

“Christ the King” by Violet Richard, 6th grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

November 2022

Dear Cousins,

Kris and I went on vacation to Hawaii. One of the things we did was attend a luau. There were very talented hula dancers, great stories and your classic fire dancers. I even got a chance to throw a spear at a hay target. I didn't hit the center but I got the next ring out! But of all the things that we saw, what struck me most was what I heard. The announcer kept referring to us all as 'cousins.'

You may know that Kris has a number of relatives in Latvia. Both her parents were born there and immigrated to the United States in the 50's. They left family and friends because they knew that they would be in danger if they stayed in now what was Russian occupied territory.

We were fortunate enough to go to Latvia a number of years ago to visit Kris' relatives. We met all kinds of folks. It was hard to keep straight how each person was related to Kris. Our kids kept asking 'who is that?' Eventually we said, 'They're your cousin.' It was just easier and the fact was, no matter what the relational name was, they were our relatives. They were family.

The more I think about the word 'cousin,' the more I think it might be a better Christian term than brother, sister or even sibling in Christ.

The word cousin refers to someone who is related but not necessarily close. Some people have cousins they not only have never met, but literally might not know exist. I remember moving to Minnesota and meeting my cousins on my mom's side. There were only two. We have a small family. One was my age and one was

younger. My mom told me they were my cousins. We were in school together for a few years until they moved.

I have one sibling, a younger sister. We had to get along. We had to share a car. We had to share a bathroom (with our parents as well!) We had to make room for each other and deal with the drama, the joys and all that came along with being a sibling. We had no choice. By the way, just in case you are wondering, we love each other – a lot!

Cousins on the other hand don't have to really do anything – at least that was how it was in my family. Often, I would pass a cousin in the school hallway and not even say hi. It wasn't because I didn't like them, I just didn't need to pay attention to them. They were just there.

At the luau, every time the announcer referred to us as cousins, I began to wonder, "What if I was related to everyone here? What would change in my behavior? My attitudes? My actions?"

I know scripture refers to us as 'children of God.' But what about people who don't claim to believe in Jesus? Are they somehow less because of that? Are we related in any way?

I like the term cousin. It says we are related. We may not know each other. We may not have the same opinions. We may not live in the same country, speak the same language or even have the same faith, but if we are cousins – does that matter? If we are cousins, we are connected – and thus, we are family.

Shalom,



Thank You

Veteran's Day Pictures

Veteran's Day is Friday, Nov 11. With this in mind, we are asking that veterans bring a picture to share for Sunday, Nov 13. The pictures can be of you in uniform or not. They can be of you currently or younger. We are asking you to bring a picture so we can celebrate with you the service you give/gave to our country and as a way to let others in our congregation know who are veterans in our congregation. You can bring a picture (framed or unframed) the week prior or on that Sunday. We will have tables where you can put your picture. We also ask that you write on a 3"x5" piece of paper your name, rank and the dates and places where you serve/d. Thanks for your service!



Parish Planning Council Members:

Executive Director	Nancy Kaufman	(608) 963-0151
Assistant Exec Director	Nancy Passehl	(608) 219-1936
Secretary	Cathy Yanke	(608) 434-4869
Treasurer	Donna Nelson	(608) 393-4660
Evangelism Board	Sheila Dittberner	(608) 370-1550
Fellowship Board	Linda Michaels	(608) 643-8286
Lay Ministry Board	Gina Varley	(608) 544-5002
Member-at-Large	Roger Seymour	(608) 588-3198
Parish Education Board		
Properties Board	Lon Kaderavek	(608) 434-2928
PR and Social Concerns	Ellen Jorgensen	(262) 995-3248
Stewardship Board	Anne Klinkner	(608) 393-6453
Women of ELCA	Eunice Yanke	(608) 643-8289
Youth Board	Megan Tarnutzer	(608) 963-0396
Youth Member-at-Large	Jonah Richard	(608) 347-0488

The Staff:

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

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

Intern: John Evans johnevens@stjohnssaukprairie.org 643-2439

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour

ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 588-3198

Youth Director: Penny Johnson penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org
643-2439

Custodian: John Hines john@stjohnssaukprairie.org (c) 393-2325

Office and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines
linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 544-2409

Sunday School Superintendents: Joanna Jones and Miranda Jager
sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org 643-2439

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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Prairie du Sac,
Wisconsin 53578



Food, paper products and cleaning supplies may be brought to the table in the gathering area at any time. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

Cake or brownie mixes	Kid's cereal
Taco seasonings	Taco or tortilla shells or wraps
Canned meals (ravioli, beefaroni, etc.)	
Box meals (hamburger helper)	
Toilet paper	Dish soap

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 November. The day is in parentheses.



Evelyn Gorsuch (6)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Shirley Uttech (9)
SouthWest Commons
18090 Pearl Rd, Apt 228
Strongsville, OH 44136

Macel Magnussen (10)
930 Prairie St., Apt. 202
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Vi Bohler (12)
N750 Golf Road #3
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Janis Klaetsch (22)
886 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, November 10, in St. John's Library, Darlene Holl, Hostess	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, November 3, in St. John's Library, Ruth Dresser, Hostess	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, November 14, at Marian DeGiovanni's, 295 Water St., Prairie du Sac	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, November 1, in St. John's Library	9:30am

28 ladies attended Circle meetings in October. "Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith" (Session 2) was led by Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Kathy Lester and Patty Barritt. In November the study will be about GOD'S CREATURES, Diane Elsing, Macel Magnussen, Loretta Landerman and Kathy Lester will be leading this study.

