



Prairie du Sac, WI

April 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During the middle of March, three long-time members of our congregation died: Marvin Beuthin, Paul Bringle and Jeannine Robertson. They were active members in our congregation for decades. They blessed me and they blessed our congregation.

Question. Who has blessed you? Think about it, who has blessed you? Whether you are nine or ninety-nine, people have come into your life and blessed it. This is true for us all. You know who these people are as soon as they move away, die or somehow are no longer part of your life.

The other question I want you to ask is this, "Who have you blessed?" Are you surprised at the question? You shouldn't be, because you are a blessing to someone. You may not know it, but it is true. You are a blessing to someone.

When I asked, "Who is a blessing to you?" Who did you think about? What person came to mind? Now ask yourself, "Do they know it?" If you answer "no," then ask "Why?" It may have to do with the fact that you haven't told them. And if that is true, could you imagine someone not telling you that same truth? Could it be possible that neither you or they have told others, not because it isn't true, but rather because you or they may feel uncomfortable saying that truth out loud.

We have been both a blessing to others and have been blessed by others. This truth might remain hidden, but that makes it only sad that you and others don't know it. But it doesn't mean it isn't true. It just means it is hidden from you and from others.

Let me suggest that we stop hiding this truth. Let me suggest that April be a month where you and I take time to let those who have blessed us know their importance in our lives. Let us remember that life is short and that doing today what we know is important, will make tomorrow a better place in which to live.

I wonder how many days you have gone without knowing how important you are to those around you? I wonder how many days have gone by for those who have blessed you without their knowledge of that truth? Let's agree to make that number zero.

Thank you for how you have blessed me and my family. I have so many stories of grace and forgiveness that have come from serving as one of your pastors. In April I will work on making sure you know that.

Shalom,



Dear members of St. John's.

We have received notice that we will not get an intern for 2023-24. Here is what Rev. Stacey Nalean-Carlson, Director of Contextual Education at Wartburg Seminary said:

"Dear Pastor Fred, I deeply regret that we do not have an intern to place with St. John's for the 2023-2024 academic year. With so many students either already placed in Collaborative Learning sites or needing a geographical restriction, we had a very small pool of students this year to divide among many excellent sites. I'm so sorry."

Every year the seminary deals with either more sites than they need or fewer sites than needed. Making good matches is their foremost objective. I am sorry we will not receive a student for this coming year. Please keep students, the seminary and all the internship sites in your prayers as they adjust to the placement news that all of us have just received.

First Communion Instruction

Did you miss the First Communion class in March but are interested in having your child begin communing? The pastors are happy to meet with families individually to talk more about First Communion! Please call 608-643-2439 or email fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org or sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org



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

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Prairie du Sac,
Wisconsin 53578



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

Applesauce
Peanut Butter
Tuna

Hamburger/Tuna Helper
Pudding Cups
Shampoo

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 April. The day is in parentheses.

Eldor Fruehling (3)
1425 Hemlock St., Apt 107
Sauk City, WI 53583

Helen Bjelde (5)
S7534 Oak Road
Merrimac, WI 53561

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

Eldoris Lovell (12)
614 Eagle Crest Court
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jake Degenhardt ((16)
612 Eagle Crest Court
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jean Knuth (23)
160 – 7th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

LaVonne Knuth (29)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583



Roger Allen (30)
6890 Breunig Road
Mazomanie, WI 53560

♥ **THANK you!**

Thanks to all involved,

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to let all of you-friends, neighbors and church family, know how pleased I was to have had a very nice 90th birthday celebration. You are all in my daily prayers.

Love, Eunice Yanke

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, April 13, at Dorothy Halverson's, 9456 County Rd. Y, Sauk City	9:30am
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, April 6, in St. John's Library, Marilyn Herschleb, Hostess	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, April 10, at Dede Egan's, 521 Madison Street, Sauk City	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, April 11, in St. John's Library	9:30am

In March, 17 ladies attended Circle Meetings; (two Circles did not meet.) Mary Weeks and Kathy Lester led the Bible Studies for the two Circles that met in March. In April, Diane Elsing, Barb Salveson, Patty Barritt and Kathy Lester will be leading our study. We will have the last of our 4-part study on the Ten Commandments at the April Circle meetings.

