

Leah Kruchten, 6th grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

May 2023

Dear siblings in Christ,

St. John's has been served by good pastors over the years. In fact, all congregations can point to pastors who have served them well.

St. John's also has a number of pastors who are members of this congregation. Some have retired, some are here in-between calls and some serve in pastoral care positions in non-congregational settings. The following is a list by ordination month of the pastors in our congregation.

MAY – Peter Heide was ordained on May 3, 1997. He served congregations in Everest, KS; Hanover Park, IL; Leland and Rock Springs, WI; Baraboo, WI; and Albany, WI. He also was an Interim Pastor in Cambridge, WI; Boscobel, WI and Morrisonville, WI. Peter retired in November of 2022. Peter has also served the larger church through his teaching in the national Diakonia Program, publishing articles and extensive work with the ELCA Disability Ministries Advisory Team.

JUNE – Sally Williams was ordained June 24, 2006. She has served St. John's in Prairie du Sac her entire time as a pastor. She is involved in various local endeavors, including promoting mental health, serving on the Tower Rock Parent Group, has led numerous grief groups, and had served on the SP Hospital Ethics committee. She also currently serves as a member of the South-Central Synod Council and the SP CAN committee, working for unity and acceptance in our greater community.

JULY - Eldor Fruehling was ordained on July 5, 1953. This will be the 70th anniversary of his ordination. He began his congregational ministry in LaMars, IA. In 1957 he came here to St. John's in Prairie du Sac and served until his retirement in 1992. After his retirement, Eldor served on the Prairie du Sac Village Board for many years.

AUGUST – Dan Odden was ordained on Aug 25, 1975. He served in Jackson, WI; Wind Lake, WI; Leland and Rock Springs, WI; Black Earth, Vermont Township, and Mazomanie, WI; and Poynette, WI. He was an Interim pastor at Reedsburg, WI; Cambridge, WI; Muscoda, WI; two different churches in Rio, WI; and in Baraboo, WI. Dan has also been heavily involved in the larger church's ministry including; our synod's Immigration ministry, teaching through the national Diakonia Program and serving as an internship supervisor.

SEPTEMBER – I was ordained on Sept 6, 1998. I have served St. John's for my entire time as a pastor. Along with being an intern supervisor, I was on our synod's candidacy committee, part of the First Call Theological Education process for new rostered leaders and served on a number of synod committees. I also volunteer at the SP Middle School and UW Sailing Club.

OCTOBER – Derek Rosenstiel was ordained on Oct 19, 2019. Many of you will remember him as one of our seven interns. He began his ordained ministry at Holy Trinity in Dubuque, IA. He and his family recently moved back to Prairie du Sac. He is serving as a Spiritual and Grief Counselor for Agrace Hospice. He has also been helping local congregations by filling in during vacations, leading worship and preaching.

Duane Lokken was ordained on Oct 25, 1975. He served congregations in Verona and Englevale, ND; Montevideo, MN; and at Green Valley, AZ. He also served as an Interim pastor in Tucson, AZ. While in AZ he served as the Chair of Finance Committee of the Grand Canyon Synod. He started school at Warburg Seminary at 40 and while being a full-time student, he worked for two years at the seminary as their Business Administrator. He retired in 2001. He and Marla Jean moved to Prairie du Sac in 2014.

As you can see, we are blessed by pastors who are part of this congregation.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.



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 at any time. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| Baked Beans | Flavored Rice pouches |
| Cereal | Boxed Potatoes |
| Soups | Stuffing Mix |

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 May. The day is in parentheses.

Liz Groth (3)
S7849 State Hwy 78
Merrimac, WI 53561

Harold Carlson (5)
400 Washington St Apt 222
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Doris Lohr (5)
S9591 Church Road
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Carol Mallon (9)
N1617 Fjord Circle
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marlene Wilson (10)
9411 Lakebend Preserve Ct
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Darlene Holl (15)
418 Lueders Rd., Apt 9
Sauk City, WI 53583

Julie Allen (21)
8048 Lueth Road
Sauk City, WI 53583

Denise Baars (21)
400 Washington St Apt 115
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marilyn Straub (25)
N750 Golf Road, Lot 22
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