Marian DeGiovanni, Barbara Salvesson, Sandra Frey and Ruth Dresser attended the WELCA South Central Synodical Retreat at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie on Saturday, September 24th. (We were very sorry that Darlene Holl was unable to attend because of illness.) The Retreat's main focus was on knowing the presence of God during all the obstacles we face in life. Tricia Clason (daughter of our Dale and David Clason) and Ginger Shomberg were the main speakers for "Rise Up – Overcoming Life's Obstacles", emphasizing how God is always with us no matter how many obstacles we encounter. Even though God was not mentioned in the book of Esther, when she was brought into power for the purpose of saving many Jewish people, she knew that God was with her. In the same way, we can know God is with us when we need Him most even when the road is painful. The Theme Verse: Romans 8:38: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." We went to a workshop led by Tricia and Ginger where we learned the goal is to become increasingly aware of God's PRESENCE and the Holy Spirit's workings throughout our day. Take the time necessary to find comfort in God's Presence. Another workshop was "Days for Girls", which is an organization that prepares and distributes menstrual health solutions to girls around the world who would otherwise miss school during their monthly periods. Ladies in Our Savior's church in Sun Prairie have made over a thousand kits that have been sent to Haiti and Syria. Volunteers create these kits made up of washable pads, washcloths, soap and things they need to continue their schooling with hygiene and dignity. We were allowed

to put a few of these kits together and we were amazed at how many pieces were needed for each kit and the work involved in making a thousand kits. We brought \$50 from our treasury for the “Days for Girls” cause. Bob Lindmeier presented the very informative workshop, “Caring for God’s Creation – Solving the Climate Crisis.” He is a member of the “Green Team” at his church and has given presentations on the advantages of installing solar panels. We all very much enjoyed the Retreat and a huge thank you to Marian for providing our transportation to Sun Prairie.

The ThankOffering Service will be on Sunday, November 20. Put your contributions in an envelope marked THANKOFFERING. There will be a marked basket outside the sanctuary for this purpose. The offering goes to the National WELCA and provides funds for World Hunger, global ministries and other important programs. In giving thankofferings, we share in the tradition that goes back to at least the 1800s when Christian women formed “mite” or “cent” societies of giving to support the mission of the church. When others said there was not enough money to carry out the church’s work, the women believed otherwise and acted together. When the ELCA formed several years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude to God for His many blessings.

The Christmas Cheer recommendations for the WELCA Board are Hope House and 6:8. (We give \$200 to each group.) These choices will be voted on/approved by the Circles during their November meetings.

We will continue to have the “Pennies for Poverty” jar out on the name tag table until close to Christmas. This money is being given to Hope House, which helps needy women and children. We urge you to give generously to this worthy cause.

We have a change in leadership for our WELCA Board. Eunice Yanke was voted in as WELCA Chairperson at our October Congregational Meeting. Thank you Marian DeGiovanni for all your great leadership as our past chairperson.

Sarah/Mary Circle is visiting Special Friends during October and November. Lydia Circle will visit them during December and January.

The Bible Study Leader’s Meeting for December will be Tuesday, November 29 at 9:00am in the church library.

Remember to look in this [Visitor](#) for a Prayer for Peace to be read on November 20.

Adult Education

Our Sunday sessions meet at 9:15am in the church library. November 6th we will continue our learning about the impact of trauma from Pastor Sally's sabbatical studies. The rest of November and December will be spent diving into the Bible and film with Intern John. All are welcome! We will not meet for Adult Education on November 27, December 25 or January 1.

Congregational Actions at October Meeting

On October 16, St. John's passed our 2023 budget, elected four new members to serve on our Parish Planning Council, three voting members for the synod assembly and three members to serve on our Nomination Committee.

Those newly elected to the PPC were: Ellen Jorgensen, Eunice Yanke, Nancy Passehl and staying on the board, but in a different position, Nancy Kaufman.

Our Nomination Committee is made up of three members from the Parish Planning Council (still to be chosen), the past PPC Executive Director (Janelle Hupp), the Lead Pastor and those elected: Dale Haroldson, Connie Burton and Donna Knickmeyer.

Those elected to serve as voting members for the Synod Assembly are Nancy Kaufman, and Doug and Donna Nelson, along with our Pastors.

We are grateful for all who serve in leadership at St. John's.

Outgoing Parish Planning Council Board Members

Please join Pastor Fred in thanking these individuals for serving on our Parish Planning Council (PPC): Janelle Hupp (Executive Director), James Newman (Parish Education), Patty Barritt (PR and Social Concerns) and Marian DeGiovanni (WELCA). They have served on our PPC faithfully and we are grateful for their service. The PPC meets once a month with the purpose of overseeing the operation of our congregation. Each chairperson meets additionally once a month with their committee. There is also an Executive board, made up of the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Treasurer, Secretary and Lead Pastor. This group meets as needed to oversee staffing and related issues. We are blessed to have three new members on the PPC, Nancy Passehl (Assistant Executive Director), Ellen Jorgensen (PR and Social Concerns), Eunice Yanke (WELCA) and Nancy Kaufman, who is not new to the PPC but has been elected to the position of Executive Director. We are grateful for the many individuals willing to dedicate their time and energy to help lead our congregation.



