



Vinny Meyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

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Prairie du Sac, WI

December 2022

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Advent is upon us. Four Sundays before Christmas. Four candles lit reminding us of a time to prepare and be alert. Four candles ushering in a new church year.

As Advent gives way to the birth of the Jesus, we are surrounded by invitations to buy gifts for one another. As you consider what you might buy for those you love, I invite you to consider expanding your list to include some of our partners in ministry. Here is a short list:

- The ELCA Good Gifts catalog. They are the people who we support through the Global Barnyard project. Your gifts will help buy animals, clean water, farming tools, education, medical care, school supplies and other needed items. See

[.https://goodgifts.elca.org/](https://goodgifts.elca.org/)

- Our local Good Neighbor Clinic. They serve the “preventive and primary health care needs of those trying to improve their lives, and for whom such services are economically unfeasible.”  
[www.goodneighborclinic.org](http://www.goodneighborclinic.org)

- The local Habitat for Humanity. In the Sauk-Columbia County area they strive “to eliminate poverty and homelessness...and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.” [www.hfhsc.org](http://www.hfhsc.org)

· Area Bible camps like Lutherdale [www.lutherdale.org](http://www.lutherdale.org) or Sugar Creek [www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org](http://www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org). These ELCA Lutheran Bible camps provide year-round ministry to young and old alike.

· UW Lutheran Campus ministry. Become a 'Grand Friend' of UW Madison's Lutheran Campus Ministry. They are searching for 1000 people to give \$100 each [www.lccmadison.com](http://www.lccmadison.com).

· The medical needs of Raymond Parish. \$700 is what Raymond, a single man on disability in his late-60's, needs each month for medicine not covered by Medicaid or other medical programs. Seven people giving \$100 each would cover one month. Contact Pastor Fred for more information.

Blessings to you as you share your abundance with those you love and with those whom you may not ever meet, but need your care none-the-less.

Shalom,



### **Thanks to Our Staff**

We are blessed to have a wonderful, faithful, caring, and hardworking staff and I am very thankful to call them colleagues. Please take time to thank them all: Donna Nelson, John Hines, Linda Hines, Lon Kaderavek, Bob Nelson, Ruellene Seymour, Penny Johnson, John Evans and Sally Williams.



### **Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Service Times**

Christmas Eve Candlelight services take place at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. All services will be available live on Zoom also.

Christmas Day we will celebrate with one morning worship service at 9:00 a.m.



### **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](mailto:fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org) 963-4706

Sally Williams [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org) (h) 643-7810

**Intern:** John Evans [johnEVANS@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:johnEVANS@stjohnssaukprairie.org) 643-2439

**Director of Music:** Ruellene Seymour

[ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org) (h) 588-3198

**Youth Director:** Penny Johnson [penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

643-2439

**Custodian:** John Hines [john@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:john@stjohnssaukprairie.org) (c) 393-2325

**Office and Communications Coordinator:** Linda Hines

[linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org) (h) 544-2409

**Sunday School Superintendents:** Joanna Jones and Miranda Jager

[sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org) 643-2439

**St. John's Lutheran Church:** 643-2439 [www.stjohnssaukprairie.org](http://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, 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:

Instant Oatmeal	Kid's Cereals
Soups	Chicken/Beef Broth
Crackers	Microwave Popcorn
Instant Coffee	Hot Chocolate Mix

Thank you for sharing with others.



### **Birthday Greetings**

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

Sally Degenhardt (6)  
612 Eagle Crest Ct  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marilyn Herschleb (12)  
129 Washington St.  
Sauk City, WI 53583



Deane Yanke (29)  
223 – 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Carol Anderson (31)  
S10976 County Road C  
Spring Green, WI 53588

## **THANK YOU**

St. John's,

Thank-you for the card shower and flowers; I opened the cards on my birthday! They are beautiful, and your words are so kind. The flowers have brightened up my office. Your support and caring means so much to me. I am so glad that God led us to St. Johns.  
Ruellene Seymour