Any new ladies who would be interested in attending any of our Circle meetings would be very welcome! If you would like more information, please contact one of the following members:

Lydia Circle contact is Darlene Holl 608-643-8431

Martha Circle contact is Ruth Dresser 608-643-3057

Ruth Circle contact is Marian DeGiovanni 608-643-4514

Sarah/Mary Circle contact is Kathy Lester 608-643-4145

We subscribe to a magazine called Gather and it contains our Bible Studies, as well as a mix of faith-in-life articles, devotions and stories written by Christian women of all ages. We all very much enjoy our studies and discussions and are hoping for more women to become involved.

The Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering will be held at Bonnet Prairie Lutheran Church, 3694 Old F Road in Rio on Saturday, April 22nd. The speaker will be Deb Bauer from Hope House of Baraboo. Deb Bauer is the Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator for Hope House of South-Central Wisconsin. Deb is committed to her role at Hope House, which is educating the public on topics including Hope House services, domestic violence, sexual abuse, elder abuse and healthy aging. She recruits and works with volunteers and assists with fund-raising. We have always done all we can to support Hope House and we know this will be very interesting to hear about. Their mission is to prevent abuse and to support victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Hope House is always in need of the items listed below. If you would like to donate any of these items, bring them to our church and we will take them with us when we go to the meeting in Rio on April 22nd. Anything you can donate will be very much appreciated.

- Non-bleach toilet bowl cleaner
- Paper towels
- Dishwasher detergent
- Lysol Laundry Sanitizer
- Individually packaged snacks, such as fruit snacks, granola bars, cookies, crackers
- Used cell phones (they get recycled and are reissued as 911 phones)
- New socks all sizes: women, men, girls, boys
- New underwear all sizes: women, men, girls, boys

Registration for the Gathering is from 8:30-9:30am. Lunch is included for \$10. **Reservations must be in by April 17th**. Call the church office if you would like to attend. (If anyone has special dietary needs, tell us when you make reservations.) We will carpool and you should be at the church by 7:50am if you want a ride.

We are planning an All-Circle Picnic for June 2023.

Ruth Circle has been visiting Special Friends during the months of February and March. Martha Circle will be visiting them during April and May.

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

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for May will be on Tuesday, April 25th at 9:00am at the church.

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Dear Jesus, I need your peace. I believe that you died for my sins, and that God raised you from the dead so that by believing in you I can have peace with God and life in your Name. Forgive me for allowing the cares of this world to obscure my spiritual vision. Keep me focused on you and your love. Help me to be confident in that love so that I may share it with my neighbors. In your holy name, Amen.



Palm Sunday and Breakfast

Palm Sunday worship services will be held at 8:00am and 10:30am on April 2. We offer in the sanctuary services and via Zoom. We also will have Sunday School that day at 9:15am.

AND we will bring back our Palm Sunday Breakfast! This is a free breakfast meal for all to enjoy. Serving begins at 8:30am and continues until 10:30am. The menu includes: egg, cheese and ham souffle (vegetarian and gluten-free options are available), fresh fruit, coffee cakes and beverages. Everyone is invited. If you will be attending Sunday School, please feel free to move to the front of the line to be able to get to class in a timely manner.



Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Worship Services

We will hold Maundy Thursday worship services on April 6 at 1:00 and 6:30pm. Both services are offered in the sanctuary and on Zoom. Come to this very moving experience centered around Christ's sharing of the bread and wine. A light lunch will be served at noon before the afternoon service. All are invited.

Good Friday is April 7 and we will have two worship services that day as well, one at 1:00pm and one at 6:30pm, both also available in St. John's and on Zoom.

