



*Pastor Fred and Kris Rilling*

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Prairie du Sac, WI

August 2023

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I have been wondering what to say in my last few Visitor articles.

Last month I spoke of how grateful I was to hear NO from Pastor Fruehling. As you may remember, Eldor said NO to a request from a family to conduct a funeral. His NO meant that I could step into the role of pastor in a new and significant way. His NO allowed me to say YES to the family and YES to fully stepping into being your pastor.

This month I want to speak of how grateful I am to hear another NO and how it allowed me to say YES.

The last semester at seminary is full of transitional anxiety. All the final paperwork, interviews and last-minute stuff is, or will be, completed. Seniors are hearing about congregational interviews and potential moves. In short, the campus is abuzz with excitement and a bit of fear.

My process unfolded in such a way that I was one of the first students to hear of a site that I would be interviewing at. It looked good on paper; it was an associate pastor position; it was near Madison and all that I could see gave me reason to be hopeful that I would soon have news to tell my fellow students. At least that is what I thought would happen.

The interview started well but changed quickly. It became obvious early that the kind of pastor they were looking for was different than the one they were interviewing. It was also obvious

that I was not the pastor they needed. A second interview occurred just between the senior pastor and myself. That confirmed all of our gut reactions. They said NO to me.

Time passed, May graduation occurred and what started to look like a fast track to my career as a pastor, slowed WAY DOWN. My colleagues were getting calls, making plans to move and I was feeling like I would never find a place. I was wrong.

Early in June I heard of St. John's. I met with Pastor Don Wendt and a few weeks later, with the call committee. A congregational vote occurred, and August 8<sup>th</sup> found us moving into the parsonage. On September 6, 1998, I was ordained.

St. John's said YES to me. I said YES to St. John's, and I cannot express my gratitude for all that those 25 years have given me and to my family.

Sometimes a NO from one place means a YES to something much better.

Shalom,



### Staff Change

Pastor Fred Rilling will be retiring on September 3, 2023. All are invited to join with us as we celebrate Pastor Fred's ministry here at St. John's these past 25 years.

Do you have photos or special memories of Pastor Fred from your wedding, baptisms, confirmation, youth group activities or hearing a moving sermon at just the right moment? Please consider sharing your photos or write down those special memories to send with Pastor Fred as he retires. Send them to the office or just drop them off sometime when you are here.



### Worship Time Change

Beginning Sunday, **September 10** (the Sunday after Labor Day), we will transition to **8:00am and 10:30am worship services** with the ZOOM option available at both services.



### **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	<b>Your Name Here</b>	
Properties Board	Lon Kaderavek	(608) 434-2928
PR and Social Concerns	Ellen Jorgensen	(262) 995-3248
Stewardship Board	Anne Klinkner	(608) 393-6453
Women of ELCA	Eunice Yanke	(608) 643-8289
Youth Board	Megan Tarnutzer	(608) 963-0396
Youth Member-at-Large	Jonah Richard	(608) 347-0488

### The Staff:

Pastors: Fred Rilling [fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:fred@stjohnssaukprairie.org) (c) 963-4706

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

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour

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

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

(w) 643-2439

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

Office and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines

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

Sunday School Superintendents: Joanna Jones and Miranda Jager

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

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

Like us on Facebook at St Johns Lutheran Sauk Prairie

*Mission Statement: Christ, our strength and refuge, calling us to serve.*

St. John's Lutheran Church  
100 Oak Street  
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Christ,  
our strength  
and refuge,  
calling us  
to serve

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 23  
Prairie du Sac,  
Wisconsin 53578



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

Tuna  
Crackers  
Cookies

Mayo  
Microwave Popcorn  
Granola Bars

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 August. The day is in parentheses.

Jackie Howery (2)  
200 Webster Ave. Apt. 16  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Susan Scherer (11)  
1527 Broadway  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jan Dobrzynski (14)  
50 Hemlock St., Unit 1  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Don Bohler (17)  
N750 Golf Road #3  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Ruth Dresser (22)  
1110 Eagle View Court  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Betty Sauer (22)  
N750 Golf Road #66  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



Sandra Frey (24)  
125 Sycamore St., Apt. 1C  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Gloria Moles (31)  
1605 Locust Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



### Stock the Schools

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. Items for August are: **individual cups of applesauce, tortillas, 3-ring binders, calculators and ear buds from the dollar store.** Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations. Thank you.

	<b>Women of the Church News</b>	
	<b>Lydia Circle</b> Thursday, August 10 – Going out to eat	
	<b>Martha Circle</b> Thursday, August 3 – Going out to eat	
	<b>Ruth Circle</b> Will work on LWR Baby Care Kits	
	<b>Sarah/Mary Circle</b> Tuesday, August 22 – Will work on LWR Personal Care Kits	9:30am

As noted in the last Visitor, during July and August we take a little time off from our usual meetings, but all Circles are busy working on Lutheran World Relief kits. In July, Lydia Circle met at Darlene Holl's and Ruth Circle met at Jan Dobrzynski's and they both had Bible Studies. Martha Circle met but only for fellowship, no Bible Study. We will all be resuming our regular meetings again in September.