	<b>Women of the Church News</b>	
	<b><u>Lydia Circle</u></b> Thursday, December 8, at Carol Benson's, 713 Madison St., Apt. 111, Sauk City	1:00pm
	<b><u>Martha Circle</u></b> Thursday, December 1, in St. John's Library, Marilyn Larson, Hostess	9:30am
	<b><u>Ruth Circle</u></b> Monday, December 12, at Patty Barritt's, 314 Hickory St., Sauk City	9:00am
	<b><u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u></b> Tuesday, December 6, in St. John's Library	9:30am

Twenty-eight ladies attended Circle meetings in November, with Diane Elsing, Macel Magnessen, Loretta Landerman and Kathy Lester leading the last of the Bible Study series "Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith": (Creatures). In December, our study will be "Good Things Come in Small Packages" Moving from wanting to waiting at Advent. This study will be led by Diane Elsing, Barbara Salvesson, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester.

We have received \$298.00 so far for the Thankoffering. This is a special opportunity to honor God by making a donation thanking Him for all He has done for us. Thankofferings are given to support life changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA. It provides funds for World Hunger, global missions and other very important programs. We will continue to collect for this cause until December 18th. If you haven't given yet, you can just put your offering in an envelope marked "THANKOFFERING" and put it in the offering basket or give it to the office.

The recommendation from the WELCA Board of \$200 each (for Christmas Cheer) for Hope House and the 6:8 Program was approved by all of the Circles.

We will set a date in January 2023 for our Combined-Circle Meeting. This will be in the fellowship hall and more details will be coming soon. The Bible Study will be led by Intern John Evans. After the Bible Study, we plan to have our special Candlelight Service for members of St. John's who died during 2022. Members of St. John's who have lost loved ones are invited to come and light a candle for their loved one. Anyone present who would like to light a candle for a loved one not a member of St. John's is also invited to do so.

Remember to read a Prayer for Peace in this Visitor on December 20.

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.

Sarah/Mary Circle has been visiting Special Friends during October and November. Lydia Circle will visit them during January and February.

There will not be a Bible Study Leaders’ Meeting in December.

## SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray for peace on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month. On December 20<sup>th</sup>, please repeat the following prayer:

Dear God, help us to focus on you today, remembering that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our most treasured gift for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you are still with us. You never leave us. Thank you for your daily Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you for surrounding us with favor as with a shield; we are safe in your care. We choose to press in close to you today... In Jesus’ name, Amen.

~ Debbie McDaniel

 **THANK** *you!*

Dear St. John’s,

We want to thank you for your concern, prayers, and kind words of encouragement during our daughter, Karen’s illness and passing. It is times like this when our church family means so much.

God Bless, Nick and Kathy Lester

Dear St. John’s,

Thank you for all the caring support in thoughts and prayers during the very difficult time of my brother’s passing. We appreciate you so much – our St. John’s family.

Blessings, Kris and Gene Eagan

## **Adult Education**

Adult education continues the study of Bible and Film with Intern John. All are welcome to join whether you watch the movie or not. Look for Intern John's emails announcing each movie and options for how to watch.



## **Offering Envelopes**

The 2023 offering envelopes are ready for you to take home. If you give your offering electronically you will not have envelopes on the tables. If you want envelopes, or if your name was missed, please leave a note for Linda or call the church office (643-2439) and we will gladly give you envelopes.

## **Stewardship Thanks**

Thank you to all who have returned commitment cards. We are grateful for those who can and do support our ministry. Pledge cards are one sign of commitment to our common ministry. You can continue to turn these cards in via the mail or simply email Linda with your commitment for 2023.



## **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**

Many thanks go to our various partners in ministry in the Sauk-Prairie area. We are blessed to have an ecumenical spirit in our community. Please continue to pray for all congregations in the area and for their leaders.

## **New Member Exploration**

Have you been visiting St. John's and are interested in becoming a member? Or perhaps you know of someone looking for a new church home. We will be holding new member classes after the new year. More information on those classes will be shared in the near future. Please see Pastor Fred with any questions.





PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Sunday School Christmas Program is back!

You are all invited to attend the program on Sunday, December 18th at 1pm in the sanctuary. Come and support our children as they proclaim the story of Christ's birth through scripture and song. You will also be invited to sing some of your favorite Christmas hymns with them.

There are many people working together to coordinate this program. A special thanks to:

- Our Parish Education Board: Miranda Jager, Joanna Jones, Penny Johnson, Megan Tarnuzter, Katie LaVigne and James Newman for coordinating all the moving parts.

