

Vivianne Herbrand, age 7

Prairie du Sac, WI

April 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On Wednesday, March 16, Wartburg Seminary's second year students received the news of where they would spend their third year as an intern. These students had filled out paperwork indicating what kind of site, supervisor, location and learning experience they were hoping to have. A committee of professors and students then worked at making the best matches possible to provide the needed learning for these future pastors. On March 18 sites were informed on who their intern would be. John Evans will be our next intern. Here is some information from John's application:

John grew up in the Southern and Eastern part of the country. He went to Berry College in Mount Berry, GA. He graduated in 2016 with a major in political science and a minor in religion. He is single, lives in Spicer, MN, and is a DL student (Distance Learner) at Wartburg. This means, like some of our past interns (Marlow and Elisabeth) he lives at a distance from Wartburg and uses Zoom to be part of the learning community. John has worked at a number of Bible Camps, including Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp in Slayton, MN, where I was a counselor from 1975-79. He currently is working and living at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN.

John will be joining us towards the end of August or early September. This summer he will be completing CPE (clinical pastoral care) which is required for students before beginning internship.

The ELCA and its seminaries see internship as a vital and critical aspect to the training of leaders for the church. We serve as a teaching congregation in partnership with Wartburg Seminary. We give opportunity to students to experience the realities of church leadership through a caring congregation, the oversight of a supportive internship committee (Chair, Nancy Passehl) and the guidance of an experienced and trained supervisor. These elements, combined with a staff gifted in welcoming new interns and helping them experience the full range of ministry opportunities, builds the proficiencies an intern needs to acquire.

Thank you once again for being a teaching congregation, willing to help the larger church through the process we call internship. You are a blessing to the students, congregations and the larger church!

Shalom,



Lenten Worship Service

We will have our final Lenten worship service on Wednesday, April 6 at 1:00pm. Join us in the sanctuary (masks are optional) or on Zoom. Our Lenten offerings are going to Just Bakery this year. The funds will be used to help their students learn new life skills and responsibilities as they work to better themselves. Just Bakery offers a commitment to teaching and assisting, while the students promise to commit themselves, to the work and the program.



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday worship services will be held at 8:00am and 10:30am on April 10. We offer in-person services and via Zoom. We also will have Sunday School and Adult Education that day at 9:15am.



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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christ,
our strength
and refuge,
calling us
to serve

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



Food Pantry Sunday is April 3rd. Food, paper products and cleaning supplies may be brought to the table in the gathering area. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

Applesauce	Hamburger/Tuna Helper
Peanut Butter	Pudding Cups
Tuna	Cookies

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.



It's a SURPRISE!

The Fellowship Board would like to surprise Pastor Fred with a card shower for his 65th birthday! Please mail your cards or notes to church to be given to Pastor Fred on **April 10**. The cards will be presented to him at each worship service. Remember: **It is a SURPRISE and mail in/drop off your cards before April 10**.

Birthday Greetings

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

Eldor Fruehling (3)
1425 Hemlock St., Apt 107
Sauk City, WI 53583

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


Eldoris Lovell (12)
614 Eagle Crest Ct.
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jake Degenhardt (16)
612 Eagle Crest Ct.
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jean Knuth (23)
160 – 7th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

LaVonne Knuth (29)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Roger Allen (30)
6890 Breunig Road
Mazomanie, WI 53560

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Hannah Circle</u> Thursday, April 21, via Zoom (go to www.stjohnssaukprairie.org and click on “Join Us Live for Worship”) All are welcome.	6:00pm
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, April 14, at Darlene Holl’s, 418 Lueders Rd., Apt. 9, Sauk City	9:30am
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, April 7, in St. John’s Library	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, April 11, at Loretta Landerman’s, N816 Club Circle Drive, Prairie du Sac	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, April 5, in St. John’s Fellowship Hall	9:30am

31 ladies attended Circle Meetings in March, with Anne Klinkner, Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Patty Barritt and Kathy Lester leading the Bible Study. In April, the Study: “The Kingdom of God: Looking into the Future, Living Forever with God”, will be led by Anne Klinkner, Cynthia Pletcher, Darlene Holl, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester.

