



St. John's Sunday School

Prairie du Sac, WI

May 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In baptism we are made children of God, siblings to Christ and called to a life of love and service to the neighbor. We may grow up to have a certain job (pastor, teacher, insurance salesperson, chef, farmer, etc.). But whatever occupation we find ourselves in (usually more than one throughout our lives) we all have a vocation; a calling, because we are children of God.

As a youth director I often had people say to me that I had missed my 'calling.' I should have been a pastor. They were seeing in me the gifts for pastoral ministry. I did not see what they saw.

Following my nine years in youth ministry, I changed jobs and served a company for six years in their security division, helping small and large companies address security needs. When I eventually made the decision to go to seminary, none of my customers were surprised. They saw a connection between my future career and my current work on their behalf. They had experienced my work as a ministry to them.

Throughout our lives we juggle the reality of finding an occupation to make money with an internal sense of being called to a vocation. Maybe we are aware of this calling and simply have not been able to pursue it. Maybe we have not been able to put a name to this feeling. Or, perhaps like me, I was afraid of what following my vocation might mean to me and my family. Whatever the scenario, I believe we all have a calling. One person said of what a

calling might be as ‘a place where your skills and gifts meet at a point of the world’s needs.’”

An important process in figuring out your gifts is the observations of others. You need people in your life to point out your gifts. They often see things you do not. Take my earlier statement from someone who said I should be a pastor. I knew pastors. I worked with pastors. I did not think I could be a pastor. But other people saw in me what I did not. They looked at who I was and saw a person who should be a pastor.

Who do you see on a regular basis? Who could you give a personal reference for? Who do you see working at something that appears to be a great match with their gifts or who do you see in a job that is a bad match? Or who in your life is still in school on the journey of figuring out their vocation? Have you seen in them gifts and skills that they may not see? You would be surprised at how much is obvious to the world but can be obscured from someone’s self-perception.

We all have a vocation, a calling. It may change throughout our lives. It certainly will not always match up with our occupation, but what if it could? Let’s help each other see our gifts and encourage each other to pursue using our gifts for a world in need.

Shalom,



New Members

Are you interested in becoming a member of St. John's? Are you interested in learning more about the church in general? Please contact Pastor Fred at fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org or at the church office at 643-2439. New Members classes are May 1, May 8 and May 15 at 9:15am in the fellowship hall.



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
PAID
Permit No. 23
Prairie du Sac,
Wisconsin 53578



Food Pantry Sunday is May 1. 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:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Baked Beans | Flavored Rice pouches |
| Cereal | Boxed Potatoes |
| Soups | Gravy packets |

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

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



Birthday Greetings

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

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

Harold Carlson (5)
400 Washington St Apt 222
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Doris Lohr (5)
S9591 Church Road
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Carol Mallon (9)
N1617 Fjord Circle
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578


Marlene Wilson (10)
9411 Lakebend Preserve Ct
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Darlene Holl (15)
418 Lueders Rd., Apt 9
Sauk City, WI 53583

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

Denise Baars (21)
400 Washington St Apt 115
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marilyn Straub (25)
N750 Golf Road, Lot 22
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, May 12, at St. John's Library	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, May 5, in St. John's Library	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, May 9, at Cathy McAlexander's, 2104 Mustang Drive, Prairie du Sac	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, May 10 in St. John's Library <i>Please note change of date.</i>	9:30am

27 ladies attended Circle Meetings in April, with Anne Klinkner, Darlene Holl, Cynthia Pletcher, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester leading the Bible Study, The Kingdom of God: Looking into the Future, "Living Forever with God." In May the study will be led by Dorothy Halverson, Macel Magnussen, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester.

Marian DeGiovanni, Kathy Lester, Eunice Yanke, Darlene Holl, Sandra Frey and Ruth Dresser attended the Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Loganville on Saturday, April 9th. Our sincere thanks to Marian, who drove Dr. Tony's big SUV and all 6 of us fit very comfortably in one vehicle. There were 47 ladies there from churches in all directions in the Baraboo Conference. When we arrived, the choir director of St. Peter's was directing fun camping songs to go along with the theme of the day, with the main speaker being Jesse Klosterboer who is the Executive Director of the Sugar Creek Bible Camp and Conference Center, Ferryville, WI., (near Prairie du Chein). Mr. Klosterboer joined the choir director with his guitar and we all very much enjoyed singing those songs. Sugar Creek is an amazing year-round camp and retreat center affiliated with the ELCA. It is situated on 660 acres of a beautiful wooded area in southwestern Wisconsin. They can accommodate groups of more than 100 for overnight retreats and even more for day events in their spacious facilities. They have wagon rides, horseback trails, ice skating, snow tubing, volleyball, a golf course, miles of hiking/biking trails and even boat rides on the Mississippi River. They have wonderful programs for children K-12. They are finding that attending a church camp helps plant a seed that helps children connect to the word of God that lasts for the rest of their lives. Sugar Creek's Mission Statement is: "Where all generations encounter Christ, experience God's grace, and are empowered by

the Holy Spirit to go forth in faith. SUGAR CREEK: Christ-Centered! Spirit Led! Bible Fed!” He also showed some slides to show us the beautiful scenery and facilities at the camp. There was a collection taken which totaled \$570. Half (\$285) will go to Sugar Creek, one-fourth (\$142.50) goes to the Synod and one-fourth (\$142.50) goes to Church-Wide.