- JoAnnah Sorg for teaching the songs.

- Ruellene Seymour for accompanying the program.

- Linda Hines for sharing her wisdom in the planning process.

- All of our Sunday School teachers and helpers who will aid in this process in many ways!

- John Hines for helping to gather the costumes and Connie Burton for ironing them.

It takes many hands to coordinate this program and I am grateful for every single one of them.

We invite Christmas Program attendees to support our Sunday School students' offering project this year through a free will offering. They are collecting money to purchase gifts through the ELCA's Good Gifts Program. <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> Donations can be placed in the baskets the day of the program or sent to the church at any time. Thank you for you supporting our students!

Isaiah 9:6-7 – "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

We look forward to celebrating Christ together!

Peace,



Emmanuel. That is a name heard most often during Advent, when almost all of the Hebrew Bible passages in the lectionary usually come from the prophet Isaiah. The prophet writes that “Therefore the Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young virgin is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.” Out of all the titles attributed to Jesus, Emmanuel is by far my favorite; for the name Emmanuel literally means “God with us.” This is not merely an idle ancient title, because it doesn’t just speak to the reality of God from the Jewish understanding. I would also argue that it is a title that sums up the whole of Lutheran theology.

Martin Luther once said that “One does not deserve to be called a theologian who looks upon the invisible things of God as though they were clearly perceptible...One deserves to be called a theologian, however, who comprehends the visible and manifest things of God seen through suffering and the cross.” What he is describing is the heart of the how and why of God, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. The how and why of God meeting and continuing to meet human beings, especially amidst struggle and oppression.

Jesus certainly started off as invisible in a manner of speaking. He may have been of the lineage of King David, but he wasn’t born in an ornate palace; indeed, he was born into something as ordinary as a stable. He was the antithesis of the majority of people’s expectations of the Messiah. He wasn’t a mighty warrior or a high priest, he was a carpenter and a vagabond that hung out with all the folks a nice Jewish boy should steer clear of. He was truly God with us, as human as each of us, and he experienced all of the joys and sorrows of human existence. Jesus, hanging on the cross, though he was fully divine, was also fully human, feeling pain, betrayal and anger. It is crucial that he did not say, “I forgive you for you know not what you do”, but rather, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

As we move into the season of Advent, I invite you to consider the reality of “Emmanuel” in your own life. The reality that God met us in our busted condition, was crucified as a criminal and a revolutionary for simply proclaiming the Gospel in the face of Empire, rose from the grave, and ascended into heaven. Advent is about anticipation, not just for the birth of Emmanuel, but His promised second return. How might becoming Christ to the

struggling and oppressed anticipate Christ's return? How might you share in word and deed with others, the good news that God is truly with us? Where might you find the Holy Spirit leading you to find God truly present, even in the most unlikely and invisible places?

Shalom,  
John

### **Milestone Ministry: Baptism Anniversary**

All children of God who were baptized in 2022 are invited to take part in a special Baptism Anniversary celebration on Sunday, January 8 at either service. Please mark your calendars and invite your congregational sponsors to attend worship with you and your children that day. A letter of invitation will be sent in December. We look forward to celebrating with you!



### **Tuning Pianos for Puerto Rico**

Would you like to have your piano tuned and help our Partner Synod at the same time? The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin is partnered with the Caribbean Synod of the ELCA which includes Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. As you know, they have suffered immensely from hurricanes and flooding the last few years, and the people need help. Peter Heide, one of our members, again offers this wonderful opportunity to aid them. Contact him at 608-356-8219 to schedule.



### **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Jessica, Brett and Cashton Suchla on the death of Jessica's grandfather, Norbert Roth.

Nick and Kathy Lester and their family on the death of their daughter, Karen Moser.

Duane and Kim Larson and their family on the death of Duane's mother, Janice Larson.

Amanda and Jay Bischoff and their family on the death of Amanda's grandfather, Bob Taylor.

Marcia and Roger Howard and their family on the death of Marcia's mother, Elaine Schoenemann.



St. John's is a proud supporter of Just Bakery of Dane County. Just Bakery is a branch of Just Dane which works with individuals released from jail and prison to give them hope. Just Dane provides reentry programs to those hoping to find employment, housing, and community. Just Bakery has seen nearly 100 individuals seeking support and training come through their program this year, hoping for a job that pays a living wage.