Thank You, LORD!

Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship Service

St. John's Lutheran Church will be hosting the annual Thanksgiving Eve Community worship service on Wednesday, November 23. The service begins at 7:00 p.m. Food and monetary donations will be collected for the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. There will be a time for fellowship following the service. Join us as we gather with our brothers and sisters of faith from the Sauk Prairie community.

Thanksgiving Community Meal

The Sauk Prairie Community will host a free Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 24 at St. Al's school gym. All are welcome!

St. John's has been asked to help provide pies for this meal. If you are able to donate a pie (or two) please bring your pie to either St. Al's gym or to St. John's fellowship hall by 3:30pm on Wednesday, November 23.

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Dear Lord,

Thank you that you have set me free and that you are bigger than anything I face in this life. I lay my burdens before you, every single one, for I know they are much safer in your hands than my own.

Lord, I come before you ready to pour out my worries, anxieties, and fears at Your feet. I am claiming and declaring Your promises for blessings of peace and strength over my life. Bring peace into my soul that passes all worldly understanding and make me a light for others to see Your strength. Guide me in the paths I should go, so that I may glorify Your name.

Thank you for Your constant love and gracious blessings.
Amen.



Dear Friends in Christ,

*God of all newness, we come to you this day in daring hope,
For healings we want yet to receive, believing in them,
While the world says "not possible"...*

*God of Exodus and Easter, God of homecoming and
forgiveness,*

God of fierceness and peaceableness,

We are finally driven to your miracles.

This day hear our urgency and do among us

What none of us can do.

Do your Friday-Sunday act yet again and make us new.

*We pray out of the shattering death and shimmering new life
of Jesus, whose name we bear. Amen.*

Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth by Walter Brueggemann

There have been a number of deaths in our congregation, our community, and in your extended families lately. Grief is on my mind as our culture is diving into Thanksgiving and Christmas; seasons we often feel pressure to attend to with joy and gratitude. And while there is a lot of reason for joy and gratitude in these seasons, there's still grief. There's still fear and sadness. There's still disappointment and so many other things.

And that's okay.

So, we come together as the nights grow longer and colder in daring hope. Not an empty hope. Not a fake smile or pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps hope. But God's hope.

Real hope that attends to the depths of our pain that nothing else in our culture can touch. Real hope that includes lament and tears just as much (if not more) as it includes joy and praise.

If you happen to find yourself struggling in these holiday months, know that you are not alone. If you find yourself celebrating these holiday months, know that you are not alone. If you find yourself somewhere between these realities, know that you are not alone.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

May this time be filled with a daring hope.

Christ's Peace,



“Myths are not lies. We have come from God, and inevitably the myths woven by us, though they contain error, will also reflect a splintered fragment of the true light, the eternal truth that is with God. Indeed, only by myth-making, only by becoming 'sub-creator' and inventing stories, can humanity aspire to the state of perfection that we knew before the Fall.” – J.R.R. Tolkien

These words of Tolkien, creator of the modern myth of The Lord of the Rings, were first uttered to a once militant atheist by the name of C.S. Lewis, a soon to be creator of the allegorical stories of Narnia. Indeed, it would be around these words, and the many more conversations that these colleagues at Oxford University in England, that both men formed a partnership to become modern myth makers and story tellers. They would tell stories which would point to the ultimate story of God’s saving work in the world revealed first at Sinai through Moses, and fulfilled in Christ Jesus. This ultimate story of Christ is what Tolkien and Lewis identified as the “One True Myth” of Christ. Their experience of Christ, who met them each in their traumas as orphans and survivors of World War I, was not limited to the pages of Scripture. They found it also in tales both ancient and modern, from Beowulf to Charles Dickens. For them, God’s story is continuously unfolding and being revealed to us through beautifully unlikely ways. We live stories and create stories, because we are created. The author of Colossians frames it this way: “For in Christ, all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

It is no coincidence that many people, including Christians, find themselves drawn to and seeing themselves and the whole of humanity in the stories we love. There is a reason why people cling to modern myths and stories like Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, Batman, The Matrix, etc. God is speaking clearly and resoundingly through all those stories, revealing the Incarnate Word of Jesus to all who dare to see the truth revealed by and through those stories.

In the coming weeks for adult education and formation, I will be putting together a unique opportunity for us at St. John’s to ponder and wonder how God might be inviting us to see the truth of Christ in created stories. I would like to invite folks of all ages to participate in a Theology and Film study; one in which we will wrestle with God’s word and see how it is being revealed in new ways through the

power of the Cinema, beginning in mid-November. I am willing to host folks one evening each week in watching the film together (or you may choose to watch it on your own). Then, on Sundays, we will discuss the film we watched, through the lens of different scriptures that tie thematically to each film. If you are interested in participating in watch parties that I will host, please, feel free to reach out and let me know. Once I have a total, I will provide a survey to determine which evening would be the best for all to participate. The first film on the docket will be the critically acclaimed "The Iron Giant", from animator and director Brad Bird, creator of Disney/Pixar's "The Incredibles" and also one of the original staff writers and animators for "The Simpsons". It will be paired with Isaiah 53, "The Suffering Servant" text.

