



Beckett Suchla, 2nd grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

March 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On Feb 19, we received 32 new members onto our official list of active members. Some of these people have been participating in the life of this congregation for some time. Others have more recently started attending. All expressed a sense of welcome from the congregation and all feel as though this place is their place.

During our New Member class, I found out people's church backgrounds. Some had Lutheran roots, whether ELCA or other various Lutheran bodies. Some had Catholic roots and some, other backgrounds. In all cases, those joining found themselves here because of their histories and because they felt St. John's was a place that welcomed them.

Part of welcoming new people into a congregation (or any organization for that matter) involves recognizing that we have various histories and thus various ways of seeing the world. It requires acknowledging that we bring different gifts and see the world in different ways.

The gift of new people joining a group is that new ideas come with them. As a church (the body of Christ) we acknowledge this reality. We realize that every time a new person joins us, we are changed. Sometimes those changes are hardly noticeable. Sometimes they can be seen immediately. But in all cases, we change as we welcome more people into the fellowship of believers we call, St. John's.

One of the joys of being a Lutheran is that we are not required to believe everything that everyone else believes. Rev. Sara Cutter, the keynote speaker at the synod's LEAD event on Feb 11, put it this way, there is a difference between, 'Unity vs. Uniformity.' We are unified by Christ. We are not required to have uniformity in our beliefs. We can have different religious, political, social and other views and still belong to the body of Christ. This is because we JOIN a congregation by our own actions; we ARE JOINED to the body of Christ by the action of God. Joining depends on us; being joined is the work of Jesus.

I invite you to meet our new members and get to know them. I also invite you to understand that while they are new to this place, they have been your siblings in Christ a lot longer!

Shalom,



New members Received

On Sunday, February 19 we welcomed the following people into the St. John's family:

Holly Baier, Audrey Plescia, Giselle Plescia
Amanda Bischoff, Hannah Bischoff, Madelyn Bischoff
Karon Conger, Brian Conger, Audrey Conger, Jack Conger
Jerome Fiene
Tayler Goodwin, Kyle Goodwin, Graham Goodwin
Katelyn Keller, Jake Keller, Beau Keller, Madelyn Keller,
Lainey Keller
Brienne LaBerge, Robert LaBerge, William LaBerge
Ethan Lentz
Ben Meyer, Kim Meyer, Vincent Meyer
Brady Troeller, Sydney Troeller, Anna Troeller
Sara Wasserberg, Harper Wasserberg, Lincoln Wasserberg



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 (c) 963-4706

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

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour

ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 588-3198

Youth Director: Penny Johnson penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org

(w) 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:

Soup	Crackers
Cornbread Mix	Chili Beans
Canned Tomatoes	Cookies

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 March. The day is in parentheses.

Stan Mallon (6)
N1617 Fjord Circle
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Kathy Lester (10)
741 Water Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Larry Sawyer (11)
W14284 Golf Road
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marvin Beuthin (17)
624 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Betty Page (24)
930 Prairie St., Apt. 209
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Martin Ohlsen (25)
E12550 Inspiration Drive
Merrimac, WI 53561

Barb Salvesson (27)
200 Webster St., #2
Sauk City, WI 53583

Bob Wilson (28)
9411 Lakebend Preserve Ct.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135



 **THANK** you!

Dear Church Family,

I have been truly blessed with all the cards, hugs and good wishes you have given me in celebration of my 98th birthday.

St. John's is a wonderful church!

Love to all, Marilyn Larson

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, March 9, at Dorothy Halverson's, 8456 County Rd. Y, Sauk City	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, March 2, in St. John's Library, Ruth Dresser, Hostess	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, March 13, in St. John's Library	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, March 7, in St. John's Library	9:30am

In February, 24 ladies attended Circle Meetings. (One Circle didn't meet because of the weather.) Mary Weeks, Patty Barritt and Kathy Lester led the Bible Study. In March, those same three ladies plus Diane Elsing will be leading the Study. We are now in the middle of a 4-session study on the Ten Commandments. We very much enjoy getting together and having great discussions about our lessons...and if YOU would be interested in joining one of our groups, here are the meeting times and the person to contact for more information:

Lydia Circle meets the 2nd Thursday of every month, contact person is Darlene Holl 608-643-8413.

Martha Circle meets the 1st Thursday of every month, contact person is Ruth Dresser 608-643-3057.

