



Prairie du Sac, WI

February 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

“Who is part of your family?” It seems like a simple question with a simple answer. But think a minute. Is it?

This last year my family has numerically both grown and contracted. Two divorces, a significant other and another grandbaby due in 2023. And that is just my biological and legal family.

Who is part of your family is a question that can be answered in lots of ways. Yet no matter the answer, the question of “Who is my family” has to be answered first. Or put another way, how does one define who is a ‘member’ of my family and how can they stop being one?

Over the course of time churches have asked the question about who is a member of their congregation. For the ELCA, the answer revolves around Word and Sacrament along with Stewardship. The ELCA constitution says that once a person joins our congregation and become a member, to remain a member they are to both commune of record and give financially of record once a year. The ‘of record’ part means that at some point a person writes down that they communed on one of our Friendship Pads or Communion Cards, and puts a financial gift into a pre-printed offering envelope or into a pew envelope with their name written on it.

Constitutionally, maintaining membership is simple. Unless of course you cannot ‘come’ to worship or cannot give because you lost a job, encountered a catastrophic medical event or a number of other less public, but still difficult events that change your day-to-day life. So, what happens when the constitution demands one thing but grace requires another? Perhaps the word family can help.

St. John's, constitutionally has a recording requirement that gives direction to how we fill out our annual ELCA report. It asks us to indicate how many 'members' our congregation has. That information is recorded and returned to those who keep records for the larger church.

The constitution however does not limit our ministry. For instance, if the hospital calls and asks us to visit someone, we do not ask if they are a member or not. We do not look at our records to see if they might have been a member in the past. We simply go to the hospital and see how we might communicate God's love to someone who asked that we come.

Membership is like family, it has legal definitions. Because of that, it maybe that someone was a member but currently is not. It is possible someone acts like family who is not and vise-versa. But in any case, the status that finally matters, at least to your pastors and staff, is that of being a child of God. And you ARE a child of God. The reality has nothing to do with being a member of a congregation. It has everything to do with God's decision to love you beyond measure.

Shalom,



New Member Classes and Reception

This winter's session of New Member classes continues on Sunday, February 5 and Sunday, February 12 at 9:15am. Join Pastor Fred in Room 10 in the Sunday School wing. (This room is located down the hall and to your left.) If you are unable to attend classes at this time, please speak with Pastor Fred.

We will receive new members on Sunday, February 19 at the 8:00am worship service followed by a reception in their honor in the fellowship hall. Come and welcome our new members of St. John's!



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	Your Name Here	
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 johnEVANS@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
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. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Cereal | Instant Oatmeal |
| Applesauce | Tuna |
| Brownie Mix | Hand Lotion |

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



Birthday Greetings

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



- | | |
|--|---|
| Ginny Nimmow (1)
216 Washington Street
Sauk City, WI 53583 | Dick Dobrzynski (12)
50 Hemlock St., Unit 1
Sauk City, WI 53583 |
|--|---|

Marilyn Larson (**February 18, 1925**)
930 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

- | | |
|--|--|
| Diane Elsing (19)
2020 Hanksfield Place
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578 | Eunice Yanke (24)
S8651 Old Bluff Trail
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578 |
|--|--|

Milestone Ministry: Baptism Anniversary

It was wonderful to celebrate the baptisms of 15 of our youngest members in January. If your family was unable to attend, please stop by the church to pick up two books for your children as a gift from the St. John's community. Blessings on this baptismal journey.

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, February 9, at Dorothy Halverson's, 9456 County Rd Y, Sauk City	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, February 2, at Maplewood Village, 1425 Hemlock St., Sauk City. Sandy Frey is the hostess.	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, February 13, at Marian DeGiovanni's, 295 Water St., Prairie du Sac	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, February 7, in St. John's Library	9:30am

In February, Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Patty Barritt and Kathy Lester will be leading the Bible Study.