Shalom,
John



Wedding Congratulations

We celebrate with the following couples from St. John's who were recently married:

Caleb Sisbach and Paige Anderson were married on September 17. Caleb is the son of Kim Sisbach and Dave Sisbach.

Jake Foster and Kayla Dunlap were married on September 24. Jake is the son of Gary and Deb Lohr-Foster and he is also the grandson of Mel and Doris Lohr.

Please keep the newlyweds in your prayers as they begin this life journey.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Huston Dittberner and his family on the death of his step-father, Michael Barrow.

Crystal and Brent Lautenbach, Kim and Clint Williams and their families on the death of Crystal and Kim's father, Bill Lenerz.

Special Friend Vilas Richards, the family and many friends of Gracie Roemer.

Jim Weeks, Brian and Mary Weeks and their families on the death of Jim's wife and Brian's mother, Velda Weeks.

Dale Clason, Roger and Bev Clason and their families on the death of Dale's husband and Roger's brother, David "Dave" Clason.

Scott, Theresa and Ezra Bauer on the death of Scott's grandmother, Elizabeth Bauer.

Janis Klaetsch and family on the death of her ex-son-in-law, Tom Karls.



JUST BAKERY
A JustDane Initiative

Just Bakery baked goods will be available for purchase on Sunday, November 20 between our worship services. A great way to add some special treats to your Thanksgiving feast!



Fellowship Time Coffee Servers

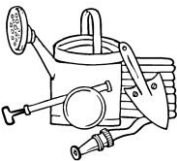
With the cold weather upon us, a warm cup of coffee and a little visit with our fellow parishioners is a welcome event. Please help us provide this to everyone between our two services. There are detailed instructions on how to brew the coffee and we are happy to go over them with anyone that is willing to help.

Thank you.
Fellowship Board

THANK YOU

The Stewardship Board is very grateful for your generous responses to our fundraising appeals for the roofing project, parking lot project and the heating and cooling system repairs over the last two years. The projects were able to be completed without any major compromises to our operating expenses during that same time period. That is a great financial accomplishment and it could not have been done without you. Thank you so very much for your generous support and your support of our church mission.

St. John's Stewardship Board



thank you

Thank you to Patti Kippley, Doug Nelson and Donna Nelson for cleaning up the Memorial Garden and getting it ready for winter. St. John's is greatly appreciative!



First Communion Instruction

A First Communion class will be held on Thursday, November 10 from 6-7pm. If you would like to explore the possibilities of first communion for your children, no matter what their age, please sign up by calling the church office. Taking the class does not obligate anyone to begin communing nor is it a requirement for communion. The class is simply a time to explore what this gift of God might mean for you. A second class will be offered in the spring.

First Communion Sunday

We will celebrate those receiving their First Communion as a group on Sunday, November 13 at either service, but if it does not work for your family on that day, we can make other arrangements to celebrate your student!

Sunday School News

3-Year-Old & 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

In October Bibles were presented to our 3-year-olds and 3rd graders. If your student did not get their Bible, please contact Pastor Sally and she will get one for you.

Calendar Note

November 27 – No Sunday School classes

<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
September 25	69
October 2	58
October 9	50
October 16	56
October 23	47

The Sunday School Superintendents can be reached at:
sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



We give a great big "Thank You!" to the volunteers who helped serve our community members in need, by participating at the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry on Saturday, Oct. 15th. SP Food Pantry is a critical resource for our neighbors in villages of Prairie du Sac, Sauk City, Merrimac, and the Bluffview Community. Thank you to Jen Brennan, Evelynn Brennan, John Brennan, Jennifer Stephan and Ella Stephan for their hard work and awesome service to others. We are very grateful for their support and commitment to our area families in need.



Stock the Schools

Along with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's is collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. November's items are individual cup-of-soup, breadstick/cheese dip packs, waterproof mittens/gloves, snowpants and boots. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations.



Stewardship Pledge Sunday

November 13th is 'Pledge Sunday.' On this day we ask that you return your commitment cards for God's ministry at St. John's for 2023. You can place your card in the offering plates, mail it to the office or email Linda Hines (linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org) with your pledge. If you are using Simply Giving, our automatic bank transfer program, or another regular auto contribution mechanism, we will assume that amount is your pledge for the year. For those who use electronic giving, we encourage you to consider an increase for 2023.

We encourage all members to use 'Simply Giving' or other electronic giving methods as a way to consistently support the ministry we all share. If you are interested in using the Simply Giving program, look on St. John's website under Donations for a form to fill out or call/email the church office for a copy of the form. It is an easy way to remember your donation when you are away from home.

Pledge Card and Stewardship Letter

This year you will find your pledge card and the annual Stewardship letter included in this *Visitor* rather than in a separate mailing. We always have hopes of reaching out to all of our St. John's members and friends, and felt we could do that best with our newsletter list.

Please prayerfully consider your donations to St. John's, be they monetary, or giving of your time and talents through volunteering. Let us know via the pledge card of your monetary donation. If you choose to share your time and talents with the church, use one of our online sign-ups or call the church office to let us know what you are interested in doing. There are endless possibilities so if you are ready to volunteer, we will find the place for you!