Donna Peterson, President of the WELCA Synodical Board brought us up to date on changes to the Board. Sandy Seffrood is the new Treasurer, replacing Bonnie Gilbertson. The major priorities needing lots of prayer and working on are: Human Trafficking, Immigration Reform, School Violence and Mass Shootings. Contact legislators and others in authority to voice concerns about all of these issues and encourage everyone to pray to end them all. The 12th Triennial Convention and Gathering is the week of September 18th, 2023. Women of the ELCA of South-Central Synod’s 1-day Retreat is Saturday, September 24, 2022 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie.

After the meeting, a fabulous lunch was served consisting of a huge baked potato with a table full of toppings: butter, sour cream, grated cheese, diced ham, broccoli, and you could take any or all. It was delicious. There was also another table of different kinds of delicious cakes for dessert.

Lydia Circle is visiting Special Friends during April and May.

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

The Bible Study Leaders’ Meeting for June will be on Tuesday, May 31 at 9:00am.

Thank you!

Dear St. John’s Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation of 4 sewing machines for the Sewing Machine Project, Inc. We are a charitable organization that helps those in need.

1. **Regionally**, The Sewing Machine Project offers sewing classes and machines to those whose lives may be enhanced by this new tool offering them a creative means to move forward.
2. **Nationally**, The Sewing Machine Project works with groups that have developed sewing projects to serve underserved populations. We offer the tools to make the programs these groups develop a reality.

The Sewing Machine Project is located in Monona, Wi, at The Electric Needle shop. They take used sewing machines to help others.



Ordination Anniversary!

Many of you know Rev. Eldor Fruehling. You may know him through his many years of service on the Prairie du Sac Village Board or from his periodic teaching and leading of worship here at St. John's. If you have been a member of this congregation for more than 30 years, you also know he served as pastor to St. John's from 1957 until he retired in 1992. Prior to coming to St. John's, he also served Christ Lutheran Church in LaMars, IA from 1953-1957. He graduated from Warburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA, and was ordained on July 5, 1953. This year Eldor will celebrate his 69th ordination anniversary. Please send him a card thanking him for his service. His address is: Eldor Fruehling, 1425 Hemlock St., Apt. 107, Sauk City, WI 53583.

And a Second Ordination Anniversary!

Sally Williams was ordained as an ELCA pastor June 6, 2006. This year marks 16 years of service as a pastor to both the ELCA and to St. John's Lutheran Church. As one of her colleagues, it has been my privilege to call her a partner in ministry. I also know you have been blessed to have her as your pastor. I invite you to take a moment and send her a card expressing your thanks for her ministry. We are very blessed to call Sally colleague, mentor, friend and pastor.

--Pastor Fred

Adult Education

We continue our weekly text study on Sundays at 9:15am in the library. All are welcome to join the exploration of our Sunday Bible stories. On Sunday, May 22 Pastor Sally will share more details regarding her sabbatical study during the adult education hour. Text study will not meet Memorial Day through Labor Day, but you are encouraged to keep up the study of scripture on your own!

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Father, violence is never the answer. It destroys Your good creation and it grieves Your heart when people resort to it. Despite the world knowing who You are, they do not know the peace that You can give them. Lord, I ask that You arise and put an end to all violence. Extinguish pain and misery wherever it is found, and spread Your gift of grace and peace upon the face of creation. Let forgiveness reign and end the bloodshed. Through Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Marilyn Herschleb, Lori and Al Breunig, Kris Helms, Brett and Rhonda Herschleb and their families on the death of husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather Glenn Herschleb.

Paul Schoepp and Marcia Thompson on the death of Paul's son, Peter Schoepp.

Marilyn Larson and her family on the death of Marilyn's brother, Bob Wachlin.

Walter and Amber Mack and their family on the death of Walter's mother, Trula Mack.

Ruth and Gary Neubauer and their extended family on the death of Ruth's sister, Barbara (Schabacker) Stenner.



We rejoice with Matt and Angela Kaul on the birth of their son, Zachariah Dean born on March 21. He is welcomed into the family by brother Ezekiel, grandparents David and Lois Kaul and uncle Eric Kaul.

We celebrate with Craig and Hana Johnson as they welcome Margaret "Maggie" into their family. She was born March 25 and joins brothers Cameron and Gavin.



Affirmation of Baptism

On April 24 St. John's held our Affirmation of Baptism service for the following young people. Please keep these celebrants in your prayers.