We were pleased that we had good attendance at our all-circle meeting on January 12th, with 28 ladies plus Intern John. Everyone brought food and we had a splendid variety of very good finger food to enjoy. Intern John Evans led our Bible Study, beginning with Session 1 of our upcoming 4-session study of the Ten Commandments: Reviving the Soul. He did an excellent job of presenting this study to us. Candles were set up and we were then ready to have our memorial service for members of St. John's who had passed away during 2022. As the names were read, candles were lit by a family member, friend or someone who may have been touched by the life of the deceased person in some way. There was a reading by Kris Frey and we all sang the hymns, "For All the Saints" and "Children of the Heavenly Father", accompanied by Intern John on the guitar and he led our singing with his beautiful voice. A Candle was lit for each of the following:

Tom Mahoney
 Ken Osgood
 Aaron Anderson
 Glenn Herschleb
 Christina Leaf
 Rita Mills
 Phyllis Perry
 Velda Weeks
 Dave Clason
 Bev Clason

Mabel Nolden
 Jim Effinger
 Wyatt Alt
 Barb Stenner
 Thresa Schultenburg
 Haakon Carlson
 Gracie Roemer
 Ricky Luck
 Karen Moser

Besides all of the above, there were several ladies attending this event who were given the opportunity to light candles for loved ones, not from St. John's, who had also passed away during 2022. It was all very touching to see all of those candles burning.

Lydia Circle has been visiting Special Friends during the months of December and January. Ruth Circle will visit them during February and March.

Remember to read the Prayer for Peace in this Visitor on February 20th.

Looking ahead, you should mark your calendar for April 22nd for the Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering. We will have a short meeting in the morning, with a luncheon to follow at Bonnet Prairie Church in Rio. It's a fun event to attend and if you haven't been to one before, you should try it!

Thank You

To the WELCA of St. John's Lutheran Church,

We thank you so much for your recent gift to 6:8. It is such an encouragement to have the community's support! Donations enable so many to do their part in service to Sauk Prairie.

Staff and Crew of 6:8

(WELCA sent \$200 to 6:8 as a part of their Christmas Cheer.)

Circle Invitation

Are you interested in joining a Bible Study group? Our Lydia Circle would like to add new members. You don't have to know a lot about the Bible, you learn about the Bible as we study. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00pm. If you 'd like a ride or have questions, call Darlene Holl at 643-8413. We would love to see you!

Adult Education

Pastor Sally is leading a series on Clichés of Faith: How we understand (or at least try to understand) how God works in the midst of suffering and tragedy. We will meet in the church library at 9:15am on Sunday mornings, January 29, February 5, and February 12.

Beginning February 19, our study will turn to the Psalm lessons for the upcoming Sundays during Lent.



Thank you Volunteers!

Thank you to the Mobile Meal volunteers for sharing your time and kindness with our neighbors. Without you, this program would not be possible. God Bless - PR & Social Concerns Committee

Those who delivered meals in January are:

Steve Barritt	Patty Barritt
John Mast	Ellen Mast
Dan Lovell	Kathy Lovell
Roger Allen	Sharon Blechinger
Rich Frey	Kris Frey
Roger Howard	Marcia Howard
Mary Halweg	Rita Amundson
Mike Langer	Kim Langer

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Father, we are in awe of how you orchestrate the days of our lives and the individual love You have for each of us and our purposes. We are all unique, every person, and it brings You joy when we recognize each other for the people we are in You. Love leads us to love others for You. The Great Commission, to spread the gospel, starts with love.

Give us the courage to live our faith boldly and consistently. Clean hypocrisy out of our hearts and wipe away prejudice and favoritism. Give us strength and sight. Help us to look at each other through the lens of love.

Just knowing who You are is not enough. Telling of You is not enough. Help us to live boldly and selflessly, to model love accurately and completely, to anyone and everyone.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Later this month we will begin the church season of Lent. I am looking forward to it in a new way this year as we will be diving into the Psalms (Thanks to Intern John for putting this together!).

Psalms aren't new to us. Our cantor leads us in singing them every single Sunday. They are almost always included in a funeral service, especially Psalm 23. They are songs of thanksgiving, praise, wisdom, and lament.

But here's an interesting fact - the Revised Common Lectionary (the 3-year schedule of scripture readings for Sundays) includes less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Psalms of Lament. It would make sense that we would sing all sorts of praise and thanksgiving Psalms to God in the context of worship...but...

How much of our daily lives include lamenting the violence of the world, broken relationships, illness, insecurity, and so on? We are a people in deep need of a space for lament. Not a space to just whine or vent, but a space to really be heard. A space to be loved in the midst of the trials. A space to hear God's good news for you.