- Marilyn Herschleb – Set Up/Clean up Communion, 643-6181; <https://signup.com/go/uxLTApq>
- Cheryl Sprecher – Greeters, sprechercheryl@gmail.com <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/5470292369900600109/false#/invitation>
- Gina Varley – Communion Assist, glv1205@gmail.com; <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/877011290982778050/true#/invitation>
- Kathy Lovell – Readers, lovellkat@yahoo.com

Serving in November

Ushers:

November 6

8:00 a.m.

Alyssa Himebauch

Lon Kaderavek

Gina Wyttenbach

November 13

Lee LaVigne

Lon Kaderavek

Doug Nelson

November 20

Bob Fentress

Josie Fentress

November 27

Noelle Small

Jerry Kaufman

Nancy Kaufman

10:30 a.m.

Cannon Esser

Gerry Westphal

Deb Westphal

Ian Quayle

Amanda Chetwood

Gerry Westphal

Deb Westphal

Cannon Esser

Acolytes:

November 6

8:00 a.m.

Ella Stephan

November 13

Austin Urban

November 20

November 27

Liam Hart

10:30 a.m.

Kylie Hutchins

Jason King

Sean Jager

Caden Argall

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

November 6

Donna Knickmeyer

November 13

Jordan Small

November 20

Donna Knickmeyer

November 27

Noelle Small

10:30 a.m.

Jordan Small

Donna Knickmeyer

Noelle Small

Readers:

November 6

8:00 a.m.

Donna Kinickmeyer

November 13

John Hines

November 20

Mary Halweg

November 27

Cathy Yanke

10:30 a.m.

Donna Knickmeyer

Jama Graves

Lynn Esser

Bob Nelson

Cantors:

November 6

8:00 a.m.

Megan Tarnutzer

November 13

Jeff and Kathy Ochsankel

November 20

Senior Choir

November 27

Lisa Davis

10:30 a.m.

Doris Lohr

Senior Choir

Marv/Janelle Hupp

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

November 6

Alice/Joe Chenoweth

November 13

Donna Knickmeyer

November 20

November 27

Deb Corrao

10:30 a.m.

Jude Hanna

Jude Hanna

Tyler Jorgenson

Jude Hanna

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

November 6	Roxanne Zick
November 13	Jayne Carlson
November 20	
November 27	Roxanne Zick

10:30 a.m.

Deb Westphal
Dede Egan
Ian Quayle
Deb Westphal

Sunday Stewards 8:00 a.m.

November 6	Lon Kaderavek
November 13	Lon Kaderavek
November 20	Jonah Richard
November 27	Nancy Kaufman

10:30 a.m.

Cathy Yanke
Roger Seymour
Roger Seymour
Gina Varley

Greeters: 8:00 a.m.

Nov 6 (Sanctuary)	Gina/Todd Wyttenbach
(Front doors)	Roxanne Zick
Nov 13 (Sanctuary)	Nancy/Butch Passehl
(Front doors)	Patty/Steve Barritt
Nov 20 (Sanctuary)	George Colby
(Front doors)	Evelynn Brennan
Nov 27 (Sanctuary)	Vi and Don Bohler
(Front doors)	Roxanne Zick

10:30 a.m.

Diane/Wolfgang Reich
Doris Lohr
Ella Stephan
Gina and Tom Varley
Jackie Frosch

Tech Team

November 6	Liz, Malcolm Leith
	Alyssa Himebauch
November 13	Lisa Davis
	Ellen Jorgensen
November 20	Charlie Kruchten
	Amy Nelson
November 23 (7pm)	Ellen Jorgensen
November 27	Lisa Davis
	Roger Seymour

10:30 a.m.

Jeff/Nicole Sandberg
Sean Jager
Eric Kaul
Charlie Kruchten
Liz, Malcolm Leith
Alyssa Himebauch
Jeff/Nicole Sandberg
Sean Jager

Coffee Servers

November 6	Linda Michaels
November 13	Donna Nelson
November 12	
November 27	John Hines

Please be aware that St. John's records our worship services while on Zoom and those services are later posted on facebook. If you prefer not to be seen on camera, please speak with a pastor.

Congregational totals

Attendance

Offering

September 25	224	\$ 6,312.00
October 2	270	\$ 7,159.20
October 9	176	\$ 9,716.25
October 16	236	\$ 7,890.00
October 23	227	\$10,103.00



H.E.L.P.—Red Sled Project

Help Excite Little People will be collecting gently, used toys and items for teens this holiday season. The program is based out of the First United Church of Christ, Sauk City, but has become a community-wide project. All items donated are distributed to children/teens that are in need in the Sauk Prairie area. Donations may be brought to the Washington Avenue entrance of First United and placed in the little red sleigh, or brought here to St. John’s and placed in one of the decorated boxes found in the west entrance hall. (A volunteer will then transport them to First United.) The collection at St. John’s will run through Sunday, December 11.



Sauk Prairie Area Caring Tree

St. John’s is part of the Caring Tree community-wide effort to reach out to those in need during the Christmas season. Members may pick a tag from the Caring Tree set up in the gathering area. Most tags have ideas for hoped-for gifts for a particular child identified only by a number, age, sex, and size. You purchase the gift and return it unwrapped with the tag attached and leave it under the tree.