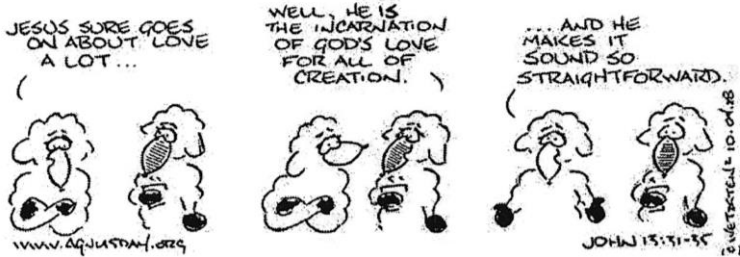


Easter Worship Services

St. John's will hold Easter worship services on Sunday, April 9. We will have an Easter Sunrise service at 7:00am and Easter Celebration services at 8:00am and 10:30am. All are invited to join us in the sanctuary or via Zoom for these services. Come and praise the risen Lord!



Dear Friends in Christ,



Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org"

Jesus does indeed go on a lot about love. And it seems like it should be so straightforward, doesn't it? But we're not used to that kind of love and yet that's precisely the kind of love that is showered upon us by God in Christ.

A real love.

Love that stands the test of time. Love that not only survives disappointments and hardships, but continues to grow and thrive. Love that not only puts up with betrayal, but looks the betrayer in the face and still proclaims a love so fierce and so enduring that nothing can shake it.

I don't know about you, but that's the kind of love I want, I need in my life. That's the kind of love that fills us up to the point that our cup is overflowing so much that we need to share it with others because we don't know what to do with it all.

That is God's love.

What a beautiful invitation we have this Holy Week and the season of Easter. To know, to embrace, to trust God's love so much that we can't help but share it.

You are loved, my friends. Intensely and deeply. Not because you deserve it. Not because you've earned it. Just because you are God's beloved. You belong to God. So just as you are loved, you also should love one another. John 13:31-35

In Christ's love,

Sally

Adult Education in April:

We will not meet for Adult Ed on Sundays, April 2 (Palm Sunday) and April 9 (Easter). Class will resume on Sunday, April 16 with Pastor Fred leading a session on Death and Dying. Peter Heide will be teaching April 23, April 30 and May 7 on the topic of "White Christian Nationalism". All are welcome to join the discussions at 9:15am in the church library.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

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

Arthur Ness, Paul's family and friends on the death of Paul Bringle. Arthur was Paul's cousin.

David and Madonna Robertson and their extended family on the death of David's mother, Jeannine Robertson.

Patty and Steve Barritt on the death of Patty's brother-in-law, Jim Oertel.

The family and many friends of Marvin Beuthin.

Dale Clason and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Dean Sanftlebean.

The family and friends of Bonnie McGuine.

Audrey Luetscher on the death of her husband, Tom.

Kathy Bruckert, family and friends of Shirley Bruckert. Kathy was a niece of Shirley.



New Grandbaby

We rejoice with Bill Wardwell and Jamie Finch on the birth of their granddaughter, Ivy Marie Wardwell.



JUST BAKERY
A JustDane Initiative

Just Bakery

Just Bakery treats will be available for purchase on Sunday, April 16 between services. Please support this very worthwhile program.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Offering

Our Good Gifts Sunday School offering project funds will be used to provide livestock, clinic visits, clean water, school supplies and much more for our siblings in Christ across the globe. Our students will vote on how to allocate the money at the end of the year.

We will be doing a final collection of our coin banks (aka barns) on April 16. Having said that, feel free to bring in your offering earlier if that works better for your schedules.

Thank you for allowing our young people to be a part of something that aids our neighbors around the world!

- Miranda Jager, Joanna Jones, and the Parish Education Board

Summer Camps

If you are interested in registering for a Lutheran Summer Camp, here is some information that may be of interest to you. The two most popular spots for our congregation are Lutherdale and Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Both have excellent facilities and wonderful programs.

Lutherdale Summer Camp is located near Elkhorn, Wisconsin, and offers waterfront activities, field games, archery, the farm, low & high challenge course activities, and opportunities for people of all ages to connect with nature. Their team provides a vibrant ministry of hospitality year-round. Sugar Creek Bible Camps are open to all ages, offering 17 summer programs, plus retreat ministries. Sugar Creek is located on 660 acres in the bluffs and coulees of the beautiful Driftless area of Southwestern Wisconsin. For more information on any Lutheran summer camp, please see the Youth bulletin board, or stop by the Youth Director office.