One graduate of Just Bakery says, "I was working with my peer support group, and I had all these people introduced into my world and praising me every step of the way. And for me, I come from a generation that you just do what you need to do and not get praised or celebrated for it. But Just Bakery did that. They encouraged us. They filled up our cups. We were taught to celebrate the small things all along the way. I was fully supported all the way around."

By purchasing baked goods through Just Bakery, we are supporting the neighbor in need of hope. Look for the Just Bakery representative to be at St. John's on December 18 in the fellowship hall between services with their wonderful baked goods.



### **Sauk Prairie Community Blood Drive**

The American Red Cross is having a Blood Drive at St. John's on December 12 from 12:00pm to 5:30pm. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).



### **St. John's Prayer Chain**

St. John's has an email Prayer Chain that is open to all. If you would like to have prayers for yourself or a loved one, please let Linda in the office know of your need. We use first names only in prayer requests. If you would like to be a Prayer Partner let Linda know to add your email to the group.



## H.E.L.P.—Red Sled Project

Help Excite Little People will be collecting gently, used toys for children 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 in the Sauk Prairie area.

Items should be taken to the Washington Avenue doors and placed in or near the large bins to the left of the doors (outside, against the building) or placed in the decorated box in St. John's west hallway (behind the library).

The deadline for donations is **December 11<sup>th</sup>**.



## 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 may purchase this 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 is **December 11<sup>th</sup>**.

*Thank You!*

Dear St. John's,

Thank you so very much for the warm coats, snowpants, boots, hats and gloves! The students were in great need of warm outerwear. Thank you also for the wonderful healthy snacks, school supplies and hair care products, especially the hair ties and headbands! (We are in need of hair brushes and large tooth-combs if you have any...)

Thank you for always thinking of our students.

Sincerely, Susan Baumann Duren, SPSD Social Worker

## **Quilting Milestone**

This month St. John's Quilters will complete their 20,000<sup>th</sup> quilt for charity!

Since the Quilting Group began in 1975, volunteers have been working to share their talents and materials with those in need. Those quilts were given away near to St. John's and to places around the world. Quilts have been given to our local St. Vincent de Paul to share warmth at Christmas, to local families that have suffered from house fires and other tragic losses, with churches in Madison working with the homeless and to Lutheran World Relief, where the quilts are sent world-wide. St. John's quilts have been bedding to some, walls and flooring to others. Even carrying vessels to some who must be on the move for safety's sake.

When LaVera Page began this group, they were a small group meeting in one of the Sunday School rooms of the church. They used whatever material they could find, even asking the congregation to donate cast-off clothing, to create their quilts. They did not always use the traditional batting between the layers of tops and bottoms because of the cost and the wear-and-tear that the quilts would go through. Old blankets, flannel shirts, men's workpants and even much-loved but worn out quilts would be used to fill the quilts. Warmth and durability were important, which is why our Quilters use large pieces of fabric rather than the small pieces of fancier patterns. Each quilt measures 60" x 80" when completed per a request from Lutheran World Relief. Today's Quilting Group does not use clothing, but prefers large pieces of fabric and bed sheets. The measurements have remained the same over the past 47 years. Our Quilters still rely on donations from congregation members as well as those in the Sauk Prairie community who have heard of their efforts. Are you able to donate?

The Quilting Group was also expanded to include Baptism quilts, given to any Child of God that is baptized by St. John's. This practice began in 1999 by Betty Fisher and Carol Mallon, and still continues today. These quilters use new material and batting, as the more traditional quilters use. Each quilt is given to the baptized with a label marking their baptismal birthdate as a reminder of their special day.

Congratulations to ALL in our Quilting Group, past, present and future! If you are able to join the group, they work on Wednesday mornings in the fellowship hall and welcome any and all to their group. (It is not just for ladies, as Tony DeGiovanni can attest to.) If you are interested, just come! There is something that will fit your ability AND the fellowship is wonderful!