Natalie Ballweg	Kennedy Colby	Andrew Deuman
Lauren Endres	Colby Frey	Josie Frey
Boden Frosch	Joe Frosch	Gavin Goetsch
Thea Harpold	Kate Himebauch	
McKenzie Lautenbach		Ava Sandeman
Malea Schonenberger		Landon Schultz
Hannah Stephan	Chase Urban	

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



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 have different items to collect that will help our local students. Some of these items can be used in school and some at home. May's items are: Ramen noodles, Mac 'n Cheese cups, tampons and thick feminine pads. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office door to drop off your donations.



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we wrap up another education year here at St. John's, we are very grateful for our education staff:

Sunday School Teachers, Assistants and Substitutes:

Jennifer Stephan, Christopher Stephan, Lily Ott, Lily Nurkala, Joanna Jones, Julia Jones, Donna Nelson, Kate Himebauch, Mackenzie Colby, Kennedy Colby, Annie Kippley, Paul Kippley, Colby Frey, Josie Frey, Ruth Lohr, Maren Anderson Boerger, Jill Krueger, Ellen Jorgensen, Linda Yanke, Alecia Robertson, JoAnnah Sorg, Tammy Frey, Marian DeGiovanni, Laura Hutchins

Confirmation Teachers: Pastor Fred, Pastor Sally, Laura Collins

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour

Parish Ed Board: James Newman (Chair), Ruellene Seymour, Katie LaVigne, Megan Tarnutzer, Pastor Sally

A special thanks to Sam Johnson who is using service hours to help with our library!

And a very big shout out to Katie and Megan, Sunday School Superintendents, who have shown creativity and flexibility throughout these last few years as our program has been constantly changing with the pandemic. They are stepping down after this year. We are very grateful for your service!

We are still in need of someone (or a few people) to be Sunday School Superintendent(s)! Please prayerfully consider this. This position is critical to a successful Sunday School program and we cannot do it without the help of many! If you are interested contact me before June 5th

(sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org) or James Newman jamesolivernewman@gmail.com in my absence.

This is my final newsletter article until my return from sabbatical in September. I am looking forward to learning and growing, rest and renewal, but I will miss you all deeply!

Be well,

What does it take to lead a Sunday School program?

Have you ever wondered what it takes to be the superintendent of Sunday School, or to be a Sunday School teacher? You might be surprised at how rewarding it actually is, and how much JOY it can bring to both student *and* teacher.

When it comes to teaching Sunday School at St. John's, everything is already prepared for you. The lessons, bible stories, crafts, and music are all provided; teachers simply guide the students through the lessons and offer support and love! That being said, teachers are also welcome to add their own spice to lessons; go on field trips throughout the church, play games outside, and add more or different crafts! As a Sunday School teacher at St. John's, you have the leeway to follow the provided curriculum as is, or add your own pizzazz to the lesson of the week.

Have we piqued your interest yet? Here are some personal testimonies from our current Sunday School teachers:

"We took on this role as teachers because we were at a bit of a crossroads in our lives. It has so helped us in cementing our Faith."

"I had no idea how funny and smart kids were! I've learned that they inherently know more about what it is to be a Christian than I ever would have expected. I have certainly learned more from them than they've learned from me."

"I was originally nervous to teach Sunday School. I admittedly wasn't sure I knew enough about God to teach children! The curriculum laid everything out for me, I basically just had to follow a script!"

"I've really enjoyed being with the kids & learning about God together."

"I have learned patience and tolerance. I've learned that my husband missed his calling and should have been a school teacher as he truly has a gift."

Teaching teams are also great. If you are interested in teaching but can't commit to every week, we can pair you up with another and you can work out a schedule that works best for you!

As for Sunday School superintendents, after five years, it is time for us to step down. It is important for us to tell you that we are NOT stepping down because it is a "hard job" or "too time consuming." We are both choosing to step down because our kids are growing older and we would like to dedicate our time in other areas of need at St. John's.

The job of superintendent is quite different from teaching Sunday School, it is much more “behind the scenes.” The superintendent needs to be available in the building on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour as a support role to the teachers. Most often we have spent that hour making photocopies, taking attendance, collecting the Sunday School offering, and curing the sporadic need for a band aid! The superintendent’s duties are more often tasks that can be accomplished during the week: gathering materials from the supply closet for the upcoming craft, writing thank you notes to donors, and making sure substitutes have been contacted if a teacher needs to miss a week. Optional tasks can also be as elaborate as adding extra events like a hayride or a game night! Like the teacher role, the superintendent role can at times be as simple or involved as you make it! The largest task for the superintendent is delegation, it’s easy to forget that the entire Parish Education committee is part of the team and is a great support system to help! The role of superintendent can absolutely be accomplished by one person, but it is also a lot of fun to have a duo in the role. We have been lucky to have each other’s backs on the Sunday mornings where one of us was unable to make it. It was also nice to divide and conquer the short task list among ourselves!