Other tags ask for gift cards for local restaurants or more general “stocking stuffer” items that are appropriate for children, teens, or adults.

The Caring Tree also accepts financial gifts to allow volunteer shoppers to purchase gifts. Watch for the marked envelopes on the tree. The deadline for returning gifts to St. John’s is Sunday, December 11.



Coats for Kids

St. John's is working with Concordia United Methodist Church to collect winter outerwear for children in need in the Sauk Prairie School District. Please keep this in mind as you clean out your closets this fall. Bring your gently-used coats, boots, hats, mittens, scarves and gloves to the back area of the coat room. We need all sizes. **Last day for collection is Sunday, November 13.**

THANK YOU

Dear St. John's Members,

Thank you SO much for the coat donation! It got SO COLD, SO QUICKLY and I really needed warm coats for the students!

Thank you for continuing the collection of warm winter outerwear, as I have given out almost all the first group of donated coats already!

Sincerely, Susan Baumann-Duran, SPSD Social Worker

(The coats, gloves, hats, boots, mittens and snowpants that we collect for Coats For Kids are distributed by Ms. Baumann-Duran)



Christmas Worship Services

St. John's will offer Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services at 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm and 7:30pm on December 24.

We will also have ONE worship service on Christmas Day at 9:00am.

Advent Giving Calendar

Advent begins November 27 this year. A way that you and your family can help others this Advent season is to collect items to give to the food pantry. As you consider all your blessings during this Advent season, perhaps you will feel compelled to share with others that may not be as fortunate as you. By collecting items from this list, you will be helping those that are in need this season.

Find a box for your donations and add the suggested item to your box each day. Then bring the box to church (or directly to the food pantry) the week following Christmas. (Some find it easier to bring items in each week, as the box will get heavy!)

Thank you!

- November 27 granola bars
- November 28 cake mix
- November 29 vegetable oil
- November 30 beef vegetable soup
- December 1 box of cereal
- December 2 peanut butter
- December 3 stuffing mix
- December 4 boxed potatoes
- December 5 macaroni and cheese
- December 6 canned fruit
- December 7 canned tomatoes
- December 8 canned tuna
- December 9 dessert mix
- December 10 applesauce
- December 11 canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 cranberry sauce
- December 13 baked beans
- December 14 crackers
- December 15 rice
- December 16 oatmeal
- December 17 package of pasta
- December 18 spaghetti sauce
- December 19 chicken noodle soup
- December 20 tomato soup
- December 21 canned corn
- December 22 canned mixed vegetables
- December 23 canned carrots
- December 24 canned green beans

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
October 16, 2022
(In building and via Zoom platform)

PPC Executive Director Janelle Hupp, confirmed at least 50 members present and called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2023 budget, vote on nominees for the Parish Planning Council, approve nominating committee members for PPC recruiting, and approve Synod Assembly volunteers.

The minutes of the February 2022, Congregational meeting were read by secretary, Cathy Yanke. Motion to approve was made by Nancy Kaufman and seconded by Megan Tarnutzer. Executive Director Janelle Hupp asked if there were any objections. None were given, motion was unanimously approved, and minutes were approved as read.

Janelle described the 2023 budget and pointed out the most significant changes included the administration budget increase for the intern salary and moving the musician's salaries to this program as well. The Youth Board decrease is because the youth gathering is held every 3rd year. A motion to approve the budget was made by Donna Knickmeyer and seconded by Donna Nelson. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Our second topic was to approve PPC nominees being Nancy Kaufman as Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director as Nancy Passehl, the Chair of PR and Social Concerns Committee as Ellen Jorgensen, and the Chair of WELCA as Eunice Yanke. We still need a Parish Education Chair. A motion to approve the nominees was made by Marv Hupp and seconded by Josie Fentress. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Third, we approved the nominating committee to recruit members for additional PPC members that includes Pastor Fred, Janelle as the outgoing PPC Executive Director, 3 congregational members (self-nominated Dale Haroldson, Connie Burton, and Donna Knickmeyer) and three PPC members to be determined. A motion to approve the nominees was made by Nancy Kaufman and seconded by Donna Nelson. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Our final topic was to accept nominations for attendees to the Synod Assembly on May 20, 2023. We can send 3 adults (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. Nancy Kaufman and Doug and Donna Nelson volunteered. If any adult under 30 or a high school youth is

interested, please contact Nancy K. A motion to approve the volunteers was made by Nancy Passehl and seconded by Donna Nelson. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Janelle described our Zoom services as our newest ministry and thanked Roger Seymour for leading this group that allows us to keep everyone connected to the church no matter where they may be. If anyone wants to help, please contact Roger.

Parting words from Executive Director Janelle included appreciation to the PPC team and others in the congregation who work behind the scenes that allow her to be a part of St John's success.

Marv Hupp made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Harold Carlson. Director Janelle Hupp asked if there were any objections and after receiving none, she adjourned the meeting at 9:18 am.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Yanke

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: 10/4/2022

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

Absent: Megan Tarnutzer, Linda Michaels, Sheila Dittberner

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 Donna.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer report:

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

- Baybrookes was sent a check for \$25,000 to pay for the ductwork.
- YTD income for budgeted expenses is short of expenses by \$27,000.