Women of the Church News

	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, May 11, in St. John's Library, Carol Benson, hostess	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, May 4, in St. John's Library, Dianne Effinger, hostess	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, May 8, at Cathy McAlexander's, 2104 Mustang Drive, Prairie du Sac	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, May 2, in St. John's Library	9:30am

In April, 30 ladies attended Circle Meetings. Diane Elsing, Cynthia Pletcher, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester led the Bible Study. In May our study will be about Love in Action: The Art of Intergenerational Hospitality, and it will be led by Diane Elsing, Barb Salvesson, Patty Barritt and Kathy Lester. Again, we are very much hoping for more ladies to join us in these studies and if you are interested, please look at the times and places shown above to attend a meeting. You would be most welcome at any one of these gatherings!

Eunice Yanke, Marian DeGiovanni, Kathy Lester, Darlene Holl, Sandra Frey, Barb Salvesson, Diane Elsing, and Ruth Dresser will be attending the Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering at Bonnet Prairie Lutheran Church in Rio on Saturday, April 22nd. We will have a report about that conference in the June issue of the Visitor. We are excited that there has been such a good response from St. John's people who donated items needed by Hope House. We will take these items to the Gathering where the speaker will be from Hope House and we know they will be very grateful.

We are planning an All-Circle Picnic for June 22nd at 10:00am in the fellowship hall. The picnic will take the place of our regular Circle Meetings in June. The food will be furnished by members of the WELCA Board. There will be breakfast casseroles, coffee cake, fruit, cheese, juice and coffee. Pastor Sally will lead a devotional based on the Bible Study. We soon will be needing to think seriously about working on our kits for Lutheran World Relief. (The deadline is September 14) On that note, we have a very appropriate speaker...Ginny Nimmow...who will tell us about the big advantage of being able to ask Thrivent for a \$250 grant to help us with the various kits. Martha Circle has been using this advantage for several years and it has enabled them to assemble many more school kits than they would have normally. There can

be this great help for the baby, health, sewing, and personal care kits as well. We are happy to have Ginny explain this to us. We are hoping for a good turn-out at this meeting. If there is anyone who is in need of a ride to church, please call the church office.

SAVE THE DATE: Mark your calendars now for October 7th for the 2023 WELCA South-Central Synod's Biannual Convention at Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 4329 Tokay Boulevard, Madison.

A reminder that there is a "Penny Jar" on the name tag table which is for collecting money to help women and children in need. This is in connection with the Biannual Convention. Last year we were able to help Hope House with our Pennies money. This year they may want us to take that money to the convention. Either way, it's for an important cause, so please keep donating!

Martha Circle is visiting Special Friends during April and May.

Remember to look in this Visitor for a Prayer for Peace to be read on May 20th.

No Bible Study Leaders' Meeting for June.

Special Note: All of us have been very frustrated by the fact that The Gather magazine has not been getting to us on time. In the latest "Trumpeter" magazine there is an explanation that Gather has been staffed with just one person since the COVID shut down and funding for more staff was not feasible. Churchwide WELCA is in the process of hiring another staff member. The printing and publishing businesses also laid-off staff during COVID. We are hoping and praying for more prompt delivery. There is one communication that said the May/June issue is in the mail, but who knows? In the meantime, keep going online (or contact Linda in the office) for a copy of the Study.

Adult Education

All are welcome to join the discussions at 9:15am in the church library. May 7 we will be reading the Beatitudes through the lens of Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman. We will conclude with conversation on where we go from here. Thank you to Rev. Peter Heide for leading these discussions. May 14 will be a text study on the Gospel lesson for the following week and we hope to welcome a guest speaker to our class on May 21. There will not be class on May 28 as it is Memorial Day weekend and service times shift to 8 and 9:30am. Please keep your eyes out for our summer education schedule.

Geraniums for Pentecost

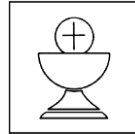
Jennifer Sawle will be in the gathering area between services on May 7th and May 14th to sell Red Geraniums to decorate our church on Pentecost. Afterwards, the geraniums will be planted on the church grounds. Flowers/donations may be given in celebration of a special occasion, or in honor or memory of a loved one and the details will be printed in the bulletin on Pentecost. The cost is \$5 each.



JUST BAKERY
A JustDane Initiative

Just Bakery

Just Bakery items will be available for purchase between worship services on May 21. Stop by the table and pick up your favorite goodies!