If you have any interest in teaching Sunday School or leading the program as superintendent, please contact Pastor Sally or Pastor Fred. If you have more questions before making a decision, *please* feel free to reach out to us!

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Katie and Megan



Sauk Prairie School A/P Testing

The Sauk Prairie High School will be using our fellowship hall for Advanced Placement (A/P) Testing during the hours of 7:30am to 4:00pm on May 2 – May 6 and May 9 – May 13. We ask that you avoid entering the building through the gray doors of the fellowship hall and be quiet when conducting business in the front gathering area of the church. Thank you for your help and respecting our local high school students during this important testing period.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Offering

We encourage our Sunday School students to continue to bring in their offerings they've been collecting through the year. 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!

Middle and High School News

Senior Recognition

On Sunday, May 22nd at our 10:30 service we will recognize our graduating high school seniors. Please send a picture and description of your area of study and location or new job, military training, etc. to Pastor Sally by May 15th!



Post High School Graduates

Are you graduating from a trade school, a university, a higher education program, etc. this May or June? We would like to celebrate with you! We ask you to send us your name, school or program that you are graduating from and the degree or certificate that you have received. We will print them in our newsletter (the *Visitor*) for others to see so that we may celebrate this milestone with you by lifting you up in prayer and joy. Congratulations!

Young Adult Update

LT. Michael Kindschi started The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia in March. He will have training there for 6 months in the Marine Corps

THANK YOU

Dear St. John's,

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the many members of St. John's who remembered me on my birthday. Thank you very much.

Eldor Fruehling

Thank You

Dear St. John's members,

Thank you for the birthday cards! They really made my day.

Eldoris Lovell



JUST BAKERY
A JustDane Initiative

Just Bakery

May will be the last pre-order opportunity for Just Bakery until fall. Please make your orders by May 15. Include your check made out to St. John's with your order and drop it off at the church office. Orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, May 29.



St. John's is scheduled to deliver Mobile Meals June 6-10 and June 13-17. These are meals delivered from the Sauk Prairie Healthcare Center and go to help many in the Sauk Prairie community. If you are interested in delivering, email Patty Barritt at pattybarritt@outlook.com or you may phone her at 393-5218 for details on how delivery works and to sign up for delivering. Thank you for helping!



**American
Red Cross**

Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive in St. John's fellowship hall on Monday, May 23. Go to redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

T N E D N E T N I R E P U S B P
 H S E G R A L T A R E B M E M I
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 N O I T O V E D A I U L E L L A

Agree, Alleluia, Assistant, Beauty, Bible,
 Birthday, Bless, Cares, Circles, Communication,
 Connections, Custodian, Devotion, Director,
 Easter, Evangelism, Executive, Faith, Grace,
 Guest, Happy, Help, Joy, Linda Hines, Lists,
 Member-at-Large, Memorials, Patience, Peace,
 Pianist, Respect, Rome, Secretary, Singing,
 Strength, Superintendent, Teacher, Thanks,
 Visitor, Welcome, Worship

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

Solution: (11 letters)

Serving in May

Ushers:

May 1

8:00 a.m.

Ian Quayle

10:30 a.m.

Malea Schonenberger

Steve Kindschi

May 8

McKenzie

Lautenbach

Jenna Schimpach

May 15

Jason King

Ian Quayle

May 22

Noelle Small

Lillyann Nurkala

May 29

8:00 a.m.

McKenzie

Lautenbach

9:30a.m.

Acolytes:

May 1

8:00 a.m.

Dylan Walker

10:30 a.m.

Simon Homp

May 8

Dylan Walker

Sean Jager

May 15

Kylie Hutchins

Sean Jager

May 22

Lauren Endres

Ryan Jorgenson

May 29

8:00 a.m.

Ian Quayle

9:30 a.m.

Kylie Hutchins

Readers:

May 1

8:00 a.m.

Marilyn Herschleb

10:30 a.m.

Jama Graves

May 8

Connie Burton

Bob Nelson

May 15

Gary Tomter

Dale Haroldson

May 22

Carrie Richard

Roxanne Zick

May 29

8:00 a.m.

Donna Knickmeyer

9:30 a.m.

Jon Sandeman

Cantors:

May 1

8:00 a.m.

Becky Weittenhiller

10:30 a.m.

Becky Weittenhiller

May 8

Senior Choir

Senior Choir

May 15

Lisa Davis

Marv/Janelle Hupp

May 22

Senior Choir

Senior Choir

May 29

8:00 a.m.

Katie LaVigne

9:30 a.m.

Katie LaVigne

Assisting Ministers:

May 1

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

May 8

May 15

May 22

May 29

Marv Hupp

Connie Burton

8:00 a.m.

Donna Knickmeyer

Marv Hupp

Connie Burton

9:30 a.m.

Donna Knickmeyer

Sunday Stewards

May 1
 May 8
 May 15
 May 22

8:00 a.m.

Marian DeGiovanni
 Janelle Hupp
 Marian DeGiovanni
 Lon Kaderavek

10:30 a.m.