Before you register for camp, please contact Penny at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org to learn about available financial assistance, in support of your youth's faith experiences.

Easter Break

There will not be Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday, April 9. We will meet again the following week. Sunday School is quickly coming to an end! May 7 is our last day.

Middle and High School News

Affirmation of Baptism

We are excited to celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism for our 9th Grade students! This year's Affirmation of Baptism will be 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. If your 9th Grade student cannot attend, please email Penny before Noon on April 17th at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Graduation Sunday

St. John's will honor our High School graduating seniors on Sunday May 21st at the 10:30 Service. If you are the parent of a high school senior, please plan to arrive with your student, in their graduation cap and gown, at 10am for a reception with members of the congregation. We are proud to celebrate this milestone in the lives of our St. John's young adults.

6th Grade Confirmation Orientation

Is your student currently enrolled as a sixth grader, and ready to begin the confirmation program at St. John's next Fall? Then, you should plan to attend the Confirmation Orientation on Wed, May 3 at 6pm. Both you and your 6th Grade student should attend orientation to register, learn about program expectations, and get a jump start on the opportunities that will begin in summer. If you are unable to attend on Wed, May 3, please contact Penny Johnson at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org as soon as possible.



Stock the Schools

As a community project, 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. April's items are: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Shampoo/Conditioner and Lotion. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations.

Serving in April

<u>Ushers:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
April 2	Dale Haroldson Lon Kaderavek Lee LaVigne	John Mast Ellen Mast Graysen Dunn
April 9 Easter	<u>7:00 a.m.</u> Gina and Todd Wyttenbach Butdh Passehl Nancy Passehl Joslyn Schultz	Gerry Westphal Deb Westphal Kaleb Chetwood
April 16	Duane Larson Kim Larson Parker Frosch	Gerry Westphal Deb Westphal
April 23	Sophia Hanson Gina Wyttenbach Nancy Kaufman	Graysen Dunn Tom Varley Bob Egan
April 30 Affirmation Sunday	Steve Kindschi Joslyn Schultz	Bill Burton Kaleb Chetwood

<u>Acolytes:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
April 2	Noelle Small	Kylie Hutchins
April 9 Easter	Noelle Small	Ezra Bauer
April 16	Ella Stephan	Elio Piccinelli
April 23	Simon Homp	Elio Piccinelli
April 30 Affirmation	Ella Stephan	Kylie Hutchins

<u>Assisting Ministers</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
April 2		Clay Hutchins
April 30		Clay Hutchins

<u>Readers:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
April 2	Carrie Richard	Carol Benson
April 9 Easter	<u>7:00 a.m.</u> Dale Haroldson Gary Tomter	Doris Lohr
April 16	Marilyn Herschleb	Jude Hanna
April 23	Mary Halweg	Kathy Lovell
April 30 Affirmation	Patty Barritt	Lynn Esser

<u>Cantors:</u>	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
April 2	Kids of the Kingdom	Kids of the Kingdom
April 9 Easter	<u>7:00 a.m.</u> Senior Choir Senior Choir	Senior Choir
April 16	Melani Wheeler	Melani Wheeler
April 23	Chris Stephan	Chris Stephan
April 30 Affirmation	Connie Burton	Connie Burton

<u>Communion Set/Clean</u>		<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
April 2		Jayne Carlson	Barb Salvesson
April 6	Maundy Thursday	<u>1:00 p.m.</u>	Diane Williams
		<u>6:30 p.m.</u>	Marilyn Herschleb
April 9	Easter	<u>7:00 a.m.</u>	Jayne Carlson
		Marilyn Herschleb	Gerry/Deb Westphal
April 16		George Colby	Tyler Jorgenson
April 23		Rich/Jane Calenzo	Ginny Nimmow
April 30	Affirmation	Deb Corrao	Jude Hanna