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



Affirmation of Baptism

On April 30 St. John's held our Affirmation of Baptism service for the following young people. Please keep these celebrants in your prayers.

Ezra Bauer
Kaleb Chetwood
Simon Homp
Sean Jager
Jason King
Jenna Shimpach
Kate Wernsing

Micah Boerger
Graysen Dunn
Kylie Hutchins
Douglas Jolicoeur
Ian Quayle
Noelle Small



Dear Friends in Christ,

“But Jesus called for them and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.’ Luke 18:16

It is an absolute delight to wander around the church during the education hour to see all that our students and teachers are up to. Touring the sanctuary, working on crafts, learning about God’s Word, and so much more happens in that short hour between services each week. We could not do it without our teachers, helpers, and substitute teachers. They are dedicated, creative, loving, encouraging people. Please join me in giving thanks to: Linda Hines, Ella Stephan, Abbey Nolden, Lee Nolden, Derek Rosenstiel, Lillian Ott, Sarah Goetsch, Haylee Goetsch, Lily Nurkala, Jill Krueger, Sean Jager, Vicky Suchla, JoAnnah Sorg, Audrie Nurkala, Ellen Jorgensen, Linda Yanke, Alecia Robertson, Tammy Frey, John Hines, Sophia Hansen, Laura Hutchins, Alice Chenoweth, and Christopher Stephan.

I also want to say a special thank you to our Sunday School Superintendents, Joanna Jones and Miranda Jager. Their leadership is filled with faithfulness and joy (and a lot of organization!). Thank you!

Thank you to Ruellene Seymour and the Kids of the Kingdom choir. Their musical leadership during worship is inspiring! And hats off to Pastor Fred, Dave Homp, and Penny Johnson for leading our Confirmation students in their learning and service work. Thank you to Donna Nelson who coordinates our Wednesday evening meals, along with Jennifer Urban and Roger Seymour who are weekly volunteers!

It is a privilege to work with all of these folks! If you are interested in being part of the education team next year in any capacity, please contact: Miranda or Joanna at sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org Penny Johnson (Confirmation) at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org or you can contact me at sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org. or 643-2439.

There is room for everyone!

With deep gratitude,

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Dear God,

Give us peace.

Bring an end to violence and hatred and discord. Steady the feet that rush into violence and the finger poised on the trigger at war or in the streets. Bring justice to the downtrodden, restoration to the marginalized and abused, hope to the hopeless. Guide all those in positions of power – whether that power is political, physical or social – and give them wisdom to use their power wisely.

Help us see your face in the faces of the people around us. Give us courage to love one another even when love seems like a risk. Give us compassion for those who are unlike us. Teach us to listen to those we disagree with, to hear stories that make us uncomfortable. Heal the hatred in the world around us by healing our own hearts first.

Give us peace.

Even now, in the midst of the darkness, I believe you are at work. Help me to see how I might be your agent of peace in this world. Help me love as Jesus taught. Amen.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Rich and Kris Frey, John and Aletha Ballweg and their families on the death of Rich's sister-in-law and John's aunt, Maryellen Frey.

Rob Shively and Deanne Moore and family on the death of Rob's mother, Bette Shively.

Rev. Eldor Fruehling and family on the death of his son, David Fruehling.

Eldoris Lovell, Dan and Kathy Lovell, Dean and Sherri Endres-Lovell and their families on the death of Eldoris' granddaughter, Jamie Costlow.

Kathy Bruckert and family on the death of her aunt Adela Scharar. Kathy is also grieving the death of her uncle, Bill Schara.



New Grandbaby

We rejoice with Larry and Mary Halweg on the birth of their granddaughter, Maeven Frances Miller.



Wedding Congratulations

We celebrate with Jeremy and Alexis Sauer on the occasion of their wedding, April 14, 2023. Jeremy is the son of Lisa and Tom Sauer and the grandson of Jim and Betty Sauer. Please pray for them as they begin this new milestone.

THANK YOU

Dear St. John's,

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the many members of St. John's who remembered me on my birthday. And also thank you all for being so kind to send sympathy cards for the loss of my son David. Thank you very much.