Ruth Circle meets the 2nd Monday of every month, contact person is Marian DeGiovanni 608-643-4514.

Sarah/Mary Circle meets the 1st Tuesday of every month, contact person is Kathy Lester 608-643-4145.

Eunice Yanke (who just observed her 90th birthday) has taken on the challenge of being our President of the Church Women and she would REALLY like to invite ALL of YOU...(it is for the young AND older)...to join one of our Circles. Eunice has been so devoted and very much involved with this program for many, many years! The most important part of being a part of a Circle is studying the Bible and the most fun part is making new friends and being part of a group. There are a lot of other worthwhile and rewarding things we do, such as putting together kits for Lutheran World Relief (Personal Care, Baby, Fabric/Sewing, School Kits), plus we take turns visiting our friends who are home-bound or in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes. It's all very fun and life-enriching.

Ruth Circle is visiting Special Friends during the months of February and March. Martha Circle will visit them in April and May.

We will soon be getting more information about the upcoming Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering which will take place on April 22nd, at Bonnet Prairie Church in Rio. This is an opportunity to meet with ladies from several other Lutheran Churches in this district and is always very enjoyable. There is a meeting, a program and a noon meal. Mark your calendars now. We always carpool so you do not have to worry about transportation.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for April will be on Tuesday, March 28th, at 9:00am.

On March 20th, you should be sure to read the Prayer for Peace found in this [Visitor](#).

Adult Education Schedule

Our study in March will be focused on the upcoming Sunday's Psalm. There **will** be class over Spring Break, March 12. On Sunday, March 26 we will welcome Susan Baumann-Duren to learn more about her work in the Sauk Prairie School District. We meet in the church library at 9:15-10:15am on Sundays.



St. John's Fellowship Board thanks all who help here at St. John's, from doing the smallest task to the grandest!

We invite you and your family to lunch on Sunday, March 12 at 11:45am in the fellowship hall where we will honor you for your dedication and generosity. After the meal you are invited to stay and enjoy some fellowship time with one another while playing cards and board games.

If you feel that you are not a volunteer, (we do think of all who come to St. John's as volunteers) please join us and help to honor our volunteers. ALL are welcome to this free meal and the fun of the day! We hope to see you there!



Lenten Worship Schedule

Lenten Services

Lenten Worship Services are offered each Wednesday of Lent, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 1:00pm and 6:30pm. A lunch will be served before each 1:00pm service at noon. The evening meal will be served at 5:20pm with the exception of March 15 and March 29 when there will be no evening meal served.

Cost of all meals are \$1.00 for senior citizens and \$2.00 for children and adults. All are invited to attend the meals and worship services.

Maundy Thursday worship services will be at 1:00pm and 6:30pm on April 6. A lunch will be served before the 1:00pm service, no evening meal is planned.

Good Friday worship services will be at 1:00pm and 6:30pm on April 7. No meals will be served that day.

Easter Worship Services

St. John's will offer Easter worship services at 7:00, 8:00 and 10:30am on April 9. Services are available in our sanctuary or via Zoom. Please join as you would for any Sunday worship. (A quick way to connect via Zoom is to go to www.stjohnssaukprairie.org and click on the "Join Us Live for Worship" button in the upper righthand corner.)

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

O God, you see that we have no strength in ourselves. Keep us secure in your care, both outwardly and inwardly, and give us peace. Defend us from all adversities which hurt the body, and cleanse us from all evil thoughts which afflict the mind and heart, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Source: Gregorian Sacramentary, 8th Century, Historic Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Ashley and James Schulenburg on the death of Ashley's aunt, LuAnn Welsch.

Audrey and Tom Luetscher on the death of Audrey's brother, Robert Knuteson.

Nancy and Butch Passehl, Marcia Thompson and their families on the death of Nancy and Marcia's aunt, Delores Liegel and also a cousin, Randy Diehl.

Ken and Judy Denu on the death of Ken's mother, Vera Denu.

Macel Magnussen on the death of her sister, Pauline Zabel.



Baptisms

During the month of February, we welcomed two new sisters into the family of Christ through Holy Baptism. Let us celebrate with:

Anna Colette Troeller, daughter of Brady and Sydney (Bankcroft-Hart) Troeller. Anna's sponsors are Robert Lemmer and Gabrielle Bankcroft-Hart. Her congregational sponsors are Craig and Hana Johnson.