<u>Communion Assistants</u>		<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
April 2		Roxanne Zick	Gerry Westphal
April 9	Easter	<u>7:00 a.m.</u>	Mary Weeks
		Caden Argall	Gina Varley
April 16		Micah Boerger	Brooke Braund
April 23		Roxanne Zick	Kathy Lovell
April 30	Affirmation	Roxanne Zick	Deb Westphal

<u>Greeters:</u>		<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
April 2	(Sanctuary)	D/V Bohler	Doris Lohr
	(Front doors)	J/P Schmidt	T/G Varley
Easter	<u>7:00 a.m.</u>	(Sanctuary)	G/T Wyttenbach
April 9	(Sanctuary)	D/V Bohler	T/M Haffemann
	(Front doors)	W/D Reich	J/E Mast
April 16	(Sanctuary)	Micah Boerger	R/T Jorgenson
	(Front doors)	Dylan Walker	Brooke Braund
April 23	(Sanctuary)	G/T Wyttenbach	T/G Varley
	(Front doors)	S/C Sprecher	J/E Mast
April 30	(Sanctuary)	S/H Kindschi	G/D Westphal
	(Front doors)	S/C Sprecher	W/D Reich

<u>Technology Team</u>		<u>8:00a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
April 2		Ellen Jorgensen	Sean Jager
		Amy Nelson	Charlie Kruchten
April 9	Easter	<u>7:00 a.m.</u>	Lisa Davis, Amy Nelson
			J/N Sandberg
April 16		Ellen Jorgensen	Eric Kaul
			Charlie Kruchten
April 23		Liz Leith	Alyssa Himebauch
		Malcolm Leith	Sean Jager
April 30	Affirmation	Ellen Jorgensen	Jeff Sandberg
		Lisa Davis	Nicole Sandberg

Coffee Servers

April 2	Palm Sunday Breakfast
April 9 Easter	Donna Nelson
April 16	Josie Fentress, Cora and Sylvie Miller
April 23	Cheri Kehl, Karen Bader
April 30 Affirmation	Linda Michaels

Congregational totals

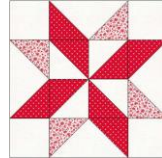
Attendance

Offering

February 26	234	\$ 4,940.00
March 5	222	\$11,169.00
March 12	144	* \$60,708.00
March 19	213	\$ 9,045.00

**includes a special gift of \$50,000.00*

Thank you for your continued support, Stewardship Board



From St. John's Quilters

The St. John's quilters thank you for your generous donations. We've completed over 200 quilts in our current cycle, which will end in September. Large pieces of fabric, especially gently-used sheets, continue to be our greatest ongoing need. We also welcome helping hands on Wednesday mornings. No sewing skills are needed! We are grateful for your continued support of our global ministry for God's people in need.



Book Drive Challenge

The results are in from our friendly Book Drive Challenge between the local churches. There were 1,039 books over all. St John's had 596 books UCC had 443. UCC says "Thank you for all of the generous help!

And the real winner is Hope House! All the books will be delivered to Hope House of Baraboo, where they will be put to good use comforting those that seek the services of Hope House.

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: March 7, 2023

Present:

Donna Nelson, Nancy Kaufman, Nancy Passehl, Fred Rilling, Sally Williams, Lon Kaderavek, Jonah Richard, Cathy Yanke, Linda Michaels, Ellen Jorgensen, Sheila Dittberner, Anne Klinkner

Absent: Gina Varley, Megan Tarnutzer, Roger Seymour, Eunice Yanke

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 5:57 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Lon and seconded by Linda. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Cathy.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer report:

The committee reviewed and discussed the February 2023 Treasurer Report submitted by Donna Nelson.