Eldor Fruehling

Thank You

Dear St. John's members,

Thank you for the birthday cards! They really made my day. Thanks for the phone calls and sympathy cards for the death of my granddaughter Jamie. All your care means so much. God bless you all.

Eldoris Lovell

THANK YOU SO MUCH

The Marvin Beuthin family wants to thank you for a beautiful funeral service and to the Ladies at the church for the hard work in the kitchen. Thank you, Pastor Sally and Pastor Fred, for being there for our Dad and Mom. You made our family feel so important and in comfort when times were needed. Your church is so loveable and warm to family members.

Thank you. The Marvin Beuthin Family

Gary and Susie Maxwell, Fred and Virginia Beuthin,
John and Kerri Beuthin



Sauk Prairie School A/P Testing

The Sauk Prairie High School will be using our fellowship hall for Advanced Placement (A/P) Testing during the hours of 7:30am to 4:00pm on May 1 – May 5 and May 8 – May 12. We ask that you avoid entering the building through the gray doors of the fellowship hall and be quiet when conducting business in the front gathering area of the church. Thank you for your help!



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 have different items to collect that will help our local students. Some of these items can be used in school and some at home. May's items are: Ramen noodles, Mac 'n Cheese cups, tampons and thick feminine pads. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office door to drop off your donations.



First Communion Class

The following students have recently completed their First Communion Class:

Rosemary Nolden
Madelyn Bischoll
Olive Rennieke
Lucas Muehrer
Ellie Muehrer

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they begin this new milestone in their faith lives.

THANK YOU

St. John's Youth Group,

Thank you so much for the many, many thoughtful kindness bags. The Pantry patrons so appreciated the gesture and "kindness" being shared. You brought many smiles to many faces. Thank you for thinking of us!

Sauk Prairie Food Pantry Staff

(Penny Johnson coordinated assembling Kindness Bags with the confirmation students. Thank you to all who donated supplies!)

Thank
You

Dear St. John's Church members,

Thank you for your outstanding donations to the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry. Your generosity of donated items allows those in need in our community to have access to healthy life sustaining nutritional food and personal care items. We are so fortunate to have individuals and organizations like you as a part of our work. On behalf of our Board of Directors, and our patrons, thank you again for your support.

Jean Schneller, Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry

thanks

Dear Pastors Fred and Sally and all Church members,

Thank you for inviting me to speak at your service last month. It was great meeting all of you wonderful donors to our "Stock the Schools" program. Because of your donations, our snack pantry is once again filled!

Thank you also for the clothing, shampoo and deodorant. On behalf of the students and staff, Thank You.

Sincerely, Susan Baumann-Duren SPSD Social Worker

Thank You for Your Kindness

Dear St. John's Church Family,

We thank you for all of your kindness, generosity and dedication to living out Christ's love that you have shared with the community surrounding St. John's.

We see how you enthusiastically continue to give to organizations near and far, and we must say this truly warms our hearts. We are proud to be working with such generous, caring people as we see you reach out to help the food pantry, the school district, Boy Scouts, Hope House, Lutheran World Relief, Global Health Ministries, and many more. We also see you as you reach out in support of one another – helping fellow congregation members through life's ups and downs. Bless you all.

Thank you from the staff of St. John's Lutheran Church



St. John's is scheduled to deliver Mobile Meals June 5-9 and June 12-16. These are meals delivered from the Sauk Prairie Healthcare Center and go to help many in the Sauk Prairie community. If you are interested in delivering, simply sign up on the kiosk. Email Ellen Jorgensen at domine.ellen@gmail.com for details on how delivery works or if you have other questions. Thank you for helping!



American
Red Cross

Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive in St. John's fellowship hall on Monday, May 22 beginning at 11am. Go to redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Agrace Offers Options for Grief Support in May

In May, Agrace is offering two professionally led, grief support groups, 'Journey Through Grief' and 'Bridges.'

- **Journey Through Grief** is a six-week guided grief group for people who have experienced the death of someone close to them. Meetings are Fridays, May 12 to June 16, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Agrace's Baraboo office, 1670 South Boulevard.
- **Bridges** is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. Meetings are held online every other Wednesday via Zoom. In May, meetings are May 10 and 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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

Get Expert Customized Grief Support—by Text

Agrace 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.