April 9th is the date set for the Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Loganville. This gives us an opportunity to meet with women from several other Lutheran churches in this conference. Registration is from 8:30 – 9:30am with the meeting and program starting at 9:30am. A representative from Sugar Creek Bible Camp at Ferryville will be the speaker.

Following the program (about noon) a lunch will be served and after that, it will be time to leave for home. Please let Marian DeGiovanni or Linda in the office know if you would like to go. The cost is \$10, payable at registration on the 9th. We must know by April 4th the number of people who will attend. We will carpool and will leave our church at 8:30am. This is always a very enjoyable day, and we hope to have a good representation there from St. John’s.

Sarah/Mary Circle have been visiting Special Friends during February and March. In April and May, Lydia Circle will be visiting them. Of course, we still need to follow the covid rule in the various facilities.

Remember to look in this Visitor for A Prayer for Peace to read on April 20th.

The Bible Study Leaders’ Meeting for May will be on Tuesday, April 26th at 9:00 a.m.

Adult Education in April:

We continue our weekly text study on Sundays at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall. We will not meet on Sunday, April 17 due to Easter celebrations! All are welcome to join the exploration of our Sunday Bible stories. Contact Pastor Sally with any questions.



Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Worship Services

We will hold Maundy Thursday worship services on April 14 at 1:00 and 6:00pm. Both services are offered in-person and on Zoom. Come to this very moving experience centered around Christ's sharing of the bread and wine.

Good Friday is April 15 and we will have two worship services that day as well, one at 1:00pm and one at 6:00pm, both also available in person and on Zoom.

Masks are now optional inside the St. John's building however we do ask that you be respectful of one another's space and health concerns.



Easter Worship Services

St. John's will offer Easter worship services at 7:00, 8:00, 9:00 and 10:30am this year. Because services are very well attended and we wish to keep everyone healthy, we will have a sign-up for each service. 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 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.

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
May we help to bring peace to this world
May we help to bring kindness to this world
May we show others Christ's love.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.
Amen

Parkinson's Disease

If you or a loved one has Parkinson's Disease (PD), there are some programs that you should know about. A support group meets the third Monday of every month at 1:00pm here at St. John's, and is intended for both people with Parkinson's as well as their caregivers. Meetings feature guest speakers or activities for participants to learn and share their experiences with PD. If you are interested, please contact Roger Seymour (608-588-3198, or rrcmor@gmail.com) for details.

(Note: Meeting time has changed from 3pm to 1:00pm.)

Thank you

The Fellowship Board would like to thank everyone who brought pies, helped us serve, and took pies to pass on to others to brighten their day. Thank you, Donna Nelson for this idea as I think everyone enjoyed it. I already have thoughts for next year. 😊 An extra thank you goes to Paster Fred for taking the left over pieces and making special deliveries.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Most of you by now have heard that I will be on sabbatical this summer beginning June 6 - September 6. My focus of study will be on healing from trauma, and I am looking for some feedback from all of you.

Trauma is an emotional response from a terrible event. Most of us have experienced trauma in some way (if not many ways) in our lifetime. We can even be traumatized by watching someone experience a traumatic event! And just as trauma impacts us all in individual ways, healing comes in a variety of ways.

Sometimes healing comes from very structured, professional help that we need to aid us in our healing journey. Sometimes it's less formal and found in a circle of friends or family support. Sometimes it's found in cumulative glimpses of hope through a stranger's story, random acts of kindness, and so on.

Healing can start immediately after a trauma, whether it's tiny steps or big steps. It can happen over years of hard emotional work. It can be stunted and begin decades after experiences.