I invite you to spend some time in the Psalms this Lenten season, especially the Psalms of Lament. Some of the Psalms of Lament include but are not limited to: Psalm 3, 5-7, 10, 22, 38, 42-43, and 102. Where do you find yourselves in these passages? How do they speak to you? How is God speaking to you?

Our greatest faith leaders of the Bible showed us the way to boldly cry out to God. And we are reminded that God does indeed hear us.

May your ears, mind, and heart be opened to God's Word to you. May you find balm for your souls, healing in any brokenness, and hope for the journey.

Peace,

Sally



As the mid-point of my time at St. John's as intern approaches, one word can sum up how I feel to have been called to come here: grateful. Not just for the immense kindness and welcome I have received, but grateful for how I see the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being fulfilled by each of you every day.

One of my professors at Wartburg Seminary, The Rev. Dr. Nate Frambach, has a saying: "The love of Jesus is sometimes hard to describe, but you instantly know it and feel it within your very bones and soul." Such amazing love is at the heart of what this community is about. From the quilters, who gather almost every Wednesday to craft for those in need; to the volunteers who help prepare and serve Wednesday night meals for Confirmation, there is a beautiful sense of discipleship and responsibility.

The question becomes this: how do we, as St. John's Lutheran, continue to live into our mission statement: "Christ, our strength and refuge, calling us to serve"? There is the community in which we find refuge, that clearly means so very much to us. How might God be calling us to draw wider the circle of welcome, especially for those on the fringes of our community?

I do not claim to have an answer to this question. However, I believe (and rightfully so) that through the power of the Holy Spirit; the people of St. John's will continue to find unique, and beautiful ways to bring the presence of Christ to each other and the world both inside the building, and outside the building.

Shalom,
John



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Lent begins February 22

Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2023. This marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We will have Worship Services with Ashes at 1:00pm and 6:30pm. Services will be available on ZOOM also.

A light lunch will be served at noon if you would like to join us. Cost is \$2.00 for children and adults, \$1.00 for senior citizens.

This year our Lenten offering will go to the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Nicole and Jeff Sandberg and their family on the death of Nicole's grandmother, June Gray.

Traci and Scott Schutt and their family on the death of Traci's father, Byron Patchin.

Alice and Joe Chenoweth, Mackenzie and Ryan Colby and their families on the death of Alice's mother and Mackenzie's grandmother, Dolora Phillips.

Agrace to Offer New Volunteer Orientation in February

Agrace is seeking volunteers in Sauk, Columbia, Juneau, Adams and Marquette counties to assist local hospice patients.

Agrace will hold volunteer orientation at its Baraboo office **Friday, February 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Pre-registration is required. Prior to orientation, volunteers must complete an application and an interview with Agrace staff. Call (608) 327-7163 to register or visit Agrace.org/Volunteer to apply online.

Agrace Offers Virtual Grief Support Group in February

In February, Agrace is offering **Bridges**, a professionally led, virtual (accessible with a tablet, computer or smartphone) grief support group. Bridges is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. Meetings are held every other Wednesday via Zoom. In February, meetings are February 8 and 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

There is no fee for this program 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. Pre-registration is required for each session; call (608) 327-7118 with questions or to register.

Get Expert Customized Grief Support—by Text

Agrace now offers thoughtful, customized text messages from a service called Help Texts. It's free and you can sign up even if you are also receiving grief support individually or in a group. To sign up or learn more, visit HelpTexts.com/Agrace.

Education News

Sunday School Bake Sale

The Sunday School students of the 5th and 6th grade will hold a Bake Sale on Sunday, February 12 beginning at 9am. All monies collected will go to the ELCA's Good Gifts (Barnyards) program. The students appreciate your support of this project and are eager to share with you all the work they have put into making the bake sale a success. Please stop by and greet the students.