## Serving in December

### Ushers

December 4

### 8:00 a.m.

Lon Kaderavek

Dale Haroldson

Lee LaVigne

December 11

Lon Kaderavek

Dale Haroldson

Alyssa Himebauch

December 18

Lon Kaderavek

Dale Haroldson

Lillian Ott

December 25 (9:00am)

Noelle Small, Caden Argall

### 10:30 a.m.

Ian Quayle

Parker Frosch

Doug Pape

Parker Pape

### Acolytes

December 4

### 8:00 a.m.

Evelynn Brennan

December 11

Lillian Ott

December 18

George Colby

December 25 (9:00am)

Douglas and Michael Jolicoeur

Ezra Bauer

### 10:30 a.m.

Kylie Hutchins

Sean Jager

Liam Hart

### Assisting Ministers

December 4

### 8:00 a.m.

Jordan Small

December 11

December 18

Jordan Small

### 10:30 a.m.

Jordan Small

Clay Hutchins

Jordan Small

### Readers

December 4

### 8:00 a.m.

Kathy Lovell

December 11

Carrie Richard

December 18

Marilyn Herschleb

December 25 (9:00am)

Marilyn Herschleb

### 10:30 a.m.

Doris Lohr

Okla Yanke

Judy Hanna

### Cantors

December 4

### 8:00 a.m.

Katie LaVigne

December 11

Connie Burton

December 18

Pr. Sally Williams

### 10:30 a.m.

Katie Lavigne

Connie Burton

Pr. Sally Williams

### Communion Set/Clean-up 8:00 a.m.

December 4

Alice/Joe Chenoweth

December 11

Jane/Rich Calenzo

December 18

Noelle Small

December 25 (9:00am)

Marsha Key

### 10:30 a.m.

Dede Egan

Jude Hanna

Elio Piccinelli

**Communion Assistants 8:00 a.m.**

December 4	Nadine Lauer
December 11	Marilyn Herschleb
December 18	Brooke Braund
December 25 (9:00am)	Roxanne Zick

**10:30 a.m.**

Dede Egan
Deb Westphal
Elio Piccinelli

**Technology Team 8:00 a.m.**

December 4	Ellen Jorgensen
	Amy Nelson
December 11	Alyssa Himebauch
	Liz Leith
	Malcolm Leith
December 18	Amy Nelson
	Roger Seymour
December 25 (9:00am)	

**10:30 a.m.**

Eric Kaul
Charlie Kruchten
Sean Jager
Nicole Sandberg
Jeff Sandberg
Eric Kaul
Roger Seymour

**Greeters****8:00 a.m.****10:30 a.m.**

Dec 4 (Sanctuary)	Todd/Gina Wyttenbach	Doris Lohr
(Front doors)	Roxanne Zick	Jackie Frosch
Dec 11 (Sanctuary)	Nancy/Butch Passhel	Ginny Nimmow
(Front doors)	Cliff/Cindy Thompson	Bonnie/Denny Dederich
Dec 18 (Sanctuary)	Liam Hart	Ella Stephan
(Front doors)	Brooke Braund	Sean Jager
Dec 25 (Sanctuary)	Roxanne Zick	
(Front doors)	Noelle Small	

**Sunday Stewards****8:00 a.m.****10:30 a.m.**

December 4	Lon Kaderavek	Ellen Jorgensen
December 11	Jonah Richard	Sheila Peak Dittberner
December 18	Cathy Yanke	Gina Varley
December 25 (9:00am)		

**Coffee Servers**

December 4	Sheila Peak Dittberner
December 11	Linda Michaels
December 18	Lori Hegge and Lillian Ott

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

October 30	195	\$ 5,515.00
November 6	273	\$10,937.66
November 13	243	\$ 6,767.78
November 20	218	\$13,629.34



## **Christmas Eve Worship Assistants**

### **Ushers**

1:00pm Lon Kaderavek  
3:00pm Lon Kaderavek  
5:00pm Lon Kaderavek, Dorothy Halverson  
7:30pm

### **Readers**

1:00pm Donna Knickmeyer  
3:00pm Evie Bahe  
5:00pm Dale Haroldson  
7:30pm Cathy Yanke

### **Communion Set/Clean-up**

1:00pm Donna Knickmeyer, Marilyn Herschleb  
3:00pm  
5:00pm  
7:30pm

### **Communion Assistants**

1:00pm Marilyn Herschleb  
3:00pm  
5:00pm Bryce and Nadine Lauer  
7:30pm Roxanne Zick

### **Technology Team:**

1:00pm Ellen Jorgensen  
3:00pm Lisa Davis and Amy Nelson  
5:00pm Amy Nelson  
7:30pm Jeff and Nicole Sandberg

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.



