project. Plans for Wednesday nights during Lent for students are being considered.

- Sunday School students have opportunity to zoom and do some at-home learning. Our Zoom session today (1/30) was a blast!
- I've been in consultation with our synod's mental health professional as well as the school administrators collecting resources for my sabbatical study on trauma. I am also working through the things that will need to be covered in my absence.
- Jill Kreuger will be taking over the Splash (0-3) ministry mailings. I am grateful for her service!
- I am looking for more people to join the assisting minister team. If you know of anyone, please invite them to talk with me!

Old Business:

- Updates regarding recruitment for Youth Director position (Pastor Fred)
No applications have been received.

New Business:

- Youth Gathering cancelled. Deposits made will be refunded.
- Joint meeting of Properties and Stewardship Boards focused on future needs requiring larger expense levels. No large needs were identified after furnace and roof are completed.

Sally has added some Parish Ed expenses of painting, window coverings, table and chairs in some rooms, and bulletin board repair.

Properties will develop a budget and add some of these projects into their annual budget.

Reminder that the budget process will begin in May. For those boards where Sally is active, plan to get budget ideas before her sabbatical.

- Plan for Congregational Meeting on 2/6/22. It is not anticipated that we will need the breakout rooms. Roger and Sally will lead the Zoom portion of the meeting.
- Reminder of committee meeting after the Feb 20, 9 am service regarding re-opening.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 1, at 6:30 pm. Devotion will be given by Linda Michaels. Patty made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Nancy. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Janelle Hupp.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



Happy March Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

August Zasada (13)	Maverick Fournier (14)
Charlie Herschleb (23)	Estelle Haffemann (24)
Beatrix Schreiber (27)	Calvin Ganser (29)

Our Sunday School Students:

Maximus Ederer (8)	Grace Lohr (9)
Cataleya Lane (11)	Preston Ott (12)
Adeline Newman (13)	Marley Duran (15)
Campbell Kelter (15)	Olivia Naggs (17)
Byrce Ballweg (18)	Micah Bennett (19)
Ethan Gilchrist (19)	August Maestri (19)
Isaiah Thompson (24)	Ethan Duren (26)
Kendra Frey (29)	

Our Youth:

Ben Levers (3)	Bryce Smith (9)
Sean Jager (10)	Drew Marshall (11)
JJ Wolfe (13)	Ethan Kolnik (15)
Lillian Ott (17)	Cole Helgersen (19)
Joe Frosch (21)	Eliot Carlson (22)
Eamon Walsh (23)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Alex Kinnamon (13)