Confirmation News

ALIVE Youth Night

In lieu of our normal confirmation class, all confirmation students are asked to gather for an evening of dinner, games, icebreakers, fun, worship and music at "Alive Youth Night" on Wednesday, February 8, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, at Dekorra Lutheran Church, Poynette. We are asking that students make arrangements to leave their extracurricular activities early and make this event a priority. We will leave, as a group, from St. John's at 5:30pm and return at 8:30pm. Please contact Penny Johnson before Noon on February 1 if your student cannot attend this event. **No meal will be served that evening at St. John's.**

Also, on **ASH WEDNESDAY**, February 22, we will not have Confirmation classes but strongly encourage all students and families to attend our evening Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:30pm. **No meal will be served that evening at St. John's.**

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 or message her on Facebook with any updates, so that we may continue to celebrate and pray for you in your life in Christ.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Worship Services

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22. We will have worship services on the Wednesdays of Lent at 1:00pm and 6:30pm with Zoom available. The Lenten offering will go to the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry.

On Ash Wednesday we will offer a light lunch at noon before the worship service with Imposition of Ashes at 1:00pm. Cost of this meal is \$2 for children and adults, \$1 for senior citizens. There will NOT be an evening meal on Ash Wednesday, since there are no confirmation classes, but join us for worship at 6:30pm.

The remaining Wednesdays of Lent (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29) will have Lenten worship services at 1:00pm with a lunch offered before each service. The evening worship services will offer a meal at 5:20pm on March 1, 8, and 22 only. (March 15 and 29 we will have worship services at 6:30pm but no meal.)

There will be worship services at 1:00pm and 6:30pm on Maundy Thursday, April 6. A light lunch will be offered at noon, no evening meal. Good Friday services will be at 1:00pm and 6:30pm on April 7. No meals will be served that day.



Stock the Schools

In cooperation with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's will be collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. Each month we will have different items to collect that will help our local students. Some of these items can be used in school and some at home. February's items are: Ramen noodles, individual mac 'n cheese cups, toothpaste, toothbrushes and lip balm. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office door to drop off your donations.



JUST BAKERY
A JustDane Initiative

Thank you for your generous contributions to our agency during 2022. Your support of Just Bakery is greatly appreciated. You make our work possible.

Your support helps to sustain the programs that enrich and improve the lives of all our neighbors. With your partnership, we will continue to build a more equitable and inclusive community.

Sincerely,

Linda Ketcham, Executive Director

***Look for Just Bakery items for sale at St. John's in March.*



Global Health Ministries

There is a great need of some **medium-sized (48” or 50” long) bath towels** for the making of Hospice Kits and Newborn Kits to send to Global Health Ministries.

Global Health Ministries help some of the poorest of the poor. They go into areas where there is no medical help available to the people. They work with Lutheran medical teams in areas of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, India, El Salvador and Nicaragua, bringing much needed care to the citizens living there.

GHM Newborn Kits are gifts that help a new mom celebrate her baby, and clothe and care for her child. Importantly, they are also used by overseas partners to encourage young women to seek prenatal care during pregnancy, greatly improving their chances for a healthy, happy outcome. Once that connection is made, they can also encourage postnatal care, including vaccinations and well-baby checks that can help a newborn thrive.

Too many people, especially those on the margins, don't have access to the antiretroviral drugs that have made it possible to live with HIV. Since 1987 Global Health Ministries (GHM) has sent almost 80,000 Hospice Kits to help the hands that heal around the world. Palliative care and hospice programs continue to be an important ministry of the church overseas in countries where thousands of people benefit every year from their special care for people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other devastating illness. The need has not diminished, and your gift of these Kits is a blessing to those who receive them.

The kits we send to GHM are Hospice Kits and Newborn Kits. We usually pack these kits in the spring and would greatly appreciate your help in collecting the needed items:

Hospice Kits include:

- One bath towel (48” or 50”)
- One wash cloth
- One bath-size bar Ivory soap
- One adult toothbrush
- One “pick” style comb
- One nail clipper
- Six Band-Aids
- One 4-oz petroleum jelly
- One pair kitchen-type gloves

Newborn Kits:

- One bath towel (48” or 50”)
- One wash cloth
- One bath-size bar Ivory soap
- One newborn T-shirt
- One newborn stocking cap
- One receiving blanket (30”x30”)
- Two cloth diapers
- Two diaper pins

Those Serving in February

Ushers:

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

8:00 a.m.

Parker Frosch

Lon Kaderavek

Lee LaVigne

Gina Wyttenbach

Steve Kindschi

Lon Kaderavek

Sophia Hanson

Lon Kaderavek

10:30 a.m.