### **Stormy Weather Approaching**

How will you know if St. John's is closed for worship services and Sunday School? You can call the church office (608-643-2439) after 7:00am; the answering machine message will state the times of service or the news that the church is closed. You can also look at our facebook page. If you have any doubt about road conditions and your ability to maneuver, don't risk a fall or an accident. Please stay home and join us via ZOOM.

# Sunday School News

The Sunday School Christmas Program is Sunday, December 18 at 1:00pm in St. John's sanctuary! We are very excited to have this opportunity once again. The children will present the Christmas story to you through God's Word and songs. We will collect a free will offering to put with our Sunday School offerings to purchase some animals through the ELCA's Good Gifts Program. To check out the Good Gifts Program, go here <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

Sunday School will **not** meet on Sunday, December 25 or January 1 for Christmas break. Classes will resume Sunday, January 8.

## Sunday School Attendance

November 6	49
November 13	53
November 20	40

# Confirmation News

We continue to meet on Wednesdays for class from 6pm-7pm, however we will **not** meet on Wednesday, December 21 or December 28. Classes resume January 4.

# Young Adult Updates

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



## Stock the Schools

December's items for collection are: jars of peanut butter and jelly, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and lip balm. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office door to drop off your donations.



## All Saints Sunday

On November 6 we gave thanks for the lives of those who have been gathered into our heavenly home since All Saints Day of 2021. Those we miss are:

Tom Mahoney  
Mabel Nolden  
Ken Osgood  
Jim Effinger  
Aaron Anderson  
Wyatt Alt  
Glenn Herschleb  
Barb Stenner  
Christina Leaf  
Thresa Schulenburg  
Rita Mills  
Haakon Carlson  
Phyllis Perry  
Gracie Roemer  
Velda Weeks  
Ricky Luck  
Dave Clason  
Karen Moser

Please keep the families of these loved ones in your prayers this holiday season.

### **World Hunger Donation Appeal**

St. John's is offering the opportunity to honor your loved ones through a donation to World Hunger this December.

You may give a donation of any amount in honor or memory of your loved ones. We will list their name in our Christmas Eve bulletin. We will need your request by December 20<sup>th</sup> to meet the deadline for the bulletin. Please write "World Hunger" on your check or envelope, include your loved one's name and drop it in the offering basket or the church office.

# PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: November 2, 2021

**Present:** Nancy Kaufman, Nancy Passehl, Cathy Yanke, Fred Rilling, Sally Williams, Roger Seymour, Gina Varley, Jonah Richard, Ellen Jorgensen, Sheila Dittberner, Anne Klinkner, Linda Michaels

**Absent:** Eunice Yanke, Donna Nelson, Lon Kaderavek, Megan Tarnutzer

## **Call to Order/Opening Remarks:**

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Gina and seconded by Linda. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Anne.

## **Secretary Minutes:**

The October minutes were submitted online by Cathy Yanke. A motion to approve minutes was made by Linda and seconded by Sheila. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer report:**

The committee reviewed and discussed the incomplete October 2022 Treasurer Report submitted by Fred on behalf of the absent Donna Nelson. We noted that income did not meet budgeted expenses and we paid the last of the furnace expenses. This information was not approved based on its draft status.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Evangelism:** Sheila Dittberner reported:

- Update entry bulletin board with intern and pet blessing pictures.
- Email graduates listing for December grad kit mailing.
- Guest book mailing completed.
- Book of reference in process. Estimated completion by March 2023.
- Encourage other volunteers to be involved in communion setup, readers, usher, entry door greeters.

**Fellowship:** Linda Michaels reported:

- Cards were made by Patty Schmidt (THANK YOU) and were signed on Sunday (for 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration). They will be distributed this week. Because many of those folks cannot attend church, they cannot enjoy cake, so we are giving them a flower along with the card.