- Income did not meet expenses for the month of February and a transfer of \$15K was made from savings to pay all bills.
- To compare, February 2023 income exceeded February 2022 by \$9K.
- Discussion regarding increase in income is needed. Will inform congregation members and educate about alternative giving methods via text and automatic donations. Will continue discussion for ideas.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- New member reception—awaiting a few member pics to post on front entry board
- PPA Members pics posting May 2023
- Volunteer Reception March 12, 2023. Invites have been distributed
- Guest book updated

- Continue to remind/encourage participation in services, communion set up, etc
- Discussion of Evangelism Board Chairperson options (target Aug/Sept 2023)

Fellowship: Linda Michaels reported:

- We had a great turn out for the New Member Installation and birthday celebration for Marilyn Larson. Again, we wish to thank the Larson family for the donation to cover the expense of the cake and treats for people to share to celebrate our new members.
- This next Sunday is our Volunteer Luncheon. Please encourage people to come. We will be serving coffee as usual after the first service and then lunch will be served after the 10:30 service. This will be followed by board and card games.
- April 2nd brings Palm Sunday and our brunch. The sign-up board is on the kiosk.
- Upcoming events:
 - o April 30th – Affirmation of Baptism
 - o May 21 (we think) – Celebrate our graduates
 - o Sept. 6 – Pastor Fred's 25th anniversary

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Jennifer Sawle will sell Easter flower orders between services on Feb. 26th and March 6th. Purchasing from Piggly Wiggly as usual.
- Discussed pros and cons of online sign up. Overall the program is working fairly well.
- Welcomed Mary Weeks as communion assistant coordinator.
- Still looking for someone for usher coordinator.

Parish Education:

See Sally's report.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Thinking of organizing a workday in May if a sufficient work list shows there is enough to do
- There is a leak on the roof around new duct work that will be fixed

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

- Discussed Just Bakery will be sold March 12th between services.
- Discussed Lawn Signs. (25) are on order and discussing distribution strategy
- March Educational Topic is School Social Worker and Youth Homelessness Awareness

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- The Stewardship Committee continues to work on the Procedure Manual.
- In March we will also review the results of the annual Financial Review completed in January, 2023.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- No report submitted

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- Tomorrow evening (3/8) the youth will be creating Kindness Bags from the donations collected. They will then be delivered to the food pantry.
- Affirmation of Baptism is April 30th at late service
- Graduation Sunday is May 21 with a celebration between services.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report submitted

Youth member at Large: Jonah Richard reported:

- Spring break is March 10-19
- 3rd trimester starts March 20
- Winter sports are all done. Boys swimming, wrestling and gymnastics had individuals compete in the state championships.
- Due to all the snow days the district is making a plan to make up the hours if needed, based on minimum number of hours for the grade level. High School is cancelling most of the remaining High School only early releases on Wednesdays.
- Show choir finished their performances this past weekend. Solo and ensembles
- March is Youth Art Month and the exhibit at the River Arts Center gallery is open until April 6th.

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.
- Several of the PPC and church staff attended the Synod LEAD event in Middleton on Saturday February 11th . We all attended different breakouts that we discuss at the PPC meeting.
- The exit lights have been replaced in the building and are up to code.
- We had 32 new members join the church in February.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Fred's Report:

- A second walk through has been scheduled on March 8 for the Childcare group looking at St. John's as a possible site.
 - St. John's 2022 annual report has been completed and will be available as soon as it is printed. Copies will be available at church.
 - Ash Wed services were cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Thanks to Linda for sending out the bulletin via email (and snail mail) and thanks to Lisa Lee for posting her sermon. Lisa is on staff at Common Ground Lutheran Church in Lodi.
- Our Confirmation youth attended a Synod Youth Event on Feb 8 at Dekorra Lutheran Church in Poynette. It was well done and well received. A little over 200 youth from our synod were in attendance.
 - Internship placement announcements are normally made mid-March. I look forward to receiving news that we will have another intern starting the summer for the 2023-24 school year.
 - We welcomed 32 new members into our congregation on Feb 12.
 - Thanks for your support of our 5-6th grade youth as they raised over \$1200 for the ELCA Good Gifts farm project.
 - In order to aid in producing our monthly newsletter in a timely manner, we will no longer publish the lists of those serving as ushers, greeters, readers and so on. *(As of the printing of this Visitor, this decision has been put on hold for the time being.)* This will eliminate the issue of not having all the names by the 20th of the month, and thus having empty spots in the Visitor. It will also give those in charge of finding volunteers, more time to do so. Names will still need to be sent to Linda for the Sunday bulletins; we just will not print them in the Visitor. Along with this change, we are also going to hold to our policy of needing material for the Visitor by the 20th of the month. There are times when Linda is asked for extensions, material comes in late or Linda contacts individuals after the 20th since their material has not yet arrived. This creates more work and delays the production of the Visitor. The 20th of the month will now be the last day materials will be accepted. These two changes will alleviate delays and reduce the time spent producing the Visitor.