Kaleb Chetwood

Gerry/Deb Westphal

Ryan Jorgenson

Tyler Jorgenson

Gerry/Deb Westphal

Jason King

Ian Quayle

Bob Egan

Acolytes:

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

8:00 a.m.

Ella Stephan

Parker Frosch

Brooke Braund

Micah Boerger

10:30 a.m.

Kylie Hutchins

Ian Quayle

Ian Quayle

Jason King

Readers:

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

8:00 a.m.

Marilyn Herschleb

Carrie Richards

Becki Braund

Dale Haroldson

10:30 a.m.

Carol Benson

Jude Hanna

Doris Lohr

Kathy Lovell

Cantors:

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

8:00 a.m.

Connie Burton

Pastor Sally

Senior Choir

Katie LaVigne

10:30 a.m.

Connie Burton

Pastor Sally

Senior Choir

Katie LaVigne

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

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

Donna Knickmeyer

10:30 a.m.

Donna Knickmeyer

Clay Hutchins

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

February 5

February 12

February 19

February 26

Jayne Carlson

Rich/Jane Calenzo

George Colby

Dottie Maly

Marilyn Herschleb

10:30 a.m.

Deb/Gerry Westphal

Jason King

Communion Assistants 8:00 a.m.

February 5 Jayne Carlson
 February 12 Kim Larson
 February 19 Brooke Braund
 February 26 Roxanne Zick

10:30 a.m.

Deb Westphal
 Kim Sisbach
 Dede Egan

Greeters: 8:00 a.m.

Feb. 5 (Front doors) Roxanne Zick
 (Sanctuary doors) Don/Vi Bohler
 Feb. 12 (Front doors) Cliff/Cindy
 Thompson
 (Sanctuary doors) Gina/Todd Wyttenbach
 Feb. 19 (Front doors) Kaleb Chetwood
 (Sanctuary doors) Dylan Walker
 Feb. 26 (Front doors) Roxanne Zick
 (Sanctuary doors) Vi/Don Bohler

10:30 a.m.

Tiffany/Andrew
 Haffemann
 Brooke Braund
 Kaleb Chetwood
 Ginny Nimmow

Technology Team 8:00 a.m.

February 5 Ellen Jorgensen
 Roger Seymour
 February 12 Lisa Davis
 Charlie Kruchten
 February 19 Ellen Jorgensen
 Amy Nelson
 February 26 Lisa Davis

10:30 a.m.

Nicole Sandberg
 Jeff Sandberg
 Nicole Sandberg
 Jeff Sandberg
 Eric Kaul
 Roger Seymour

Coffee Servers

February 5 Mary and Brian Weeks
 February 12 Kris Rilling
 February 19 Fellowship Board
 February 26 Dennis Fisher

Sunday Stewards 8:00 a.m.

February 5 Nancy Passehl
 February 12 Jonah Richard
 February 19 Cathy Yanke
 February 26 Nancy Passehl

10:30 a.m.

Ellen Jorgensen
 Linda Michaels
 Gina Varley

Congregational totals

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
January 1	108	\$ 5,888.00
January 8	222	\$ 4,226.97
January 15	228	\$ 7,403.60
January 22	197	\$ 5,164.00

THANK YOU

Thank you very much for your contributions of time, talent and treasure in 2022. The gifts you shared helped many people, both locally and beyond the Sauk Prairie area. Your gifts are truly a blessing to the ministry of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. You are such a blessing to us always, and especially in this post pandemic year. May God bless and keep you in 2023.

The Stewardship Board

Thank You!

We thank the following people for volunteering (*all were unpaid volunteers*) to handle the 2022 Audit of St. John's Financial Records:

Anne Klinkner, Jon Caflich, Gina Wyttenbach, Kari Apel, and Crystal Lautenbach.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all St. John's members that helped me in 2022. I am disabled and 71 years old and greatly appreciate your help. God bless you all.

Raymond Parish

Thanks

On behalf of the Help Excite Little People (H.E.L.P.) Project, I send heartfelt thanks for your involvement. We greatly appreciate the generous donations that you shared. We were able to provide gifts for 49 families this year.

Many thanks for making the holidays happier for Sauk Prairie families. Wishing you the best in 2023!

With thanks and respect,

Margaret McFarlane

H.E.L.P. Coordinator

THANKS

Thank you for your generous donations in support of our medical services. We appreciate your kindness.