Linda Michaels
 Roger Seymour
 Roger Seymour
 Linda Michaels

May 29

8:00 a.m.

Cathy Yanke

9:30 a.m.

Jonah Richard

Greeters:

May 1 (Sanctuary)
 (Front doors)

8:00 a.m.

Roxanne Zick fam.
 John/Linda Hines

10:30 a.m.

Steve/Holly Kindschi
 John/Aletha Ballweg

May 8 (Sanctuary)

(Front doors)

Todd/Gina Wyttenbach

May 15 (Sanctuary)

(Front doors)

Karen Bader
 Donna Knickmeyer

Tom/Gina Varley

John/Ellen Mast

(Side doors)

Noelle Small

Jason King

May 22 (Sanctuary)

(Front doors)

Cliff/Cindy Thompson

Cheryl/Steve Sprecher

Roxanne Zick family

Jackie Frosch

May 29 (Sanctuary)

(Front doors)

8:00 a.m.

Cathy/Herb Yanke

9:30 a.m.

John/Ellen Mast

Technology Team

May 1

8:00 a.m.

Ellen Jorgensen
 Roger Seymour

10:30 a.m.

Eric Kaul

Roger Seymour

May 8

Ellen Jorgensen

Charlie Kruchten

Amy Nelson

Malcolm Leith

May 15

Lisa Davis

Jeff Sandberg

Liz Leith

Nicole Sandberg

May 22

Charlie Kruchten

Liz Leith

Amy Nelson

Malcolm Leith

May 29

8:00 a.m.

Lisa Davis

Roger Seymour

9:30 a.m.

Charlie Kruchten

Roger Seymour

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

March 27

189

\$ 5,802.00

April 3

171

\$12,988.90

April 10

224

\$ 5,555.00

April 17

466

\$16,695.52

April 24

412

\$ 6,720.75

Thank you for your continued support, Stewardship Board

Lay Ministry Help Needed

Communion Assistants

I'm happy to report that at the last Parish Planning Council meeting it was decided that we would return to traditional communion practices at the beginning of our **summer worship schedule (8 am and 9:30 am) on Sunday May 29th**! (Barring any changes in CDC guidelines due to Covid, of course.) We will continue to offer the prepared communion packets as well, for those who prefer that. With this change comes the need for volunteers to assist with communion. I am hoping to establish an online sign up for volunteers which will allow you to pick and choose which dates work for you. In the meantime, if you would please check your schedules and let me know if you'd be available to take a Sunday service (or two!) by email at glv1205@gmail.com or calling me at **608-963-0325**, that would be most appreciated. We also are in need of someone to join the Lay Ministry Board as our Communion Assistant coordinator. We thank Crystal Lautenbach for her years of service in this capacity.

I would like to get the summer worship schedule filled.
May 29, June 5, 12, 19 and 26, July 3, 10, 17 and 24, August 7, 14, 21 and 28, Sept. 4

Please prayerfully consider this service to St. John's.
Gina Varley, Director Lay Ministry Board
glv1205@gmail.com

Greeters

We are trying an online sign up so that you have more control to select the times that work for your schedule so that the church has greeters each Sunday. You will have the option to greet at the 8:00 or 10:30 (9:30 summer) services.

Simply click on the Signup.Com link in step 1 below. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our [Signup.Com](https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/5470292369900600109/false#/invitation) or enter <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/5470292369900600109/false#/invitation>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

Thank you,
Cheryl Sprecher
sprechercheryl@gmail.com

**Faithful Service with St. John's
THANK YOU!!**

We would like to thank all of you who completed the green post card telling us how long you have been faithful to St. John's. Now let's have some of them tell us, in their own words, a little bit about themselves, beginning with those that have been with us for over 70 years.

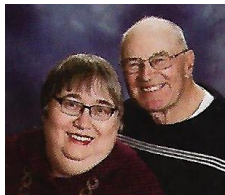


Gene Mowitz – 76 years

I was born in Portage, WI. My parents moved to Prairie du Sac when I was 5 years old. So, I lived most of my life in Prairie du Sac. I thank my parents for raising me and my sisters and brother so well. I had a wonderful childhood. They taught us all the right things. Our Pastor at St. John's was E. A. Henrichs where I was confirmed. So much happened during World War II. But most of it was good. Graduated high school, attended Platteville St. College, was drafted into the Army, served in the Korean Conflict, came home, started my career as a carpenter. I worked in Milwaukee, the Racine area for 10 years and moved to Florida. I lived there for 11 years. I knew I would always return to the Sauk Prairie area. All my family was here. So, my beautiful sister got me going back to church again.

I have been so blessed throughout my life. Pastors Fred and Sally have made St. John's a wonderful congregation. We are all grateful for that.

I pray this pandemic will end soon and we can get back to our mad normal.