Briley Rose Schwarz, daughter of Mitchell and Kristie (Trapp) Schwarz. Briley's sponsors are Brandon Schwarz, Raeann Karish, and Gina and Bryan McFarlin. Her congregational sponsors are Tiffany and Matthew Katzman.



Spring Ahead March 12

Set your clocks ahead one hour on March 12 or better yet – come to the 10:30am worship service and stay for the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Game Day!



Dear Friends in Christ,

I look not back: God knows the fruitless efforts
The watched hours, the sinning and regrets
I leave them all with Him who blots the record
And graciously forgives, and then forgets.

I look not forward: God sees all the future
The road that, short or long, will lead me home
And He will face with me it's every trial
And bear for me the burdens that may come.

I look not round me: Then would fears assail me
So wild the tumult of earth's restless seas
So dark the world, so filled with woe and evil
So vain the hope of comfort and of ease

I look not inward: That would make me wretched
For I have naught on which to stay my trust
Nothing I see save failures and shortcomings
And weak endeavors, crumbling into dust.

But I look up – into the face of Jesus
For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled
And there is joy, and love, and light for darkness
And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.

Author Unknown

Where are you looking? Where is your heart? In your overflowing date book where every last second is planned? In your job where financial stability or instability run your life? In your past where hurts and disappointments walk with you each day? In the future where goals and desires control your life? In your body which is never as "perfect" as you want it to be?

Return to the Lord. Quiet your life. Quiet your schedule. Focus on the journey to the cross with Jesus.

Return to the Lord. Look to Jesus hanging on the cross for you, so that you may know a different kind of life. A life that is free from the importance of planners and money. A life where God's unconditional love and forgiveness continues to rain down upon you even though you are often so undeserving.

Return to the Lord. It's not an easy journey. It's often not pretty. But what a magnificent journey that draws you closer to the One who desires nothing less than "joy, and love, and light for darkness, and perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled."

Return to the Lord.

Blessings,



Young Adult News

Marissa Howard, granddaughter of Marcia and Roger Howard, made the Dean's List at Parkside University in Kenosha, Wisconsin.



First Communion Instruction

First Communion instruction will be Thursday, March 30 at 6pm. 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. Children are welcome to start communing at any time, but we will have a special First Communion Sunday announced in the near future, so the congregation can honor your children in this important milestone! Mark your calendars!

*Thank
You*

Dear St. John's,

Thank you so much for your kind gift to Hope House! Your generous donation of \$400 helps us to continue work with those in need of support and advocacy. Thank you for believing in Hope House and the work that we do.

(This gift was given from the Christmas Cheer fund of St. John's WELCA)

Palm Sunday

Spring is coming. Easter is coming.

Palm Sunday brunch is coming.

When: Sunday, April 2, 2023
Serving: 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

This is always such a fun event and enjoyed by so many. Mark your calendars now to attend!

Please sign up on the poster board on the Kiosk if you would like to bring some of our needed items for this event or if you can volunteer for a portion of the morning. Then be sure to come and enjoy the wonderful food, great fellowship, and our risen Christ.

Fellowship Board

Thank you

The Fellowship Board would like to thank those from our congregation that have donated a coffee urn, bread machines, and several kitchen supplies. Your generosity is so very much appreciated.

THANK YOU

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for inviting Habitat for Humanity to come and visit, welcoming us and pledging to work together! We are excited to work with such caring and kind people.

We also thank you for your recent donation of \$1,000 to put towards the work of Habitat. Your kindness is helping change lives of people in our area. God's richest blessings to you all!

Lisa and Habitat for Humanity

(Our donation is from our Benevolence Fund paid each year to Habitat)

Serving in March

Ushers:

March 5

8:00 a.m.

Gary Tomter
Brett Lautenbach
Parker Pape

10:30 a.m.

Laura Hutching
Ian Quayle

March 12

Lon Kaderavek
Gina Wyttenbach
Lee LaVigne

Deb Westphal
Gerry Westphal

March 19

Cathy Yanke
Lon Kaderavek

Steve Kindschi
Tom Varley

March 26

Lon Kaderavek
Dale Haroldson
Noelle Small

Kaleb Chetwood

Acolytes:

March 5

8:00 a.m.

Ella Stephan

10:30 a.m.