The Good Neighbor Clinic

Parish Planning Council Minutes
Jan 3, 2023, 6:00 PM

Present: Donna Nelson, Nancy Passehl, Cathy Yanke, Fred Rilling, Sally Williams, Lon Kaderavek, Eunice Yanke, Megan Tarnutzer, Roger Seymour, Jonah Richard, Ellen Jorgensen, Anne Klinkner, Linda Michaels

Absent: Nancy Kaufman, Gina Varley, Sheila Dittberner

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Nancy Passehl. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Donna and seconded by Lon. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Linda.

Secretary Minutes:

The December 2022 minutes were submitted online by Cathy Yanke. A motion to approve minutes was made by Donna and seconded by Linda. Motion carried. A motion to approve change to minutes to meeting date of Jan 3 was made by Ellen and seconded by Megan. Motion carried.

Treasurer report:

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

- We received a generous donation of almost \$30,000 worth of stocks. This helped bring the December income up to \$95K. The expenses for the month were \$58K and that included the rest of our benevolence payments for this year.
- Total spending for the year exceeded our income by \$44K which means we had to dip into our savings to help pay for the new furnaces.
- A big thank you to everyone for being mindful of our budget and helping to watch expenses. Every committee except Properties was under budget for the year.

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Lon and seconded by Eunice. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- No new report

Fellowship: Linda Michaels reported:

- Continue to look for coffee servers
- Donna has agreed to do Lenten lunches as she has in the past (bless her)
- Our meeting will be changed to every 3rd Thursday instead of the 2nd Thursday.
- Upcoming events: Feb. 19th – new member installation, March 12 – Volunteer Appreciation, April 2 – Palm Sunday brunch

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- It was decided to just have one service on Jan. 1st at 9 am.
- Linda H will no longer be handling usher scheduling. Steve Sprecher has added ushering to the online sign up. Gina will try and find someone to take that over asap. Any suggestions for that volunteer role would be appreciated. Also still need communion assistant organizer
- Volunteer needs are covered for all the Christmas services
- We will plan on setting up Christmas Eve candles, poinsettias, etc. following the Sunday school program
- The youth will be leading the evening Lenten services on the following Wednesdays: March 1st, 8th, and 22nd

Parish Education:

- Included in Sally's report

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- A larger heating coil was installed in the Pastors offices heating unit.

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

- Just Bakery is tentatively scheduled for January 22nd
- Temple Talk topics are aligned for 2023
- St. John's will deliver Mobile Meals during the weeks of January 16 and January 23. Look for more sign-up information in the new year.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- The Stewardship Board did not meet in December

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- On January 12 we will hold a Combined Circles Meeting in the fellowship hall at 1pm. Intern John will lead the Bible Study. We will also have our Candlelight Memorial for those who died in 2022.
- ThankOffering total was \$393.00 and has been sent to the synod.
- Pennies for Poverty Jar yielded \$200. This amount will be sent to Hope House of Baraboo.

- Christmas Cheer monies of \$200 each will be sent to Hope House and 6:8 of Sauk City.
- Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering is April 22 at Bonnet Prairie Church.

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- January 20-21 youth Lock-in 7pm to 7am
- January 27th tubing
- Upcoming ideas for February/March include ice skating, pool rental, opportunities for upcoming youth retreats

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No new report

Youth member at Large: Jonah Richard reported:

- No new report

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.
- Lon had someone checking into the EXIT sign issue, in December.
- We are working on putting the PPC retreat together for 1/21/23, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- The Daycare questions have been collated for the school board.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Fred's Report:

- Questions regarding St. John's potentially hosting a SPSD Childcare program have been submitted to Linda Michaels which she has sent to the PPC members. This list of questions was also sent to Jeff Wright who will pass those questions onto their committee working on the potential childcare program.
- The PPC is working on putting together our congregational annual report. This will include reports from every staff member, PPC chair and other materials normally included in such reports such as year-end financials and statistics (membership, baptisms, confirmations, funerals, weddings and so on).
- I met with Nancy Kaufman and Nancy Passehl regarding our upcoming PPC retreat. Both Nancys are working on putting together a retreat that will help the PPC plan for our future. The retreat is scheduled for Jan 21st.