· SURPRISE celebration for Ruellene for her 70th birthday on the 8th will be on Sunday the 6th. Linda Hines has asked for cards and we have one of Patty's large cards for people to sign. I will be setting up a little display on Saturday with some flowers just outside the sanctuary.

**Lay Ministry:** Gina Varley reported:

· No October meeting

**Parish Education:**

· No report.

**Properties:** Lon Kaderavek reported:

· No meeting this month

· Heating, cooling system now complete

**PR & Social Concerns:** Ellen Jorgensen reported:

· Just Bakery Sale, Sunday October 16th. Just Bakery will be sold again Nov 20th between services.

· Lawn Signs. 25 signs are on order and will be ready for distribution - Lent (Spring 2023).

· Discussed ideas to promote food pantry in November.

**Stewardship Board:** Anne Klinkner reported:

· Work is continuing on our Procedure Manual.

· The Fall Campaign Letter was finalized and will be included in both the US mail versions and electronic versions of the November, 2022 Visitor.

· A thank you note to the Congregation for their very generous response to our roof, parking lot, and HVAC project will be put in the November, 2022 Visitor. Baybrookes generous labor donation for part of the HVAC project will be acknowledged as well.

· The annual financial review for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church will be February 1, 2023.

**Women of ELCA:** Eunice Yanke reported:

· On September 4, women from St. John's attended the South-Central Synodical Retreat in Sun Prairie. One focus was being mindful of God's presence each day.

· St. John's WELCA ThankOffering Service will be Sunday, November 20. A special collection will be sent to the national WELCA office.

· The ELCA has offered a church-wide ThankOffering Service on November 5.

· To join Women of the ELCA, see website.

- Pennies for Poverty jar will be on name tag table for a few more weeks. Money raised helps women and children in need.
- Bible Study Leaders' Meeting is November 29 at 9:00 am.

**Youth Committee:** Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- The youth went to the Corn Maze last week and had a great time!
- We look forward to meeting in November to discuss more upcoming events

**Member at Large:** Roger Seymour reported:

No report.

**Youth member at Large:** Jonah Richard reported:

- Girls Volleyball is going to state
- Jack Boerger placed 18th at state cross country.
- Middle school preformed a Beauty and the Beast play.
- 6:8 had a great food pack reaching their 3 millionth meal packed

**Executive Director Comments:**

- The Nominating Committee has been unable to find a nominee to fill the Parish Education Chair position, but we are still working on this.
- The final bill for the HVAC system has been submitted and paid.
- Thankful to God that nothing else has come to the attention of the church.

**Pastor/Intern Reports**

**Fred's Report:**

- I continue to teach 9th grade confirmation.
- Sauk County continues to be Covid 'Green.' I am grateful for our staff, PPC and congregation for continuing to be flexible as we continue to navigate Covid 19.
- I am meeting with staff letting them know about salaries for 2023 and sending reports to Portico who oversees our insurance and retirement funds. I will also be sending out the end of the year evaluation forms to staff for our yearly conversations. We have great staff!
- Intern John continues our weekly meetings. This time is spent in conversation about his learning. Interns receive a 3, 6 and 12-month evaluation. John's three-month evaluation will happen in late Nov. It is hard to believe three months have nearly passed.
- John and I will be conducting First Communion Class on 11/10/22. Our first communion Sunday will be Nov 13th.

- Sally, John and I are working on the community Thanksgiving service on 11/23/22 at 7pm. John will be preaching.
- I am working on setting a time for new member classes.

### **Sally's Report:**

- Taught classes (2nd Nov 6) on trauma response during adult education. Great turnout and really good conversation. Further classes on our theology surrounding traumatic experiences and how the church might respond are planned for some time in January/February.
- Continuing some study in spiritual healing after trauma through an online series in November.
- Continuing to catch up with our homebound members during communion visits and nursing home/assisted living worship services.
- Other Parish Ed notes: having conversations about the potential of a Christmas Program this year. Beginning conversations about the church library. Curriculum has been ordered for the Winter sessions.
- Invitations are being made to some of our members to consider training to become assisting ministers. If you know someone who might have gifts for this, please send them my way.