Kylie Hutchins

March 12

Noelle Small

Simon Homp

March 19

Ella Stephan

Ezra Bauer

March 26

Caden Argall

Elio Piccinelli

Readers:

March 5

8:00 a.m.

Crystal Lautenbach

10:30 a.m.

Marian DeGiovanni

March 12

Nancy Kaufman

Jama Graves

March 19

Mary Halweg

Lynn Esser

March 26

John Hines

Bob Nelson

Cantors:

March 5

8:00 a.m.

Becky Weittenhiller

10:30 a.m.

Becky Weittenhiller

March 12

Megan Tarnutzer

Doris Lohr

March 19

Bill Burton

Bill Burton

March 26

Lisa Davis

Janelle/Marv Hupp

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

March 5

Donna Knickmeyer

10:30 a.m.

Clay Hutchins

March 26

Donna Knickmeyer

Communion Set/Clean 8:00 a.m.

March 5

Rich/Jane Calenzo

10:30 a.m.

Bob/Dede Egan

March 12

Darlene Holl

Deb Westphal

Diane Williams

Gerry Westphal

March 19

Evelynn Brennan

Tyler Jorgenson

March 26

Dorothy Halverson

Gwen Ringelstetter

Communion Assistants 8:00 a.m.

March 5 Jayne Carlson
 March 12 Caden Argall
 March 19
 March 26 Roxanne Zick

10:30 a.m.

Gerry Westphal
 Kristin Pape
 Deb Westphal

Greeters: 8:00 a.m.

Mar 5 (Front Doors)
 (Sanctuary) Don/Vi Bohler
 Mar 12 (Front Doors) Don/Vi Bohler
 (Sanctuary) Gina/Todd Wyttenbach
 Mar 19 (Front Doors) Dylan Walker
 (Sanctuary) Parker Frosch
 Mar 26 (Front Doors) Shawn/Melissa
 Ballweg
 (Sanctuary)

10:30 a.m.

Doris Lohr
 Gina/Tom Varley
 Ginny Nimmow
 Ryan/Tyler Jorgenson
 Ella Stephan
 Wolfgang/Diane
 Reich
 Tiffany Haffemann

Technology:

March 5
 March 12
 March 19
 March 26

8:00a.m.

Ellen Jorgensen
 Amy Nelson
 Liz Leith
 Malcolm Leith
 Ellen Jorgensen
 Amy Nelson

10:30 a.m.

Jeff Sandberg
 Nicole Sandberg
 Eric Kaul
 Charlie Kruchten
 Jeff Sandberg
 Nicole Sandberg

Coffee Servers

March 5
 March 12

Dottie Maly
 Fellowship Board/Linda Michaels

Sunday Stewards

March 5
 March 12
 March 19
 March 26

8:00 a.m.

Cathy Yanke
 Cathy Yanke
 Nancy Kaufman
 Nancy Passehl

10:30 a.m.

Ellen Jorgensen
 Linda Michaels
 Ellen Jorgensen
 Sheila Peak-Dittberner

Congregational totals

January 29
 February 5
 February 12
 February 19

Attendance

191
 215
 232
 214

Offering

\$10,940.01
 \$ 7,629.50
 \$10,773.20
 \$ 6,965.96

Sunday School News

Sunday School

The 5th and 6th grade students of Sunday School held their Bake Sale February 12th and were able to raise \$1,291.00. All money raised will go to the ELCA's program of God's Global Barnyard. Thank you to this wonderful congregation for helping the students so generously!

Middle and High School News

Confirmation and Lenten Evening Services

St. John's is excited to have the confirmation students lead some of the Lenten Evening Services! There is no class and no meal on February 22, Ash Wednesday, however students are encouraged to attend this Pastor led service. Students should plan to arrive at 6:00pm on March 1, 8 and 22, for a short lesson. Then, we will attend service, 6:30pm-7:00pm. Grade 7 will lead March 1 service; Grade 9 will lead March 8 service, and; Grade 8 will lead March 22 service. Please note there are no youth activities on March 15 for Spring break.

Save the Date: Affirmation of Baptism

Calling all parents of 9th Graders! Mark your calendars for Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, April 30th at the 10:30 Service. Parents, Mentors and Confirmands are asked to arrive at 10am to prepare for service. We'll have a small reception and professional photographs after the service. More information will be coming soon, stay tuned!