Serving in May

Ushers:

May 7

8:00 a.m.

Dale Haroldson
Cathy Yanke
Evelynn Brennan
Nancy Passehl
Butch Passehl
Joslyn Schultz
Josie Fentress
Bob Fentress
Noelle Small

10:30 a.m.

Bob Egan
Tom Varley
Kaleb Chetwood
Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Austin Urban
Nancy Kaufman
Rob Richard
Cannon Esser

May 14

May 21

May 28

8:00 a.m.

Gina Wyttenbach
Todd Wyttenbach
Parker Pape

9:30a.m.

Steve Barritt
Patty Barritt
Austin Urban

Acolytes:

May 7

May 14

May 21

May 28

8:00 a.m.

Simon Homp
Parker Pape
Graysen Dunn

10:30 a.m.

Ezra Bauer

Liam Hart

8:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

Evelyn Bahe

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

May 7

May 14

May 21

May 28

8:00 a.m.

Cora Miller
Donna Knickmeyer

10:30 a.m.

Clay Hutchins
Donna Knickmeyer
Sean Jager
9:30 a.m.

Readers:

May 7

May 14

May 21

May 28

8:00 a.m.

Jama Graves
John Hines
Linda Hines

10:30 a.m.

Bob Nelson
Donna Knickmeyer
Nancy Kaufman

8:00 a.m.

Cathy Yanke

9:30 a.m.

Marian DeGiovanni

Cantors:

May 7

May 14

May 21

May 28

8:00 a.m.

Katie LaVigne
Megan Tarnutzer
Becky Weittenhiller

10:30 a.m.

Katie LaVigne
Doris Lohr
Becky Weittenhiller

8:00 a.m.

Lisa Davis

9:30 a.m.

Marv/Janelle Hupp

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

May 7 Rich/Jane Calenzo
 May 14 Donna Knickmeyer
 May 21 George Colby

8:00 a.m.

May 28 Donna Knickmeyer

10:30 a.m.

Bob/Dede Egan
 Donna Knickmeyer
 Elio Piccinelli

9:30 a.m.

Deb/Gerry Westphal

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

May 7 Linda Hines
 May 14 Marilyn Herschleb
 May 21 Kris Frey

8:00 a.m.

May 28 Cathy Yanke

10:30 a.m.

Dede Egan
 Ginny Nimmow
 Elio Piccinelli

9:30 a.m.

Mary Weeks

Greeters:

May 7 (Sanctuary) Bob/Josie Fentress
 (Front doors) Rich/Kris Frey

May 14 (Sanctuary) Cliff/Cindy Thompson
 (Front doors) John/Linda Hines

May 21 (Sanctuary) Evelyynn Brennan
 (Front doors) Parker Pape

May 28 (Sanctuary) Gina Wyttenbach
 (Front doors) Todd Wyttenbach

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

Gina/Tom Varley
 Gerry/Deb Westphal

Noelle Small
 Austin Urban

9:30 a.m.

Doris Lohr
 Jackie Frosch

Sunday Stewards: 8:00 a.m.

May 7 Cathy Yanke
 May 14 Lon Kaderavek
 May 21 Nancy Passehl

8:00 a.m.

May 28 Cathy Yanke

10:30 a.m.

Gina Varley
 Roger Seymour
 Linda Michaels

9:30 a.m.

Roger Seymour

Technology Team: 8:00 a.m.

May 7 Ellen Jorgensen
 Roger Seymour
 May 14 Charlie Kruchten
 Liz Leith

May 21 Lisa Davis
 Liz Leith

8:00 a.m.

May 28 Ellen Jorgensen
 Charlie Kruchten

10:30 a.m.

Eric Kaul
 Alyssa Himebauch
 Jeff Sandberg

Nicole Sandberg
 Jeff Sandberg
 Nicole Sandberg

9:30 a.m.

Eric Kaul
 Sean Jager

Coffee Servers:

May 21 Linda Michaels

<u>Congregational totals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
March 26	206	\$12,860.00
April 2	345	\$ 9,268.00
April 9	535	\$14,160.00
April 16	224	\$ 8,413.00
April 23	293	\$11,449.00

VOLUNTEER



Worship Volunteers

As you can see, it takes a few people to have our church services run smoothly. During the past year, we have added an online sign up for the jobs of communion assistant, communion set up, ushers and greeters. You can find the links on our webpage at stjohnssaukprairie.org.