Sally's Report:

- Penny is leading all confirmation students in a combined session, with the support of Pastor Fred and Dave Homp, for the 30 minutes before Lenten services begin. Last week was a great success. Thank you to Donna Nelson and other volunteers for all the hard work planning, preparing, and cleaning up the Wednesday meals.

- A big thank you to the 5th and 6th graders, John and Linda Hines, and Tammy Frey for their work in bringing back the bake sale. They raised over \$1,000 to go toward their offering project - ELCA Good Gifts. They will vote on what to purchase with their total offering near the end of the Sunday School year.
- Communication and planning are underway for Affirmation of Baptism (April 30) and Graduation Sunday (May 21).
- After further discussion with Lutherdale we have decided not to partner with them this summer due to schedule conflicts. Parish Ed is meeting to brainstorm some other options for Bible School this summer.
- I am leading a series in Adult Ed on the Psalms. This has been well attended and the conversations have been very meaningful.
- Pastor Fred and I will lead a First Communion meeting on Thursday, March 30 for all interested.

Old Business:

- Covid updates. This topic will be removed from further monthly meetings. Returning to the handshake of peace will begin with stated options to shake or not by each person.
- Parish Ed Chair update. Committee will continue without a chair.
- Intern committee member update. Transition from intern proceeded smoothly. We will hear in March if we will have a new intern this year. St Johns is a good intern program offering future pastors a solid start before their first call. The time to consider discontinuing participation each year is during budgeting and final decision by December of the previous year.
- Childcare update. Second walk-through with architect/builder will be held March 8 along with Jeff Wright. Concern regarding religious symbols remaining in place in the potential rooms is no longer an issue. Timeline of project progression are in flux. Jeff estimates a plan may be in place fall 2023. There are financial donors that may assist in making the project possible. At this time, St John's is the only site being considered.
- PPC Retreat Follow-up. Continue to consciously be more welcoming and involved in greeting others. Attendance is slowly increasing along with fellowship for coffee. Higher attendance at adult ed as well.

New Business:

- Lead Synod Symposia review. Largest group from St. John's to attend since Fred has been here. Good program. Worship service included great participation and music. Combined new and old music with organ and guitar, screens and paper programs. Keynote

speaker reminded us that COVID taught us to not be afraid to try new things and if they don't work, change it and try something else. Be courageous.

Parking Lot (items for future discussion)

· LGBTQ update from Lead Synod event Reconciling In Christ.

Three of us attended this workshop at the conference and we will continue to explore in coming months.

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Devotion will be given by Donna Nelson. Donna made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Sheila. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:17 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy Kaufman

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.

Agrace Offers new Volunteer Orientation

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, April 14, 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 April

In April, 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 April, meetings are April 12 and 26, 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) 327-7110 with questions or to register.



Happy April Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Emery Trager (4) Ethan Ballweg (15)
Bennett Robertson (18)

Our Sunday School Students:

Henry Ganser (1)	Elianna Greene (4)
Sofia Stephan (4)	Zeke Kaul (5)
Tatum Sorg (5)	Jack Schulenburg (10)
Hank Lochner (15)	Reid Hart (16)
Henry Hart (17)	Emily Ramirez (17)
Lyla Ballweg (19)	Lauren Schulenburg (21)
Isabelle Jolicoeur (23)	Cora Miller (29)

Our Youth:

Carter Kruchten (3)	Gillian Fritsch (10)
Meadow Liedtke (15)	Charlie Homp (22)
Andrew Deuman (23)	Wyatt Frey (28)
Graysen Dunn (29)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Ava Roach (4) Scott Graves (16)