Larry Sawyer - 76 years

I moved here in 1946 with my parents, Harry and Lorraine Sawyer, when I was 7 years old. We moved from Melrose, WI to a farm in the township of West Point, just east of the dam. I am proudly still farming with my family.

As a child, I attended Sunday School and Luther League. We always had fun, especially when we could play basketball!

My wife, April, and I got married at St. John's in 1973. We raised our kids, Joanna (Jones), Nathan, and Miranda (Jager). All three were baptized at St. John's and raised in the church.

I appreciate being a member of the St. John's community.



Thresa Schulenburg – 75 years –

We did not receive information about Thresa but certainly want to thank her as well.



Brian Williams – 74 years

Brian moved to this area in 1948 from Norwalk because his dad started work at Badger Ordinance.

He joined the Navy in 1961 shortly after graduation from Prairie du Sac High School.

Brian worked at various jobs in his lifetime: Badger, the Village of Prairie du Sac, etc.

He continues to work part time at the local taxi company and enjoys the people

He also enjoys hunting, fishing, ATVing, vegetable gardening and his granddaughter!



Arthur Ness – 71 years

I don't really know what to tell you. It is no great virtue to have been a member for 70+ years, it just takes a long time. I'm not sure when I technically became a member. I would assume that my parents must have transferred in at some point, but I was not baptized at St. John's, but in an ELC (Norwegian Synod) church where my uncle was the pastor, and where my father had been a member since he was baptized. My younger sister was baptized in

St. John's in 1952, so maybe we became official members sometime around then.

As a child in the old church, we sat in the back where the pews were roped off for persons with small children, presumably so they could be hauled out more easily. We were seated by ushers who would remove the rope to let us in, and then take them off completely once the service had started.

The service was in what would now be a foreign language – King James English. The Liturgy was the majestic language that was right out of the 16th Century English Book of Common Prayer. The Revised Standard Version of the Bible was not yet complete, so the Gospel and Catechism were also in King James English. We were all more or less bilingual. In daily life we spoke mid-20th Century American, and for church and prayer purposes, we spoke 16th Century English. I find myself, to this day, translating it in my head back to what I grew up with as we go through the liturgy. The words were made even more impressive by having, in many cases, been set to music in such works as Handel's Messiah.

Change comes gradually, and is most evident when one looks back. We have gone through several hymnals, we have gone from a service broadcast on the radio to one that is put out on ZOOM. The German Synod has merged with the Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish Synods, and very few people remember what the differences were and even know that there were differences.

If there is one thing that becomes obvious as one belongs to a group for a long time, it is that the group must constantly renew itself to remain relevant to the world it inhabits to survive. The church has the potential to do this because the message is always the same. We proclaim that because God loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son, and whosoever believes in Him will have everlasting life. In addition, we are told to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, soul, and strength, and love our neighbors as ourselves. We as a church have a mandate to take the commandments and apply them in our lives and our community. I haven't been a member of St. John's for my whole life – yet, so I hope to see a few more years of institutional evolution around an unchanging message.

On a personal level, I am recently retired after 46 years with the State. I now work about 5 hours a week translating immigrant letters for the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library in Madison.

I have a daughter who is married and has three children: Eight, six, and 9 months. They live in Woodbridge, Virginia. I enjoy visiting them and other relatives here and in Norway.

These people listed below have been with us over 50 years but less than seventy years.

Eldor Fruehling 69
Eunice Yanke 68
Jane Calenzo 67
Denise Baars 66
Diane Elsing 66
Jerry Kaufman 65
Janis Klaetsch 63
Terry Slotty 63
Ruth Dresser 61
Linda Herbst 61
Bonnie Kehl 61
Rodney Key 61
Doris Lohr 61
Melvin Lohr 61
Mary Dodd 60
Fay Rentmeester 60
Henry Elsing 59
Deb Lohr-Foster 59
Jeannine Robertson 58
Sandra Osgood 58
Herb Yanke 58

Marilyn Herschleb 57
Ginny Nimmow 57
Melani Wheeler 57
Jayne Carlson 56
Gloria Moles 56
Bob Kehl 55
Jackie Frosch 54
Sue Hitchcock 54
Jean Knuth 54
Alicia Hillestad 53
Butch Passehl 53
Diane Williams 53
Eldoris Lovell 51
Rodney Mielke 51
Beverly Mielke 51
Caroline Morrow 51
Deane Yanke 51
Okla Yanke 51
Dick Yanke 51

We will continue to feature our wonderful people of our congregation in the months to follow. I will be contacting the next group.

You can still complete your post card or provide your name and the number of years you have been with St. John's by e-mail or regular mail to:

Linda Michaels
2019 Fieldstone Blvd
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578
tmichaels8286@charter.net

THANKS

Thank you to all of St. John's members who helped us surprise Pastor Fred for his 65th birthday. He was surprised and pleased with the many cards and notes wishing him a happy day. Thanks for all of your help in keeping the secret!