OR, you can get in touch with the following people on the Lay Ministry Board: if you want to sign up or have questions about what the task entails.

Ushers – Gina Varley glv1205@gmail.com 608-963-0325

Communion Assistants – Mary Weeks meweeks0727@gmail.com
(608)643-0656

Communion Set up/clean up – Marilyn Herschleb
mherschleb2@yahoo.com 608-943-6181

Greeters – Cheryl Sprecher sprechercheryl@gmail.com 608-220-5494

Readers – Kathy Lovell lovellkat@yahoo.com (608)643-2075

Kathy schedules the Readers at this time, but please contact her if you would like to be a Reader. She is looking for volunteers for the late service especially.

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 this school year.

If you haven't turned in your banks yet, please drop them off at church!

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.

Summer Camps are not just for youth! Family Camp at Lutherdale (near Elkhorn, WI) is July 22-23, 2023. Families will participate in campfire, Bible study, arts & crafts, waterfront activities, the challenge course, and more! Families explore camp together and strengthen relationships with one another as they play in God's creation.

Sugar Creek (near Ferryville, WI) has three Family Camps to choose from: July 2-5, 2023, or August 6-9, 2023 or August 10-13, 2023. Sugar Creek welcomes all family shapes & sizes – including of course grandparent/grandchild family units. Experience games, crafts, nature walks, swimming, evening programs, interactive campfires, horseback rides, all of your choice!

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.

Middle and High School News

6th Grade Confirmation Orientation – Mark your calendars!

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 learn about program expectations, register for the program, and get a jump start on the opportunities that will begin in summer. If you are unable to attend on May 3, but need to register your sixth-grade student for the confirmation program, please contact Penny Johnson at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org today.

Worship Jobs and More!

Confirmation classes have concluded, but that doesn't mean our confirmation students are sitting still! June through September, confirmation students will need to complete a minimum of three Worship Jobs. Look for the online sign-up information to come via email approximately May 15. Additionally, students can get a jump start on next year's confirmation program by completing Sermon Notes and Service Projects during the summer. If you have any questions, please contact Penny Johnson at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org.

High School Senior Recognition

Let's celebrate with our graduating High School seniors! On Sunday May 21st at the 10:30 Service we will honor and pray with our young adults as they prepare to step into the next phase of life. 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.



Post High School Graduates

Are you graduating from a trade school, a university, a higher education program, etc. this May or June? We would like to celebrate with you! We ask you to send us your name, school or program that you are graduating from and the degree or certificate that you have received. We will print them in our newsletter (the *Visitor*) for others to see so that we may celebrate this milestone with you by lifting you up in prayer and joy. Congratulations!

From the AV room.....

Most of you know by now that we are able to amplify, record and broadcast our worship services via Zoom. This is accomplished through our AV (Audio/Video) facility upstairs in the music closet, equipped with (mostly) state-of-the-art componentry and operated by a team of members dedicated to bringing the services to you real time. They are: Lisa Davis, Alyssa Himebauch (youth), Sean Jager (youth), Ellen Jorgensen, Eric Kaul, Charlie Kruchten, Liz Leith, Malcolm Leith (youth), Amy Nelson, Jeff Sandberg, Nicole Sandberg, and Roger Seymour.

An issue that surfaces from time to time is the volume on the home computers of the Zoom broadcast: too soft or too loud. It turns out that the remedy is in how the home computer speakers are set. In the AV room, we monitor the equipment so as to provide a "comfortable" output for all Zoomers. But we cannot set the volume for each computer out in our audience. This must be done by you, by adjusting the volume on your home computer. On your PC, look for the loudspeaker symbol on the keyboard, with a "+" or "-" next to it. Press the button to make your computer louder or softer. On an iPad or cell phone, find the volume buttons and adjust accordingly.

If ever you have a question about our AV capabilities or Zoom broadcasts, please feel free to email me at rrcmor@gmail.com, or talk to me in church.

By the way, we could use a few more Techs to work the equipment on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, come on upstairs when the Techs are there between services, and we'll give you an overview.