I would be very interested in hearing from you where you have found healing throughout your lifetime in the midst of and/or after going through a traumatic experience(s). You do not need to share your trauma (but my ears are always open if you would like to). Please consider ways you have found healing in your life and send a note to me via email at sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org or drop a note in my mailbox at church. Thank you for your consideration!

We give thanks for our God who desires healing and wholeness for us all. God opens wide God's strong arms for all who are hurting, broken, and in need of healing in any way. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." ~ Matthew 11:28-30

In Christ,

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



BAPTISM

We welcome these new brothers and sister into the family of Christ following their baptisms during the month of March.

Graham Allan Goodwin, the son of Kyle and Tayler Goodwin was baptized on March 6. His sponsors are Shelby Goodwin and Dexter Breunig. His congregational sponsor is Arielle Kaufman. Great-grandparents are Glenn and Marilyn Herschleb.

Knox Jerald Kruchten, the son of Jeremy and Cydney Kruchten was baptized on March 13. His sponsors are Alex Kaufman and Lindsey Kruchten. His congregational sponsor is Vicky Suchla. Knox's grandparents are Jerry and Nancy Kaufman.

Addison Carol Rose Breunig, the daughter of Christopher and Melissa Breunig was baptized on March 20. Her sponsors are Brad Hering and Katie Laveau. Her congregational sponsor is Kim Schoepp. Her great-grandparents are Glenn and Marilyn Herschleb.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Brian and Tracy Breunig and family on the death of Brian's mother, Dorothy Breunig. We also include Dorothy's extended family and friends; Dave and Tracy Frosch, Darin and Sarah Frosch, Dan and Jackie Frosch and their families.

Larry and Sue Hitchcock on the death of Larry's mother, Margaret Koch. We include grandchildren, Craig and Kris Hitchcock, Becky and Jason Patterson and Margaret's great-grandchildren, Jade and Shane Hesse, Zander Gieck and Malania Hitchcock.

Dan and Jackie Frosch and family on the death of Dan's sister, Denise Roelke. We include nephews Darin and Sarah Frosch, Dave and Tracy Frosch and their families also.

Dave and Dale Clason, Roger and Bev Clason and their families on the death of Dave and Roger's brother-in-law, David Uselman.

Carol Anderson and her family on the death of Carol's aunt, Dorothy Krey.

Bob and Marilyn Straub on the death of Bob's brother, Tim.

Thanks

Dear St. John's family,

There aren't enough words to tell all of you how much your letters and cards meant to me. Bless you all.

Jeannine Robertson

♥THANK you!

Dear St. John's,

Thank you to those who sent cards for my birthday and the notes just to add cheer to my day during this pandemic. You are wonderful! Thank you so much.

Gracie Roemer



St. John's Family,

Thank you for your generous donations, support and prayers for the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. We exist and serve our neighbors in need through you and your love. Thank you!

Blessings to you,

Bill Bahn, SP Food Pantry Board

Agrace Offers New Volunteer Orientation

Agrace is seeking volunteers to visit with hospice patients. Volunteer orientation will take place at Agrace's Baraboo office **April 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Pre-registration is required. Call (608) 327-7163 or visit Agrace.org/Volunteer to fill out an application.

Agrace Offers Virtual Support in April

In April, grief support specialists from Agrace are offering one-on-one grief support and a virtual grief support group for adults:

- **One-on-one grief support** is available by phone or video chat.
- **Bridges** meets online April 13 and 27, from 9:30am to 11am.

Pre-registration is required for groups and one-on-one appointments. For details, fees or to register, visit Agrace.org/GriefGroups or call (608) 327-7118.



Open Positions Help is needed to fill some open positions here at St. John's.

- 1) Youth Director – This position is a paid, part-time job. We are looking for an individual who enjoys working with the young people of St. John's. This person will work with Pastor Sally in our Confirmation program and help to establish a high school ministry program for St. John's. Please see Pastor Fred for more details.