- We celebrated Linda Hine's 25th anniversary of working at St. John's on Sunday, Dec 11 (her actual anniversary was Dec 15). We are blessed to have Linda on staff and our congregation expressed its gratitude that day. I invite everyone to send a card of appreciation if you have not already done so.
- Our Christmas Eve and Christmas day services went well. Thanks to all who helped with candles, music, Zoom broadcast, ushers and communion assistants/set-up, acolytes and the many who prepared for and cleaned up after the Christmas eve service. Many people made this happen.
- Penny Johnson, our Youth Director, is busy planning events for our youth. On Jan 20-21 (Fri-Sa), there is a lock-in. On Jan 27 (Friday), our youth will be tubing at Tyrol Basin.
- On Jan 16, the church office will be closed in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

Sally's Report:

- A primary focus in December was the Sunday School Christmas Program, which went really well. The kids did great, and the volunteers were the best!
- Confirmation resumes Jan 4. Sunday School resumes Jan 8 as does Adult Ed.
- Thanks to Penny and many parent drivers, our confirmation students were able to get back to Maplewood Nursing Home for Christmas caroling and then they returned to church for hot chocolate and cookies. We are considering going to assisted living as well next year if possible.
- A few others have been asked to consider being the Parish Education Chair, but still no success in filling this vacancy. We are fortunate to have a solid board of volunteers who continue moving this ministry forward in new and creative ways.
- Many thanks to Pastor Fred for preaching for me last minute on Christmas Eve due to my kidney stone. I appreciate our partnership very much. Due to my unexpected absence, I was unable to visit the rest of the folks on my communion list. I look forward to getting back on track this month.
- I'm working with the Internship Committee and Intern John to set up some opportunities for Intern John to interact with our Sunday School youth as well as some students at Tower Rock.
- Upcoming Events: Anniversary of Baptism celebration on Jan 8. Teaching Cliches of Faith: How we understand God's action/presence in the midst of suffering on Jan 22, 28, and Feb 5.

Intern John's Report:

- December was a busy month at St. John's. Advent and Christmas were beautiful to behold and participate here in this community. I preached twice this month, once on the 18th and on Christmas day.
- I presided over the funeral of Bev Clason, as well as presiding over another funeral on behalf of Hoover's.
- Adult Education continues to go well, my series on Film & Theology will end after January 22nd. Confirmation is moving along as well, with major upcoming events being Tubing and Lock In.
- The Internship Committee, Fred, and myself are beginning to prepare for our mid-point evaluation for Wartburg Seminary. This will be an in depth process, and is by far the most crucial document in my time here.
- New opportunities are beginning to emerge as well, including a partnership with Tower Rock Elementary as a volunteer.
- I have finished preparing our Wednesday Lenten series also, which will feature the Psalms.

Old Business:

- Covid updates—Yellow as of last Friday, 12/30. Concern that the numbers are not accurate that these are based on, but this is what we have determined to use as our guide.
- Parish Ed Chair update—no further update
- LGBTQ update—no further update
- Intern committee member update—Board members have been asked by congregation members as to why we need an intern. Easy answer is to prepare for future pastors just as with other job fields. Consider PR to help with a short Facebook video of Intern John sharing his thoughts on necessity of such. He may also dedicate a visitor article to the importance of the program.
- Emergency light update—have been fixed and installed. Light in the fellowship hall and altar will be replaced.
- Childcare update—Name changed to Childcare. Our questions will all be answered before we have to decide.
- PPC Retreat on 1/21 at the SPPD (Police Department). Will discuss any upcoming large facility improvements and what members need/want.

New Business:

· Motion was made to approve use of the discretionary fund by Eunice and Lon, the motion was seconded by Donna and Megan. Motion carried.

· Annual report to ELCA. Linda H. and Fred compile. Each board needs to send a report by Jan 10. In addition, the report includes statistics of our congregation such as numbers of members, baptisms, weddings, etc.

Will need to address the definition of what is a member. ELCA defines as at least once per year there is a record of the person communing AND some monetary donation that is recorded.

As a congregation, we are responsible for having accurate records and numbers. Nancy P and Linda H. will create a membership taskforce to assist Fred. Will prepare for discussion at retreat.