Roger Seymour



Fireproof File Cabinets

St. John's Lutheran Church is looking for 1 to 2 locking fireproof file cabinets we can use to store some of our church records. If you have fireproof file cabinets you no longer need, would you kindly consider donating them to us? St. John's would be very appreciative of the donated cabinets. Please contact Linda Hines at the church office (643-2439) if you are interested. Thank you very much.

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: April 4, 2023

Present: Donna Nelson, Nancy Kaufman, Cathy Yanke, Fred Rilling, Sally Williams, Lon Kaderavek, Eunice Yanke, Megan Tarnutzer, Roger Seymour, Gina Varley, Jonah Richard, Sheila Dittberner, Anne Klinkner, Linda Michaels

Absent: Ellen Jorgensen, Nancy Passehl

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Eunice and seconded by Lon. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Donna. Special thanks to Linda M and Donna for the Palm Sunday Breakfast coordination.

Secretary Minutes:

The March minutes were submitted online by Cathy Yanke. A motion to approve minutes was made by Donna and seconded by Megan. Motion carried.

Treasurer report:

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

After several months of expenses exceeding income, this month's numbers are positively reversed. We received a much-appreciated donation of \$50K that has resulted in a year-to-date net income of \$8500.

\$30K was transferred to our savings account to help replenish what we used to pay bills the last few months. Financial reports include the first quarter so boards are able to see if they are staying within their budget.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- No report received

Fellowship:

Linda Michaels reported:

- March 12th volunteer luncheon. Less people than in the past but still a good turn-out. Nice to see everyone and say thank you for all

they do. Special thank you to Donna Nelson for ALL she did to make this a success.

· Upcoming events:

· April 2nd Palm Sunday and our brunch. The sign-up board is on the kiosk.

· Other upcoming events:

o April 30th – Affirmation of Baptism

o May 21 – Celebrate our graduates

o Sept. 6 – Pastor Fred's 25th anniversary

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

· There were 81 orders for Easter flowers. We will set up flowers for Easter Sunday on Saturday April 8th at 8 am.

· Discussed a proposal by staff to eliminate who is scheduled for worship service jobs every month from The Visitor newsletter. It was decided that for now, Gina will plan on consistently reminding worship job coordinators to get their list of volunteers to Linda before, or at the very least, by the 20th.

· Discussed the possibility of getting a single/master link to ALL things St. John's where people could go to get on Zoom worship, sign up for volunteering in all areas of the church, etc. This would hopefully streamline and simplify the process.

· Hoping to give the technology folks an online signup option in the near future.

Parish Education:

Included in Sally's report.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

· Board decided to not have a work day

· Leak was repaired on roof around ducting

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

· Yard sign campaign will start in May. Look for a sign-up sheet on the kiosk.

· Just Bakery will be sold between services on April 16th.

· Upcoming educational topic - Accessible Healthcare/Good Neighbor Clinic

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

· Discussed income concerns and suggested the inclusion in the weekly bulletin to list income/expenses for additional information to the congregation.

· The admin procedure manual is finalized until we review in tandem with the financial review recommendations.

- At our next meeting, we will review financial review recommendations

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- Circles continue to meet for Bible Study on the "Ten Commandments"
- Looking to add new members to our Circles
- Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering is on Saturday, April 22 at Bonnet Prairie Church in Rio. Reservations are due by April 17.
 - o Speaker is Deb Bauer from Hope House.
 - o Conference Gathering will collect items for Hope House.

See list in the newsletter and bulletins.

- Making plans for an All-Circle Picnic for June 2023

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- No report received

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report received

Youth member at Large: Jonah Richard reported:

- No report received

Executive Director Comments:

- The content of the executive report is contained in other board reports. As needed, the comments will be created.

Pastor Reports

Fred's Report:

- St. John's 2022 annual report has been completed and is available on the nametag table. Thanks much to Linda for putting all of that information together for our congregation.
- Thanks to Pastor Micheal Lee for preaching on our last Wednesday Lenten service. He is the pastor at Common Ground Lutheran Church in Lodi.
- As noted in our April Visitor, we will not receive an intern for 2023-2024. Thirteen congregations did not receive a placement this coming year. This has to do with many interns restricting the locations due to various reasons. Of the 13, 6 sites were like us and had previous interns. The other 7 were new applications this year.
- Pastor Sally and I lead a first communion class for 5 youth on March 30.
- Last month I had said we would not be publishing the lists of those serving as ushers, greeters, readers and so on in our monthly

Visitor. After conversation with the Lay Ministry, it was decided to put this decision on hold.