We were so very pleased that there were 37 ladies in attendance at our All-Circles Picnic meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The tables were all decorated with a patriotic theme and several people had donated decorations.....so it was very festive! WELCA Board members furnished exceptionally delicious brunch food. Pastor Sally presented a super interesting Bible Study, at the end asking us to write down our talents on sticky notes and she posted them on a bulletin board, making a colorful display. We should always be mindful of using our talents to do what we can to help with God's important work. After this, Ginny Nimmow talked about the big advantage of being able to apply for a \$250 grant from Thrivent for the various kits for Lutheran World Relief and even for quilting materials. You need to have a Thrivent member apply for a grant for each separate project. Thrivent encourages members to apply. We are very grateful to Ginny and Pastor Sally for their presentations. After the talks, to add to the patriotic theme, we all sang "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America." The offering was \$160. Eunice Yanke then treated us all to an Orange Crush and ice cream drink which was very refreshing. Thank you to all who attended.

The Biennial WELCA Convention of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin will be held at Midvale Lutheran Church, 4329 Tokay Blvd., Madison on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Penny Jar on the name tag table is in connection with that convention. The money is for women and children in need and is a worthy cause we all should consider giving to.

Sarah/Mary Circle has been visiting Special Friends during June and July. Lydia Circle will visit them during August and September.

Bible Study Leaders' Meeting will be Tuesday, August 29 at 9:00am.

Be sure to read the Prayer for Peace found in this Visitor on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **A message from Gather Magazine:**

Gather has been dealing with not only the need to work further ahead due to increased production, shipping, and mailing times, but (together with the entire WELCA churchwide organization) budget and staff reductions due to a pandemic-related decline in giving during 2020. The good news is that the situation is now changing!

First, giving to Women of the ELCA rebounded in 2021 and 2022, and the organization's first-ever capital campaign is intended to help sustain and grow the organization for years to come.

Second, this past week another staff person joined the magazine, returning us to a full staff of two full-time employees (our staffing level prior to the pandemic). The new staff member will be introduced in the next e-newsletter.

For many religious publications, the effects of the pandemic have been difficult and lingering. Some publications ceased publication or decided to go online only. Gather remains committed to print publication. But doing more with less has not been easy, especially over the past year. Now, finally, we are positioned to get ahead of things again. The Sept/Oct issue is set to arrive in homes August 19-26 and the Nov/Dec issue is set to arrive earlier, October 14-18. From there, we will continue to move things back, week by week, to provide more cushion against longer shipping and mailing times. We appreciate everyone's prayerful support as we make this happen.

If you would like further conversation, please let me know and I will be happy to be in touch by email or phone. If your members do not receive Sept/Oct by August 26, you can email me directly and I can send the copies by priority mail.

We are working now to catch up on all correspondence and messages, knowing that these messages (and our response time) will lessen as we return to arriving in homes early.

Thank you so much,  
Elizabeth (Elizabeth.Hunter@elca.org)  
Gather Magazine

## Adult Education

We are closing in on the end of our 6-week sessions of A Study Curriculum on Civic Faith and Life with just two sessions left on Thursdays August 3 and August 10 at 2pm in the church library. All are welcome!

Here is more information on this study:

How are we as Lutheran Christians called to civic engagement, including in the arenas of government and political life? What is the proper relationship of the church with government, and what is not? What does religious liberty actually include? What are our scriptural and confessional resources for probing such questions about civic life?

We invite you and your congregation to explore these questions and more by using "A Study Curriculum on Civic Life and Faith."

This study curriculum has just been released by the ELCA Task Force for Studies on Civic Life and Faith. It includes six sessions and is a critical step on the way to the social statement called for by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

There is a response form after each session for participants to communicate with the task force itself on the material covered.

The schedule for adult education opportunities this Fall is currently under construction. Please keep an eye out in bulletins and Friday Notes emails for more information coming soon!




## SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Lord, I come before you ready to pour out my worries, anxieties, and fears at Your feet. I am claiming and declaring Your promises for blessings of peace and strength over my life. Bring peace into my soul that passes all worldly understanding and make me a light for others to see Your strength.

In Jesus' name. Amen.



From this  to this.  

## Pastor Fred's Retirement Party

**When:** Sunday, September 3

**Time:** Service – 9 a.m. (Only one service this day)

**Appetizers and beverages** – following the service

**Program** – following the service

**Meal** – following the program

**Where:** St. John's Fellowship Hall

### What you can do:

- Bring a dessert to share (remember his favorite is pecan pie)
- Bring a bottle or two of "Caffeine Free Diet Coke". His favorite. He can take it on the road!
- Send a personal note or memory.