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, Feb 7, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Gina Varley. Donna made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Lon. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:16 pm. with The Lord's Prayer led by Nancy Passehl.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.

thanks

Thank you for your recent gift to Lutheran Campus Ministry. Your ongoing support ensures that students at UW-Madison have a community of faith that supports them and accompanies them during their college years.

Students on campus continue to struggle with loneliness, mental health issues and the developmental challenges of the college years. Your support makes it possible for us to care for those students and equip them to care for one another.

Your gift of \$1,000.00 gives us confidence as we gather with students to be blessed, nurtured, and fed through this ministry.

Thank you again.

Pastor Emily, Campus Pastor and Director

***St. John's includes Lutheran Campus Ministry in our yearly Benevolence fund.*

2022 Financial Report

Checking Account Beginning Balance - 1/1/2022 \$ 51,748.54

Receipts For 2022:

Donations Current, Loose, Sponsored, Misc.	\$ 436,251.78
Benevolence, Special Benevolence	\$ 52,239.00
Building Fund, Roof, Furnace, Columbarium	\$ 39,931.00
WELCA	\$ 2,444.72
Memorials	\$ 3,645.00
Youth	\$ 1,866.00
Interest	\$ 31.95
Parish Education	\$ 1,887.44
PR & Social Concerns	\$ 1,374.50
Facility Use	\$ 5,402.40
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 545,073.79</u>

<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Lay Ministry	\$ 9,830.00	\$ 7,555.18
Evangelism	\$ 880.00	\$ 2.76
Stewardship	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,761.19
PR & Social Concerns	\$ 3,968.00	\$ 2,164.04
Parish Education	\$ 14,195.00	\$ 9,432.38
Youth *1	\$ 27,700.00	\$ 1,792.28
Fellowship	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 1,493.50
Properties *2	\$ 52,229.00	\$123,441.96
Administrative Expenses	\$ 382,765.00	\$358,458.89
WELCA	\$ 3,075.00	\$ 2,667.74
Memorials	\$ N/A	\$ 3,075.78
Benevolence	\$ 58,950.00	\$50,949.98
Special Benevolence	\$ N/A	\$25,979.52
Total Expenses	<u>\$558,992.00</u>	<u>\$588,775.20</u>
Transfer to/from other accounts		\$ 21,457.79

Checking Account ending Balance 12/31/2022 \$ 29,504.92

*1 Youth budgeted for a National Youth Gathering which was canceled due to covid.

*2 Furnace replacement was approved by a congregational vote Feb. 6, 2022.

Summary of 2022 Financial Report

	1/1/22 Beginning Balance	Change in Value of Investments	Receipts Interest Dividends	Disburse- ments	Transfers	12/31/2022 Ending Balance
Checking Account	51,748.54		545,073.79	(588,775.20)	21,457.79	29,504.92
Savings Account	153,734.05		763.12		(43,479.58)	111,017.59
Memorial Savings Account	15,198.10		11.72		(7,745.36)	7,464.46
Commonwealth Stocks Account	119,814.23	(26,060.15)	1,828.14		29,767.15	125,349.37
Totals	340,494.92	-26,060.15	547,676.77	-588,775.20	0.00	273,336.34



Happy February Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Lucas Treffert (1)
Gavin Johnson (25)

Jack Conger (25)

Our Sunday School Students:

Mabel Johnson (5)
Avery Brunner (8)
Tenley Sorg (8)
Otis Johnson (13)
Evelyn Hegge (14)
Elston Kelter (19)
Lucy Pickett (21)
Cashton Lane (22)
Kiptyn Suchla (26)

Gage Fournier (6)
Lincoln Ott (8)
Addison Schulenburg (11)
Audrey Conger (14)
Landon Pape (16)
Molly Williams (19)
Hannah Bischoff (22)
Annabelle Sweeney (23)
Mason Williams (27)

Our Youth:

Jonah Richard (6)
Kylie Hutchins (15)
Colin Wernsing (18)
Haylee Goetsch (21)
Ezra Bauer (22)
Audrie Nurkala (28)

Courtney Lautenbach (7)
BrookLynn Baier (16)
Kate Himebauch (19)
Will LaCour (21)
Evelynn Brennan (26)
Kate Wernsing (28)

College and Career-age Young People:

Michael Endres (3)

Molly Ballweg (26)