- 2) Sunday School Superintendent(s) – This position is on a volunteer basis and can be shared by more than one person. You will work with Pastor Sally, the Parish Education Board and the Sunday School teachers. Duties include helping to find Sunday School teachers, VBS teachers and helpers, taking attendance and gathering offerings on Sunday mornings when Sunday School is in session. Please speak with Pastor Sally if you are interested or have questions. Thank you to our outgoing superintendents Katie LaVigne and Megan Tarnutzer for handling this job during the covid pandemic.

- 3) Circle and Bible Study Leader This is a volunteer position. Hannah Circle is looking for a new leader/organizer. You do not necessarily need to lead the Bible Study each month, it is decided between members. Hannah Circle meets in the evenings to offer those working during the day the ability to attend a Bible Study. This person works with the WELCA Board. Please see Marian DeGiovanni or Anne Klinkner for details. Thank you, Anne, for leading this group for many years!

C N O I T A C U D E H S I R A P
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Birthday, Cantor, Choir, Christ, Church,
 Congregation, Council, Evans, Fellowship, Fred,
 Happy, Intern, Lay Ministry, Lent, Lutheran,
 Music, Office, Palm Sunday, Parish Education,
 Pastor, Prayers, Promises, Properties, Quilters,
 Reader, Sally, Scripture, Service, Staff,
 St Johns, Sunday School, Synod, Text Study,
 Treasurer, Usher, Youth

Circle the letters to find the words above and when you are done you can find the hidden message with the remaining letters.

Solution: (26 letters)

Serving in April

Ushers:

April 3

8:00 a.m.

Parker Frosch

10:30 a.m.

Douglas Jolicoeur

April 10
Palm Sunday

Colby Frey

Andrew Deuman

April 17
Easter

Evelyn Bahe

Andrew Deuman

April 24
Affirmation Sunday

Sophia Hanson

Acolytes:

April 3

8:00 a.m.

Lauren Endres

10:30 a.m.

Douglas Jolicoeur

April 10

Carter Kruchten

Douglas Jolicoeur

April 17

Micah Boerger

Kylie Hutchins

April 24

Simon Homp

Readers:

April 3

8:00 a.m.

Mary Halweg

10:30 a.m.

Carol Benson

April 10

Patty Barritt

Lynn Esser

April 17

Evelyn Bahe

Doris Lohr

April 24

7:00 a.m.

John Hines

9:00 a.m.

Nancy Kaufman

Judy Hanna

Cantors:

April 3

8:00 a.m.

Melani Wheeler

10:30 a.m.

Melani Wheeler

April 10

Bill Burton

Bill Burton

April 17

Senior Choir

Senior Choir

April 24

Pastor Sally

Doris Lohr

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

April 3

Connie Burton

10:30 a.m.

Connie Burton

April 10

Marv Hupp

Marv Hupp

April 17

April 24

Sunday Stewards

April 3
April 10
April 17

8:00 a.m.

Janelle Hupp
Nancy Kaufman
Cathy Yanke

10:30 a.m.

Linda Michaels
Sheila Peak Dittberner
Linda Michaels

April 24

7:00 a.m.

Janelle Hupp
Jonah Richard

9:00 a.m.

Nancy Kaufman
Janelle Hupp

Greeters:

April 3 (Sanctuary)
(Front doors)
April 10 (Sanctuary)
(Front doors)
April 17 (Sanctuary)
(Front doors)
(Side doors)

8:00 a.m.

Milt/Mary Risgaard
Steve/Cheryl Sprecher
Donna Knickmeyer
Steve/Patty Barritt
Don/Vi Bohler
Landon Schultz
Steve/Patty Barritt

10:30 a.m.

Sheila Peak Dittberner
Marv/Janelle Hupp
Ginny Nimmow
Jeff/Becky Nimmow
Doris Lohr
Hannah/Ella Stephan
Gerry/Deb Westphal

(Sanctuary)
April 24 (Sanctuary)
(Front doors)

7:00 a.m.