- Donna will be out of town Oct 27 – Nov 7. Please send bills to her for payment before then.
- A motion to approve the financial report was made by Nancy and seconded by Lon. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- Update entry bulletin board with Intern John and new members. Pet blessing will be the next board design after its scheduled event on 10/9/2022 at noon.
- Event planning for the upcoming year discussed.
- Encourage non-committee church members to become involved in services like communion set up, readers, ushers, and greeters.

Fellowship: Linda Michaels reported:

- Looking for coffee servers beginning on Nov. 6th until the end of the year.
- Begin discussion as to how to celebrate those in our congregation that are 90 years old and older

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Discussed online volunteer sign up to include ushers.
- Pastor Sally reported the youth will do volunteer services- communion clean-up/set up, communion assist, and greet on the third Sunday of each month plus one youth will usher at every service on every Sunday.
- Discussed the idea of returning to the practice of blessing during the Sunday service those who are taking communion out to the homebound.
- Reviewed upcoming tasks for lay ministry regarding holiday services.
- We will continue to be flexible with the potentially changing Covid protocols.
- I would like some feedback from PPC on the online sign up.

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

- Rally day September 18th between services included activity stations after class signup to include: sidewalk chalk, bubbles, scavenger, bean-bag toss (target drawn with chalk / masking tape, golf balls balanced on spoons race.
- Sunday school offering will be going toward one of the “Good Gifts” donations like the last two years.

- Hayride. Sunday October 2nd. Slightly later start and having a pre-packaged desert for attendees so we will still be able to have it even if covid drifts into the red.
- Wednesday meals. Planned to have student volunteers as servers but has been hard to organize. Still take all available common-sense precautions. Announcing reminders of washing hands and using sanitizer and making sure utensils are only being handled by handles, etc.
- Green worship bags. Penny will make sure any needed cleaning is done.
- Middle school and High school youth – October 26th trip to the corn maze.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Heating units are now operating
- Gas leak on roof was repaired.
- Baybrookes came to inspect boiler, found one circuit panel burned, will be repaired this week.
- Board decided on different contractor to plow lot this year.

PR & Social Concerns: Patty Barritt reported:

- Discussed Yard Signs: received update on pricing, information about ordering and estimated delivery
- Just Bakery will be selling baked goods Sunday Oct. 16th between services. Bakery for coffee time between services will also be from Just Bakery.
- Mobile Meals: Weeks of Oct 10rd and Oct. 17th.
- Thanks to all for the generous donations to Porchlight men's shelter and to Sharon Henke for delivering our donations to Porchlight this week.
- Food Pantry Distribution: 5 volunteers from St. John's have offered to help with distribution on Oct. 15th. Thank you, Evelyn & Jen Brennan, Ella & Jennifer Stephan and Penny Johnson.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- Work is continuing on our Procedure Manual.
- We are in the planning stages for a Fall Time and Talent and Stewardship Campaign. This includes the annual Time and Talent Survey as well as the pledge form. Anne will work with Linda Hines to determine the best method of delivery for this to our members. Email and including it in the Visitor mailing were discussed at our meeting.
- The annual financial review for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church will be in January 2023. The committee discussed this as well.

Women of ELCA: Marian DeGiovanni reported:

- 4 people attended the WELCA retreat at Our Savior's Lutheran in Sun Prairie on September 24 and were renewed by the theme of Rise Up from speakers and workshop leaders. Of note in one Climate workshop was the mention that if your church does not have solar panels, they are probably losing money.
- Please check Visitor for Circle times and places for October.
- Looking forward to Thankoffering Service on Sunday, November 20th with offering.

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- We planned an outing to the Corn Maze for Wednesday, October 26th
- We discussed upcoming information about shopping for the Caring Tree. December 7th at 7 PM
- Although we are not setting up a formal group for the 6:8 packing event we encourage the youth, their families and congregation members to sign up and help if they are able

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- Would like to add AV as a ministry for Zoom because we are reaching others
- Have two new youth volunteers

Youth member at Large: Jonah Richard reported:

- Homecoming parade is Friday October 7 at 2:00pm and dance is Saturday October 8 at 7:30pm, coronation at 7:00pm
- Food pack event is October 27-29. Many youth participate
- Fall sports are coming to an end with conference games/meets coming up.
- The band has been winning many awards for their performance - V is for Victory. The Sauk Prairie Marching Invitational is Oct 9 at 2:00pm at the stadium.
- No school Oct 27-28

Executive Comments – Director:

- We will have a congregational meeting on October 16, 2022, at 9am. The purpose of the meeting will be to approve the 2023 budget and to vote on nominees for the Parish Planning Council.
- Nominee for PPC Assistant Executive Director is Nancy Passehl. Nominee for Chair of PR and Social Concerns Committee is Ellen Jorgensen. Nominee for Chair of WELCA is Eunice Yanke.
- The Nominating Committee has been unable to find a nominee to fill the Parish Education Chair position, but we are still working on this.