- There have been a number of deaths in our congregation recently. I am grateful for the work that Linda, John, Ruellene, Connie Burton and Sally have done in ministering to the individuals effected. I cannot adequately express my thanks to these partners in ministry. I also am so very grateful for Dale Clason and those who have been preparing and serving funeral luncheons when needed. These volunteers are a huge help to families in their grieving process.
- I look forward to connecting to many of my seminary classmates as they gather for our 25th ordination reunion in April. I also look forward to Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe coming to be with us in worship on April 23rd. She is a gift to our synod and I hope you are able to visit with her on that day.
- Finally, I have met with numerous families about having their children baptized. So far, we have 5 scheduled between April and May. You have made many feel welcomed at St. John's. This is some of that fruit.

Sally's Report:

- Please reach out to those in our community and in your life who are grieving. We had seven deaths in the span of just over two weeks; a few of these services will take place in April. We are thankful for the team of volunteers and our staff members who put in a lot of work to make sure we can support the families as best we can.
- Penny revamped the confirmation classes held just before the evening Lenten services and our students were energized and engaged. We are thrilled to welcome Dave Homp back as a returning teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. We are looking for a teacher to fill the 7th grade vacancy.
- Sunday School will wrap up at the beginning of May. Please take a moment to walk down the hallway before/after class to thank all of our dedicated teachers and helpers. It is a very big commitment to teach Sunday School. We are very blessed by them all!
- Adult Education wrapped up the study on the Psalms and will take a couple weeks off for Palm Sunday and Easter. We will return with guest speakers Pastor Fred, Pastor Peter Heide, and potentially a representative from the Good Neighbor Clinic.
- Parish Ed is hosting a few intergenerational events during the summer months. Look for more details to come!
- Affirmation of Baptism is coming up on Sunday, April 30. Please congratulate these students as they celebrate this milestone in faith.

Old Business:

- LGBTQ update Synod Reconciling In Christ (RIC). In order to move forward, we ask all PPC members to review the website <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/becomeric/> so that we can begin discussion regarding our interest in becoming RIC.
- Intern committee member update. Thank you to the intern committee members for their work on this committee that will now pause with no intern coming this year.
- Daycare update. No further update since the last walk through.
- PPC Retreat Follow-up. Continue welcoming back current/old members and reach out to new members making everyone feel welcomed.
- Membership follow up for letters to those not meeting the member definition. There are less people than expected in this group and include quite a few young adults that have become 'lost' after college and moving away from home. Fred is comparing the last of the list (10-20 families) and will report next meeting.

New Business:

- Lead Synod Symposia review. The starting church service was energizing because of the engagement of the attendees and the keynote highlighted 'change' as the theme and challenged us to be willing to try new things. If they do not work, change it and try again. Break-out sessions were a time to share with peers and gather tidbits of knowledge to bring back to St. John's.
- The Friday Notes emails will no longer include reference to COVID numbers because many positive tests are no longer reported and many tracking sites no longer report any numbers so validity of the data could be compromised.

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 2, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Eunice. Lon made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was 2nd by Roger. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



Happy May Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Lily Carpenter (17)

Ava Rilling (29)

Our Sunday School Students:

Ethan Lohr (1)

Dakota Scott (1)

Alice Bennett (3)

Eli Emerson (5)

Mason Burke (7)

Lyle Opie (7)

Cooper Rennie (9)

Clay Hutchins (11)

Bryce Argall (16)

Maddox Burke (21)

Amelia Trager (21)

Hallie Ballweg (24)

Oliver Newman (24)

Liam Leith (25)

Charlotte Schreiber (26)

Leah Kruchten (28)

Riley Jorgensen (30)

Nadia LaVigne (31)

Our Youth:

Colby Frey (3)

Malcolm Leith (5)

Jozie Braund (12)

Austin Bruckert (15)

Evelyn Bahe (17)

McKenzie Lautenbach (18)

Ian Quayle (25)

College and Career-age Young People:

Emily Caflich (12)

Tarren Nimmow (18)

Malea Niesen (29)