John/Linda Hines
Don/Vi Bohler
Bruce/Pam Pickens

9:00 a.m.

Bob/Josie Fentress
Craig/Penny Johnson
Roxanne Zick family

Technology Team

April 3

April 10

April 17

April 24

8:00a.m.

Lisa Davis
Jeff/Nicole Sandberg
Amy Nelson
Roger Seymour
Liz/Malcolm Leith

10:30 a.m.

Roger Seymour
Liz/Malcolm Leith
Lisa Davis
Liz/Malcolm Leith
Amy Nelson

7:00 a.m.

Ellen Jorgensen
Jeff Sandberg

9:00 a.m.

Liz Leith
Malcolm Leith

**As you can see it takes many volunteers to help with the worship services of St. John's each Sunday. If you are interested in helping, please mention it to one of the pastors or Linda in the office.

<u>Congregational totals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
February 20	143	\$ 3,829.00
February 27	123	\$ 4,646.00
March 6	210	\$13,396.48
March 13	152	\$ 6,142.00
March 20	172	\$ 8,953.00

Thank you for your continued support, Stewardship Board



Delivery Volunteers

I am looking for volunteers to deliver the food pantry donations from St. John's to the food pantry site.

The donations need to be delivered once a month to the 6:8 building "food pantry location" on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of the month between 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

An e-mail will be sent out each month to those who are interested in helping.

Contact Patty Barritt If you are interested in helping or have questions. **Cell 608-393-5218** pattybarritt@outlook.com



Just Bakery

Ordering from Just Bakery is back! Please see the order form included with this month's *Visitor* and make your pre-paid order today. Fill out the order form, make out a check payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and bring your order to the church office **before April 15**. Pre-paid orders will be delivered to church on Sunday, April 24. Please support this very worthwhile program.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Offering

We encourage our Sunday School students to start bringing in their offerings they've been collecting over the year beginning Sunday, April 24th. The last day to collect them will be Sunday, May 8th and we will decide what to purchase through Good Gifts and announce it on the final day of Sunday School, May 15th. Thank you for your generosity, especially during this extra wacky year!

6th Grade Confirmation Orientation – Mark your calendars!

On Wednesday, May 4th at 6pm we will hold an orientation for all current 6th graders and parents who are interested in participating in our confirmation program. We will share information on the curriculum, expectations for students, and answer any questions you may have. We encourage our 6th graders to start worship jobs over the summer, so please bring your calendars along as well! Contact Pastor Sally with any questions through the church office (643-2439) or via email sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Middle and High School News

Confirmation Schedule

This year has flown by! Here is the schedule for the final weeks:

April 6 – Class 6pm-7pm

April 13 – No Class: Holy Week. We invite you to attend worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 1pm or 6pm.

April 20 – 7th-8th graders: Last Class, 6pm-7pm;
9th graders: Affirmation of Baptism Rehearsal 6pm-7pm

7th and 8th graders are expected to continue worship jobs and sermon notes throughout the summer. 9th graders should plan to complete their sermon notes by the end of May.

Affirmation of Baptism

A rehearsal for the Affirmation of Baptism service will be held on Wednesday, April 20th at 6pm. Parents, please accompany your confirmand! Students should arrive at church on Sunday, April 24th at 10am. We will celebrate their Affirmation of Baptism at the 10:30 service. Pictures will follow the service.

Senior Recognition

On Sunday, May 22nd at our 10:30 service we will recognize our graduating high school seniors. Please come and celebrate this important event in the lives of our young people!

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

Young Adult Updates

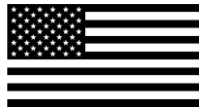
Please keep our young adults in your prayers as they study in college or technical school, travel, and begin new trades and careers.