St. John's Fellowship Board

*P.S. I was VERY surprised and VERY pleased! Thanks so much!
Pastor Fred*

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: April 5, 2022

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

Absent: Megan Tarnutzer, 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 Lon and seconded by Nancy. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was given by Marian.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer report:

The committee reviewed and discussed the March 2022 Treasurer report submitted by Donna Nelson.

- Furnace remaining balance needed is \$8K.
- The \$22K that was budgeted for the National Youth Gathering will not be spent this year, so it was moved out of the monthly budget performance report.
- The loss of \$9.5K in the stocks in Feb has been offset by the gain of \$5K in March.
- March expenses exceeded income by \$3K.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- Review Calendar of Events 2022 (upcoming months)
- Review committee rooster and responsibility confirmed.
- Front bulletin board updates - ready for new member.

Fellowship: Linda Michaels reported:

- Continuing to gather information about our "Faithful Service with St. John's" people. We hope to have a report in the April Visitor.

- Honoring our quilters – through the summer months will pay tribute to our quilting group and all they do. We will be working with them to provide this information to share with others.
- Easter flowers – working with Linda Hines and Pastor Fred to make sure all flowers purchased for our Easter service are picked up and/or distributed.
- Will be working with Sheila Peak-Dittberner for how Fellowship Board can assist her board with the Affirmation of Baptism on April 24th and high school graduates Sunday on May 22nd.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Lay Ministry board met on March 1st.
- Because the Youth Director position is open, we will order corsages for Affirmation of Baptism and carnations for graduation Sunday.
- Easter flowers were sold between services on March 6th and 13th. Flower set up on Saturday morning April 16th. Flowers not claimed will be distributed among our homebound members.

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

VBS. Will be calling Lutherdale back.

Adult Ed. Back in person as of last Sunday. One Sunday in May Sally will present sabbatical activities

Sunday School. May 15th last Sunday. 34 kids attended last Sunday.

- Pretzels to be delivered on the 15th.
- Alicia planning to teach up until Easter. Need 4 weeks of subs during her maternity leave.
- Last virtual day had 18 or more kids logged on
- Date for Bring your Banks for Sunday School offering will start to be collected on April 24th, May 1st, and May 8th.
- Will start asking volunteers who is returning.
- Plan on music in the room next year rather than trying to force a singspiration program
- Plan on a Christmas program for the 2022/23 school year
- We like the curriculum we are currently using.
- Sunday School first day of actual class on September 25th for the 2022/23 school year.
- Rally day September 18th.
- End of August call Terry Slotty about hayride

Confirmation

Music as expression of faith wrapped up

Back in building this upcoming Wednesday for 4-5 more sessions
Affirmation of baptism April 24th

Graduation Sunday May 22nd

Worship jobs started back up this last week.

Confirmation orientation in May for our current 6th graders.

- Begin planning in April how to function without a staffer for the 2022/23 school year.

Properties / Steward ship/Parish Ed Needs include:

Bulletin board tracks in Sunday School hall.

Blackboards change to larger white boards in Sunday school classrooms.

Individual desks changed to tables

Due for painting in all rooms

May agenda preliminary Budget

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- No word on second unit yet supposedly being prepped for shipment as of yet
- Board met and started forming a ten-year plan.
- Will probably pull temporary heater this month. As soon as possible.
- Will be adding air purifiers (ionizers) inside the new units on the roof at a cost of \$4200

PR & Social Concerns: Patty Barritt reported:

- Just Bakery: Place orders before Friday, April 15. Pre-paid orders will be delivered to church on Sunday, April 24.
- Advertising: Connie Henry looking into welcoming yard signs for St. John's "Join us for Worship"
- Looking for volunteers to deliver food pantry items 2nd or 3rd Wed. of month between 8:30-9:00a.m.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- The Stewardship Board met in March 2022. The discussion focused on the investments policy. The discussion will continue in future months and a recommendation will be prepared for a future Parish Planning Council meeting.

Women of ELCA: Marian DeGiovanni reported:

- Check Visitor for Circle dates & times
- Six members will attend Baraboo Conference Spring gathering in Loganville 4/9.
- LWR will send out the quilt/kit pins soon.

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- Youth board didn't formally meet last month. Still in talks of upcoming events for the youth.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report

Youth member at Large: Jonah Richard reported:

- Spring sports have begun with some of the first games of the season.
- The date for PROM is May 7th.
- Congratulations to the eight students who qualified to compete at the Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference.
- Graduation will be held June 3rd.