Graduation Sunday

Join St. John's as we recognize the high school graduating class of 2023! We will honor our graduates during the 10:30 Service on May 21, 2023. If you are the parent of a high school senior, please plan to have your student attend service in their graduation cap and gown. Prior to service, we will recognize the graduates during a reception with members of the congregation. More information will be coming to students soon.

Agrace Offers Virtual Grief Support Group in March

In March, Agrace is offering **Bridges**, a professionally led, virtual grief support group. Bridges is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. Meetings are held every other Wednesday via Zoom. In March, meetings are March 8 and 22, from 9:30am to 11am.

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.



Stock the Schools

In cooperation with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's is collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. Each month we 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. March's items are: individual bags of pretzels, Goldfish crackers or Ritz crackers, and new or gently used leggings or sweatpants. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations.

Thanks

Dear St. John's Church Members,

Thank you for your recent donation to the SPSD School Pantries. So many of our students need a snack during the day as they wait for lunch. Many come to school hungry.

Thank you also for the toothbrushes, toothpaste and other items. We hand these out to our students as well as new families who have just moved to Sauk Prairie (leaving much of their personal items behind). Thank you for ALWAYS remembering our students' needs.

Sincerely, Susan Baumann-Duren, SPSD Social Worker

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: February 7, 2023

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

Absent: Gina Varley, Jonah Richard

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K 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 Anne.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer report:

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

- The annual audit was completed on Jan 25th and the financial summary was approved as presented. The year-end reports are shown in the Feb Visitor and the St. John's annual report. For 2022, expenses exceeded the income by \$43K. The cost of the new furnaces is one reason for this.
- The Pastor's Discretionary Fund was renamed the Community Benevolence Fund per the PPC approval.
- Funds were transferred from the savings account to the sabbatical accounts.
- January income was down and will hopefully start getting caught up in February.

A motion to approve the financial report was made Linda and seconded by Megan. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- Entry bulletin board pictures of PPC members for March/May 2023.
- Annual report 2022 submitted.

- New member reception Feb 19, 2023
- Volunteer reception March 12, 2023. Invites distributed.
- Guest book update
- Encourage members to volunteer for services with communion setup, readers, ushers, entry door greeters, etc.

Fellowship: Linda Michaels reported:

- Feb. 19 – New member reception
Marilyn Larson’s family has provided us with \$200 to purchase a cake for Marilyn’s 98th birthday. Also, to buy something special to celebrate our new members.
- March 12 – Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and games
- April 2 – Palm Sunday brunch
- Memorials is purchasing a new coffee machine

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Mary Weeks has volunteered to be Communion Assistant Coordinator.

Parish Education: No report

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- No new information to report

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

- Discussed Just Bakery Sale - pausing February. Just Bakery will be sold again on March 12th between services.
- Discussed Lawn Signs. Action Item: (25) signs are on order and discussing distribution strategy
- February Educational Topic is Affordable Housing. Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin River Area will have a presentation table on February 19th.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- Work is continuing on the Procedure Manual.
- The annual financial review for St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church was completed on January 25, 2023 with the following unpaid volunteers: Kari Apel, Crystal Lautenbach, Jon Caflisch, Gina Wyttenbach.

Thanks to the team and thank you Donna Nelson for a job well done!

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- Combined Circle Meeting on January 12 had 28 ladies attend, Bible Study led by Intern John

- Candle-lighting Memorial Ceremony was also held January 12. We remembered those people who passed away in 2022
- Bible Study is "Ten Commandments: Reviving the Soul"
- Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering will be April 22 at Bonnet Prairie Church in Rio
- Invitation to ALL women of St. John's to join a Circle

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- The Youth went snow tubing on January 27th and had a great time!
- Alive Youth Night is taking place February 8th in lieu of class.
- In February we are collecting items to create Kindness Bags for the food pantry.
- Book drive taking place until noon on February 26th 8th grade and younger.
- March 8th at 5pm we will fill the bags at church.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report

Youth member at Large: Jonah Richard reported:

- Winter sports are wrapping up and moving into tournament play. All the teams are doing very well.
- The spring sports' meeting is February 27 and registration starts February 17.
- The Show Choir has been doing very well at competitions.
- The end of the 2nd trimester is March 9.
- Spring break is March 10-19.
- Planning ahead - graduation is June 2nd.