New job? Accepted into a new program? Won an award? Need prayers for something specific? Please email Pastor Sally 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

As a community project, St. John's is collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. Each month we will have different items to collect that will help our local students. Some of these items can be used in school and some at home. April's items are: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Shampoo/Conditioner and Lotion. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations.



Memorial Day Remembrance

We would like to honor and remember the past members of St. John's who have died after serving our country in the armed forces. If you have a picture of your loved one and wish to share it with us, we will have a display on Sunday, May 29th. Please include their name, rank and arenas where they served.

GHM Kits Supplies

It is time to assemble the Global Health Ministry kits again! We send Newborn and Hospice Kits to GHM each year and the kits are then sent around the world to some of the poorest countries in need of health care. Below are the lists of items needed to complete each kit. If you are able to donate any of these items, please bring them to the marked bins in the fellowship hall.

Newborn Kits:

- 1 bath towel (approx. 52" long) new or gently used
- 1 washcloth (not microfiber) new or gently used
- 1 bath-size bar of white Ivory soap
- 1 newborn cotton t-shirt OR onesie, new/gently used
- 1 newborn stocking hat, new or gently used
- 1 baby receiving blanket, new or gently used
- 2 cloth diapers (**very needed**)
- 2 diaper pins
- 1 pillowcase

Hospice Kits:

- 1 bath towel (approx. 52" long) new or gently used
- 1 washcloth, new or gently used (not microfiber)
- 1 bath-size bar of Ivory unscented soap
- 1 adult toothbrush
- 1 pick-style comb
- 1 nail clipper, larger size preferred
- 6 Band-Aids
- 1 (4oz) jar or tube of petroleum jelly (**very needed**)
- 1 pair kitchen gloves, size medium (**very needed**)
- 1 pillowcase

We will be sending our finished kits to the Synod Assembly on May 6 and May 7. From there a volunteer will transport them to GHM of Minneapolis, MN.



Puzzle Sharing

Are you a person who enjoys jigsaw puzzles? St. John's has a little "lending library" of puzzles. Located on a table near the entrance to the fellowship hall there are puzzles for you to take home and enjoy. If you have a puzzle you would like to share, just leave it on the table. (We are sorry, but we are not taking children's puzzles at this time.)

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: March 1, 2022

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

Absent: Sheila Dittberner, Lon Kaderavek, James Newman

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 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 Linda Michaels named Puppy Sighs Love.

Secretary Minutes:

The February minutes were submitted online by Cathy Yanke. A motion to approve minutes was made by Marian and seconded by Megan. Motion carried.

Treasurer report:

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

- A few procedural changes have been made due to the audit that include:
 - A reminder to use tax exempt number when making purchases for church
 - Fred is working on the procedure manual
 - Encourage more signatures and verifications
- The month of February has a loss of \$9K with expenses exceeding income.
- Fundraising for the furnace is still on track with a balance needed of \$12K.
- If anyone wants to receive the Visitor as an email document instead of hard copy, contact Linda.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- No meeting was held in February

Fellowship: Linda Michaels reported:

- We are gathering personal information on our people that have been with St. John's over 70 years. We will feature them in the Visitor.
- Baskets were created and delivered (thank you Pastor Fred) to all those that receive home communion.
- Pi Day – we will be celebrating Pi Day on Sunday, March 13. We will ask people to bring pies and we may purchase some so that we can give people a piece of pie as they leave church.
- We are beginning plans to honor our quilters. More information as the summer months come up.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Lay Ministry board “met” via email in February due to the fact that volunteer jobs had already been adjusted to one worship schedule and that the decision about returning to 2 worship services was not going to be made until February 20th.