Executive Comments – Director:

- The Parish Planning Council will have further discussion at our April meeting regarding resuming traditional offering and communion practices and return to coffee/fellowship hour between services.
- We are still in need of a Sunday School Superintendent, or 2 Co-Superintendents. We also continue the recruiting process for the Youth Director Position. If you or someone you know might be interested in any of these opportunities, please see Pastor Fred or Pastor Sally.
- We have been assigned an intern for the 2022-2023 internship year and are looking forward to learning more about him and, ultimately, meeting him later this year.
- Covid case numbers are still considered to be low in Sauk, Columbia, and Dane Counties, though there has been a slight increase in cases over the last week. There is also a gradual increase in the Omicron sub variant BA.2. It is now estimated that about 30% of cases in Wisconsin are due to this variant. While BA.2 is more highly transmissible than the first Omicron variant, it doesn't seem to be causing severe illness and Covid hospitalizations and deaths continue to be low. We are monitoring the community levels and are prepared to revert back to mask required status at St. John's should these levels begin to rise. As always, our decisions will be made based on the most up-to-date CDC guidance.
- Looking forward to a joyful and meaningful Easter celebration with our St. John's members.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Fred's Report:

- Working with Stewardship Board on procedure manual.

- Will meet with PPC Exec Committee to begin the process for the administrative section for the 2023 Budget.
- We still have not received any applications for our Youth Director position.
- Our application to be an internship site for 2022-23 has been accepted and John Evans will be our intern. Tentatively he is planning on arriving on Friday, Aug 19.
- The last confirmation class will be on April 20. The 9th graders will meet that evening for practice. The service of Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) will be on Sunday, April 24, at 10:30am.
- I will be teaching a new member class May 1, 8, and 15th between services.
- Wartburg Seminary graduation will be on May 15. Member, Kathi Matthews-Risley, and past Intern Leah Holloway-Nilsen will be graduating this year.

Sally's Report:

- March was my month for nursing home/assisted living worship services. I was able to connect with many of our folks during and after the services. It's good to be back visiting people!
- The focus on my work in March and April/early May has largely turned to Affirmation of Baptism, Graduation Sunday, Confirmation Orientation (incoming 7th graders), and wrapping up the Sunday School year. (And Holy week and Easter)
- On April 20th some members of the school district will be doing a walk-through of the building. We are a reunification site in case of school evacuation. This walk-through will give the staff from the district and St. John's the opportunity to iron out details should this ever be needed.
- We've recently had some visitors to church, and I have witnessed many of our members reaching out in holy hospitality. A few even joined our adult education class! Thank you for being so welcoming of others.
- Some fun dates to remember....Pastor Fred's birthday is Thursday, April 14. Administrative Professional Day is Wednesday, April 27 and Linda Hines' birthday is Thursday, May 5.

Old Business:

- Updates regarding recruitment for Youth Director position (Pastor Fred). No applications yet.
- Updates related to back-up staffing for the Office Coordinator position. Planned person has changed their mind.

New Business:

- Discussion related to masking for choir members. Ruellene will discuss mask optional on a group-by-group basis.
- Will resume coffee hour/fellowship, traditional communion, passing of offering plates on May 29 when we also move to summer service times of 8 and 9:30 am. Until our pre-packaged communion supplies are depleted, attendees will be given option of which to receive.
- Due to low Covid numbers, pre-reserving a time for attending Easter Services will no longer be required.
- Intern for 2022 is John Evans who will arrive August 19. Parsonage needs a couch and chairs if someone has extras to donate.
- Approval for groups to have food in church.
- WELCA potluck is planned for the park, but St John's fellowship hall is the back up in case of rain.
- Will consider monthly outdoor service to be followed by a fun event to encourage fellowship.
- Sally leaves for sabbatical June 6.

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 3, at 6:30 pm. Devotion will be given by Roger. Lon made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Nancy. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Janelle Hupp.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.

A stylized, handwritten-style 'Thank you!' in blue ink with a slight shadow effect.

Thank you for the many cards and well wishes on my 65th birthday. I am blessed to be in this community of faith.

Pastor Fred

A stylized, handwritten-style 'Thank You!' in blue ink with a slight shadow effect.

Dear St. John's,

Thank you so much for inviting myself and some of our Common Ground Mission partners to share in Maundy Thursday services with you all. We are so blessed by your hospitality and proud to be partners in the Gospel with you.

Christ is Risen!

Samuel Christensen, Intern for Common Ground Church



Happy May Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Eli Emerson (5)

Ava Rilling (29)

Our Sunday School Students:

Ethan Lohr (1)

Alice Bennett (3)

Mason Burke (7)

Lyle Opie (7)

Cooper Rennie (9)

Clay Hutchins (11)

Bryce Argall (16)

Eloise Nelson (16)

Maddox Burke (21)

Amelia Trager (21)

Lainey Dillion (24)

Oliver Newman (24)

Liam Leith (25)

Charlotte Schreiber (26)

Leah Kruchten (28)

Elias Ederer (30)

Riley Jorgensen (30)

Nadia LaVigne (31)

Our Youth:

Colby Frey (3)

Malcolm Leith (5)

Jozie Braund (12)

Austin Bruckert (15)

Evelyn Bahe (17)

McKenzie Lautenbach (18)

Ian Quayle (25)

Malea Niesen (29)

College and Career-age Young People:

Emily Caflisch (12)

Tarren Nimmow (18)

Mariah Chao (23)

Grace Sandeman (30)