Executive Director Comments:

- No report

Pastor/Intern Reports

Fred's Report:

- Members from 1848 Construction Co, along with a design firm, came to look over our facility to prepare a quote for the Community Childcare Committee. Given that this proceeds to a construction phase, all funds to complete renovations would be paid through grants and private donations.
- The annual report is being prepared and will be available sometime in Feb.
- The PPC retreat was conducted at the SP Police Department Facility on Jan 21st.

- Ash Wed is Feb 22. Common Ground Lutheran Church of Lodi will be attending our worship services. We also will be having several local pastors involved in our Ash Wed, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. All funds collected during Lent will be going to the SP Food Pantry.
- Our Confirmation youth will be attending a Synod Youth Event on Feb 8 at Dekorra Lutheran Church in Poynette. This is the second such event the synod has organized for this age group. The event will take the place of our confirmation classes at St. John's.
- On Feb 11, 7-8 members of our PPC will be attending the Synod Lead Event. This daylong program features a speaker who will give two presentations along with providing a variety of small group sessions on various leadership topics.
- I am teaching three sessions for new members (Jan 29, Feb 5 and 12). New members will be received on Feb 19 at 8am service.

Sally's Report:

- Met with someone who is considering the Parish Ed Chair. She will get back to me by the end of the next week.
- Confirmation 2/8 will be held at Dekorra Lutheran for a Synod-wide youth event. Both Pastors, Penny, and Dave (8th grade teacher) will be attending as well.
- Penny is now the main teacher for the 7th grade confirmation class with my assistance as needed.
- We are awaiting a packet of information from Lutherdale Bible Camp regarding Vacation Bible School before making a decision for this summer. More details to come.
- Penny has been sending cards signed by the staff to students who have been involved in special activities (solos, sports, drama, etc.) through school and the community as a sign of our celebration and support. I am grateful for Penny's outreach to all of our students. If you know of things our students are up to, please make sure you let her know!
- I am currently leading sessions on God's work/presence in our suffering through the study of a few religious cliches. At the end of February, we will start a Bible study of the Psalms for several weeks.

Old Business:

- Covid updates—numbers continue to be good!
- Parish Ed Chair update—see Sally's notes
- LGBTQ update—no update

- Intern committee member update. New committee member will be Derek Rosenstiel. Group will currently pause as we settle and establish a holding pattern temporarily.
- Daycare update—Childcare committee is creating a bid for a business plan to be created. Currently will be creating the plan as though St. John's is the location. No other viable locations are being considered at this time. A construction bid has been requested. Next discussion is at the school board meeting.
- PPC Retreat Follow-up—overall resulting challenge was to increase our hospitality to new and existing people and that starts with the pastors, staff, and PPC members. Nancy K challenged each of us to chat with more people at services. In providing individual reports, about 75% of the committee attended services since retreat and reached out to varying degrees and received mostly positive responses from people. While it may have felt a little 'weird' or 'out of our comfort zone', it seems to make a difference. Roger proposed a sub-committee to discuss hospitality.

New Business:

- Intern Update— The congregation received a letter from Wartburg Seminary, a letter from the Internship Team Chair, and a letter from Intern John regarding John's internship ending
- Devotion sign-up for Q2 thru Q4 2023--completed
- Sunday Steward sign-up 2023--completed
- 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, March 7, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Cathy. Lon made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Eunice. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:56 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



Happy March Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

August Zasada (13)	Maverick Fournier (14)
Zachariah Kaul (21)	Charlie Herschleb (23)
Estelle Haffemann (24)	Audrey Plescia (24)
Maggie Johnson (25)	Beatrix Schreiber (27)

Our Sunday School Students:

Maximus Ederer (8)	Grace Lohr (9)
Cataleya Lane (11)	Preston Ott (12)
Adeline Newman (13)	Campbell Kelter (15)
Olivia Naggs (17)	Micah Bennett (19)
Ethan Gilchrist (19)	August Maestri (19)
Kendra Frey (29)	Calvin Ganser (29)

Our Youth:

Ben Levers (3)	Sean Jager (10)
JJ Wolfe (13)	Ethan Kolnik (15)
Lillian Ott (17)	Byrce Ballweg (18)
Joe Frosch (21)	Eliot Carlson (22)
Eamon Walsh (23)	Isaiah Thompson (24)
Ethan Duren (26)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Drew Marshall (11)	Alex Kinnamon (13)
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