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

- VBS
 - James is emailing Sugar Creek and Lutherdale for more information
- Adult ed
 - Taking a break in February. Will restart when we return in person
- Sunday School
 - Last virtual day had 18 or more kids logged on
 - Good Samaritan bible story for next Zoom Sunday School
 - On non-zoom Sundays, email home small activities
 - Date for Bring your Banks for Sunday School offering will be decided when we are back in the building
 - March/April to begin asking who is returning as teachers and volunteers or superintendents
- Confirmation
 - Shifted to Zoom every other Wednesday
 - Music as Expression of Faith
 - Favorite songs vs. Christian songs. If back in person 1st confirmation in March
- We will need to begin thinking about how to function without a staffer for the 2022/23 school year.
 - Confirmation communication
 - This will be discussed starting in April.
- Thoughts about Starting Sunday School in later September / October for the 2022/23 school year.

- Properties / Stewardship/Parish Ed Needs
 - bulletin board tracks in Sunday school hall.
 - Blackboards to white boards in Sunday school classrooms
- NAEIR.ORG has exceptionally cheap school supplies for teachers and churches
- May agenda preliminary budget

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- No formal report, but a planned repair for an air compressor in the old boiler room will require parts with a higher than planned cost. Instead, plan to replace for \$1300 new.
- We expect the roof top air handling units to arrive on March 8 per our vendor.

PR & Social Concerns: Patty Barritt reported:

- Did not meet this month.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- The 2021 church audit was completed on January 19, 2022. The audit results were discussed at the February 2022 Stewardship Board Committee Meeting.
- Budget work will start in May 2022. If individual boards would like to work on them before that they are encouraged to do so.

Women of ELCA: Marian DeGiovanni reported:

- Check Visitor for circle times & place.
- Looking forward to Baraboo Conference gathering at St. Peter's, Loganville, April 9th.

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- The youth board didn't meet in person but has been in contact via email.
- We are in talks for some spring/summer activities that we can plan in the coming weeks and months.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No new report

Youth member at Large: Jonah Richard reported:

- Winter sports are wrapping up and Sauk Prairie had several students recently participate at state tournaments:
 - 6 swimmers
 - 3 skiers and snowboarders
 - 1 wrestler
- 15 students will be participating at State Solo & Ensemble competition.

- The Sauk Prairie School District has gone to targeting masking with the drop in COVID cases.
- The Sauk Prairie School District received a \$2.4M Workforce Innovation Grant.
- High school students going on the 6:8 mission trip to Joplin, MO, had their first meeting on 2/27/22. Students from St. John's going on the trip are myself and Kennedy Colby. Kennedy's mom, Mackenzie, will also be going as one of the adult group leaders. There are still a few more spots available but students need to sign up no later than March 15th.

Executive Comments – Director:

- Covid-19 transmission rates continue to decline nationwide and within our tri-county area.
- CDC has a new tool that will allow communities real-time access to transmission rates within their Counties on a day-to-day basis. This will be helpful to PPC and other church leaders as we make decisions that will bring us gradually back to worship and church activities as we knew in pre-Covid times. We will be looking, specifically, at our masking policy and whether we can return to traditional communion practices in the coming weeks. As we make positive changes, we will need to stay alert to the possibility of increased transmission rates and be ready to scale back, if needed.
- As we move closer to spring, I want to offer thanks to the folks on the Properties Committee and others within our congregation who have worked to keep our parking lot and sidewalks clear of snow and ice through the winter months.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Fred's Report:

- Completed first draft of procedure manual and will send it to the Stewardship committee for their edits/inputs/etc. This manual covers a variety of practices related to how we handle money and other related subjects. Most of our practices are well known to those who are part of the process, but are not written down. This manual is our first step in recording our practices.
- We still have not received any applications for our Youth Director position. We may need to consider how to move forward to put in place certain pieces of this position before the fall of 2022.
- We have three baptisms scheduled for March and one for May. These will be the first baptisms during worship since covid began.
- We will hear on March 18 if we will receive an intern for 2022-23.