### **Intern John's Report:**

- My time at St. John's has been one of learning, growth, and affirmation of call. Pastor Fred has continued to be a wonderful supervisor. Each Monday he and I meet to discuss and go over the events of the past week, and he provides many challenging and thought-provoking perspectives on ministry. My Learning Service Agreement was submitted to Wartburg Theological Seminary upon my being here for two months, and now Fred and I are preparing to work on the three month evaluation as well.
- I am continuing to teach 7th Grade Confirmation. This Wednesday will be our first "video" session, which I am sure will help prompt discussion and questions. They are curious, and eager to wrestle with their faith.
- The "Film & Theology" adult education initiative is underway. I have planned out the first film/scripture discussion and will send a survey to determine the best time for our weekly group to gather and watch the film of the week.
- I have also maintained visitation with homebound members of St. John's, and have had several new experiences in ministry: namely visitation with the dying, comforting the family of a dead loved one, and helping to preside over a funeral with Fred.

· From November 3rd-7th, I will be attending a continuing education opportunity through Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. This will be held in Boise, Idaho.

**Old Business:**

- Update on AC/Heating Units—done and paid for!!!
- Covid updates—going well with low rates. We hope it stays low!
- Parish Ed Chair update—We are still recruiting for a chair.

Volunteers welcome!

· Review of Congregational Meeting—meeting went well. For future meetings, we will print last meetings minutes in the Visitor and that week's bulletin so that we can make the motion to skip the reading of the minutes. Motion to approve was made by Linda and seconded by Sheila. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

- Meeting time--change to 6 pm start
- PPC Retreat Plan—January half day meeting on Saturday. If you have suggested topics, provide to Nancy K.
- LGBTQ Discussion—Jonah will discuss with the lead of the high school group to help us learn more and how to proceed.

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.

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 6, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Nancy K. Gina made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Sheila. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:14 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



## Glory Enough for Everyone

To maintain the machinery of empire, people must be counted; not to be valued as individuals, but to assess tribute. It is the census. Lists of family members, and decisions about them, must be made. As your life, family, and records are audited, so also is your future decided. What sacrifice will be required for the glory of Rome?

If he has listened to Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55), Joseph, as the state-recognized head of the household, can safely allow himself and his family to be among the counted. He would know that Imperial Rome's time is short, that God brings down the "powerful from their thrones" and "sends the rich away empty." Although in temporary bondage, God's people will receive the promises made to Abraham for the sake of his descendants. If Joseph has listened to Mary (Luke 1:32-33) he knows that this son will sit on David's throne, and cannot be removed. He may not understand how and when these things will come to pass, only that they will. Why not be counted?

Shepherds, however, cannot expect to be counted. While the rest of the world is engaged in the games of empire, they watched their flocks, unnoticed by census-takers. But they were not unnoticed by God. Beyond the view of the watchful eye of Caesar, God was doing a new thing, forging true peace to upset the sham *pax* of imperial domination, a new kingdom whose only army is that of angels singing, rank upon rank, of God's saving work. It all begins with the unforeseen birth of a child and the wonder of a mother. We, like shepherds, stand in awe at God's gracious surprise. There is glory enough for all.





## **Happy December Birthday!**

*The day is in parenthesis*

### **Our Youngest:**

William LaBerge (6)

Gibson Koenig (23)

### **Our Sunday School Students:**

Olive Rennie (4)

John Brennan V (5)

Dylann Fisher (5)

Evelyn Haffeman (6)

Josie Kinney (14)

Audrey Maestri (15)

Lillianna Weittenhiller (15)

Nellie Kaderavek (18)

Kate Endres (19)

Sylvie Miller (19)

Paisley Stuetgen (19)

Evan Ryan (21)

William Pickett (26)

Harper Wasserberg (29)

### **Our Youth:**

Elio Piccinelli (2)

Landon Schultz (9)

Lily Fauerbach (11)

Hannah Stephan (16)

Parker Frosch (24)

### **College and Career-age Young People:**

Wyatt Urban (24)

Olivia Joyce (27)



### **Thank you, Office Angels**

My duties have been made lighter and brighter by many of you who have stopped by the office with a warm smile, a kind word and encouragement each day. Your cheerful voices on the phone have brightened my day. And those who have come to my aid by volunteering to come in weekly or monthly to help with specific “chores”, I am especially thankful. I thank you all and am grateful for all of you each day!

Linda Hines

St. John’s Office and Communications Coordinator