- Vital Congregations Training Sessions offered through the ELCA will begin this Thursday 10/6/22. There will be 4 virtual sessions (10/6/22, 10/20/22, 11/3/22 and 11/17/22) focused on ways that congregations can renew and revitalize. We will have 3-4 attendees from our congregation.
- St. John's was approached by Sauk County Public Health to be a distribution site for home Covid antigen tests. The health department will keep us stocked with the home test kits for distribution to our members and others in the community who may want/need them.
- The month of October will complete my term as PPC Executive Director. It has been a privilege to serve in this role. During my 4 years on the PPC, I've been blessed to work with a tremendous group of people and, together, we've learned a lot, overcome some challenges, and celebrated some wins. I have utmost respect for those who have served with me and have appreciated this opportunity. I'm so thankful for my fellow PPC members, Pastors, Church Staff, and our wonderful St. John's congregation.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Fred's Report:

- I was on vacation Sept 10-20.
- I am grateful for my health and thankful for the staff covering for me while I was out with Covid (Sept 21-25).
- Staff transitions continue to go well. Both Penny and John are finding their rhythm.
- I look forward to having both pastors 'in house' as we move into the Fall. The absence of our staff is a great reminder of just how important we all are to each other and to the congregation.
- I am excited to begin teaching 9th grade confirmation (Sept 28 was my first class).
- We have continued 'Green' for these past several weeks. We have in place policies and practices in case Sauk County is Red regarding covid. I am grateful for our staff, PPC and congregation for continuing to be flexible as we continue to navigate Covid 19.
- I am grateful for the work Lon Kaderavek has done managing our last steps in getting our heating/cooling systems in place.
- John Evans and I attended a zoom meeting on Sept 29. This was the annual Intern/Supervisor Retreat, typically held in Rockford, IL. Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago hosted this event. It gathers interns from the Northern Illinois, South-Central and Milwaukee Synods.
- I will be at the annual Bishops Convocation beginning the evening of Oct 16-Oct 18 in Beloit.

Sally's Report:

- It has been a real privilege working with Penny Johnson and our new superintendents, Miranda Jager and Joanna Jones. They are very gifted individuals who are bringing great energy, organization, and inspiration to our programs.
- Our school/clergy meetings start back up again at the end of September. This is one avenue that we are able to share concerns and joys for our students and their families and to support one another in the community.
- I will be at the annual Bishop's Convocation Oct 16 (evening) through the 18 in Beloit. The theme is "Building Rebuilding" and our speaker is Dr. Rajkumar Boaz Johnson, professor of Hebrew, Bible and Theological Studies at Chicago's North Park University
- All of our educational programs are now up and running. We were able to fill our teaching needs and have a great group of volunteers leading our students. Thank you volunteers!

Old Business:

- Update on AC/Heating Units. There will be additional expenses for the ductwork
- Covid updates. Currently in the green
- Nominating Committee update. Sally has a few more ideas of who to ask for Education Chair
- Congregational Meeting 10/16/22, 9 am to discuss nominees, 2023 budget, nominating committee, and synod assembly attendees on Sat, 5/20/2023.
- Our first session for Vital Congregations will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2022. Live webinar attendance or recording will be available.

New Business:

- Discussion about potential for solar power for St. John's as Marian discussed from WELCA presentation, Caring for Creation. Possibly grant money available. Lon may discuss with his committee and consider inviting a speaker to kickstart thought process.
- Volunteers for church services completed online signup is going well. Works for most positions, but not all. Continue using as is.
- Last meeting for Janelle, Marian, Patty, and James. Thank you for your service and working so well through the additional challenges of covid.

Parking Lot (items for future discussion)

Recruitment for Internship Committee – 3 open seats (2 co-chairs and 1 committee member) when the 2022-2023 intern departs in July 2023

· How to be welcoming to the LGBTQ community

Next meeting is Tuesday, Nov 1, at 6:30 pm.

Devotion will be given by Anne. Donna made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Lon. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Janelle Hupp.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.

Agrace Offers Grief Support Options in November

In November, Agrace is offering one-on-one grief support and professionally led grief support groups to *anyone*, even if the person who died did not have hospice care.

- **One-on-one grief support** is available in-person, by phone or video chat, by appointment only.
- **Bridges** is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. Meetings are held online every other Wednesday and pre-registration is required. Meetings are November 9 and 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **Journey Through Grief** is a six-week grief support group series for adults. The group meets Fridays, November 4 to December 16, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., except November 25, at the Agrace office in Baraboo, 1670 South Boulevard.

There is no fee for these programs if a participant's family member was in hospice care in the past 12 months; fees for others can be lowered or waived, if needed. Call (608) 327-7110 with questions, to register or make an appointment.



Happy November Birthday!

Our Youngest:

Evelyn Muehrer (3)
Barrett Larson (28)

Emersyn Katzman (8)

Our Sunday School Students:

Carly Jorgenson (2)
Emma Gilchrist (4)
Olive Nelson (6)
Myla Steinmetz (8)
Kendall Koenig (20)
Kenzie Sawyer (23)
Finn Paque (27)

Kohen Chetwood (3)
Eralyn Greene (5)
Nadya Khodakivska (7)
Kinley Chetwood (17)
Madelyn Bischoff (22)
Andrew Ryan (26)
Theo Nelson (30)

Our Youth:

Conner Evert (12)
Ryan Jorgenson (18)
Caden Argall (19)

Kaleb Chetwood (14)
Tyler Jorgenson (18)
Karlie Harpold (30)

College and Career-age Young People:

Quinn Baier (2)
Megan Small (22)

Ruby Sandeman (11)