Sally's Report:

- Education: Received positive feedback from confirmation mentors about Music as Expression of Faith curriculum for February. Teachers enjoyed seeing our students on Zoom. Sunday School students were a blast on Zoom in February! We have great families here. Preparing rooms, volunteers, students, and curriculum for return to the building March 6. Planning in the works for Affirmation of Baptism (April 24 @ 10:30) and Graduation Sunday (May 22 @ 10:30).
- Conference/Continuing Ed: Attending Synod LEAD event on Saturday, Feb 26. Theme is "the complexity of joy in troubled times and how the currencies and gifts of God has given us can nurture this joy."
- Sacraments: Excited to have some baptisms scheduled during worship over the next month or so and celebrating with our First Communion members!
- Visits: Thank you to Pastor Fred for making the majority of the visits while I've been attending to all the youth director duties. I've been sending notes to folks to stay in touch. Thank you to the Fellowship and Evangelism Boards for working on the baskets. They were very well received!
- Volunteers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to serve as Sunday School Superintendents, teachers, and helpers for 2022-23. Please invite people to consider these roles or give me their names and I can contact them. Our programming is only successful because of our many volunteers!

Old Business:

- Updates regarding recruitment for Youth Director position (Pastor Fred).
 - No applications to date. Fred and Sally will look to the congregation and recruit. May also consider altering the job expectations and pull-out administrative portions.
 - Also need to recruit SS Superintendents. Works well to have co-superintendents.
 - 4K SS teachers are needed to finish out this year.
- Updates related to back-up staffing for the Office Coordinator position. We have a person willing to be an occasional back-up, but a relief admin staff for the church office is being recruited as well.

New Business:

- Discussion related to updated Public Health Guidelines.
- Covid infection rates are decreasing. St John's has followed CDC guidance throughout COVID, and a new CDC link provides

information about transmission rates by county. The link then offers guidance related to masking, etc. based on hospital admissions/bed availability and the total number of new Covid-19 cases in each county.

· Using this tool, as of today, the transmission rates in Sauk, Dane, and Columbia counties are rated 'low', and the resulting guidance is:

- Stay up-to-date with Covid 19 vaccines.
- Get tested if you have symptoms.
- Masking is optional unless you have symptoms, a positive test, or have had a known exposure.
- Immunocompromised individuals, or those at high risk of severe disease are encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider about prevention.

· At St John's, as of Thursday, March 3, 2022, masking will be optional for the congregation. NOTE: CDC guidance states that if infection rates increase, masking may return, and we will follow their guidelines.

· Exceptions to the mask optional plan are for the music and singing groups. These groups will work together to meet comfort levels for masking vs not.

· After Easter, we will consider restarting fellowship coffee and donuts, offering collections, and returning to traditional communion options.

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 5, at 6:30 pm. Devotion will be given by Marian DeGiovanni.

Gina made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Megan. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Janelle Hupp.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.

THANKS

Dear St. John's members and Staff,

Thank you so much for remembering our students in need. The brand-new socks and shorts were fantastic! And of course, the snacks are always a helpful addition!

Sincerely, Susan Baumann-Duran, SPSD Social Worker



Happy April Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Emery Trager (4) Tatum Sorg (5)
Ethan Ballweg (15)

Our Sunday School Students:

Henry Ganser (1)	Elianna Greene (4)
Sofia Stephan (4)	Zeke Kaul (5)
Alex Kirk (5)	Eli Dillon (9)
Ethan Mittenzwei (9)	Jack Schulenburg (10)
Hank Lochner (15)	Reid Hart (16)
Henry Hart (17)	Emily Ramirez (17)
Lyla Ballweg (19)	Lauren Schulenburg (21)
Isabelle Jolicoeur (23)	Tatum Pickarts (27)
Cora Miller (29)	Noah Wells (29)

Our Youth:

Carter Kruchten (3)	Gillian Fritsch (10)
Meadow Liedtke (15)	Scott Graves (16)
Charlie Homp (22)	Andrew Deuman (23)
Emily Luther (27)	Wyatt Frey (28)
Graysen Dunn (29)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Ava Roach (4) Jay Liedtke (9)