Come and help celebrate and thank Pastor Fred for all he has done for St. John's

*Thank  
You*

Dear Members of St. John's,

I thank you once again for the many heartfelt notes of congratulations on the celebration of my 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. I have been truly blessed in my life.

Thank you one and all.

Rev. Eldor Fruehling

## **Rev. Eldor Fruehling's Message**

A reflection by Rev. Eldor Fruehling at his celebration of his 70th ordination anniversary:

I am extremely grateful for this day. Grateful also for the gift of life. I want to express my gratitude to Pastors Rilling and Williams for calling attention to this milestone in my life. I also want to express thanks to all who joined in this celebration through attendance preparation, cards and contributions.

My journey of life began when I was blessed to be born to a Christian family in a sinful world. My parents made certain that I was brought into the kingdom of God through baptism where the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to me. This gift was in the form of a seed that in order to grow needed nourishment and so my parents taught me the 10 Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, placed in my hands the Holy Scripture, brought me to the services of God's house and followed the proverb "Teach a child in the way he should go so that when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Unfortunately, the growth of these seeds is often hampered by the seeds of weeds. After having been baptized by the Spirit, Christ was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Similarly, I have found that the early years of my life, and later as well, have been a battleground between the two Trinities. The Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And the unholy trinity – the devil, the world and my own flesh. It has been a continual battle between good and evil and in this battle, I was called through Ordination to a specific assignment to lead fellow travelers to growth in the kingdom through the preaching, teaching and administering of the Sacraments for a specific period of time and a specific group. This is a Church Rite commanded by the scriptures for the sake of order. And while it is a call to feed the lambs and sheep of the flock, one is also a member of that flock. As there is a call into ordination, there is also a call to an end of that assignment but to a new area in which one is a servant of the Lord. For 39 years of my life, I was permitted to grow in faith through ministering and being administered to by fellow believers. In the years that followed, I was permitted to serve as a trustee in the Village of Prairie du Sac. The privilege of sharing the message of God's love is never ending. If I look back and summarize how that seed of baptism has grown, it has led me to where I would summarize it in these words:

"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Amen.

## FROM PASTOR SALLY'S DESK

Dear Friends in Christ,

Isaiah writes, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" We are most certainly in a time of new things springing forth.

With the announcement of Pastor Fred's retirement there have been many questions about the process of finding a new pastor, the timeline, and perhaps the most common question, "What does this mean for you, Pastor Sally?" So, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you what Pastor Fred's retirement means for me. (There will be plenty of time to talk more about the process of finding a new pastor!)

I will continue to serve St. John's as your Associate Pastor as I have for the last 17 years. While I am eligible and qualified to interview for the position as Lead Pastor, with the help of my family, trusted colleagues and friends, and the Bishop, I have discerned that I do not feel a call to do so and therefore will not be putting my name in the hat. It's not a lack of confidence or a lack of commitment to this place. Most simply put, my gifts and what excites me most about ministry best match the position of Associate Pastor.

I am extremely grateful and humbled by all of your support since Pastor Fred's retirement announcement and for your confidence in my ability as your pastor. I cannot believe I've had the privilege of serving you and God's Church for so many years already.

I look forward to waiting, watching, and actively listening for and responding to the Spirit's movement within and among us on this journey. New things spring forth. But that doesn't mean it's easy to say goodbye to the last chapter.

It has been an honor to serve alongside Pastor Fred and I will miss working with him. He welcomed me with open arms when I was fresh out of seminary, encouraged me along the way, and supported me and my family through the best and worst times of our lives. I will be forever grateful.

But please don't tell him I said any of those things because it'll give him a big head.

God is good. And God is doing new things among us and will be present every single step of the way.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally".



## **Baby Congratulations**

We rejoice with Alec and Molly Rilling on the birth of their son, Bowen Carl Janis Rilling. He was born on June 29, 2023. Bowen is welcomed home by sister Ava, grandparents Kris and Fred Rilling and Aunt Katlyn Rilling.



## **BAPTISM**

We welcomed a new brother and sister into the family of Christ following his baptism during the month of July.

Eldin Douglas Nelson was baptized on July 2, 2023. His parents are Kevin and Kia Nelson. Eldin's sponsor is Nicole Nelson. His grandparents are Doug and Donna Nelson and his great-grandparents are Almay and Bob Nelson.

Kia Fay Nelson was also baptized on July 2, 2023. Her sponsor is Donna Nelson. Megan Tarnutzer is the congregational sponsor to both Kia and Eldin.



## **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Nick and Kathy Lester on the death of their sister-in-law, Barb Mallon.

Kia, and Kevin Nelson and their son Eldin, on the death of Kia's grandmother, Sally Crandall. Sally was also a great-grandmother to Eldin Nelson.

Marge Erlandson on the death of her husband, Carroll.

*I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.*

*John 14:3*



### **Back-to-School Blessing**

With another school year just beginning, we want to celebrate and bless the beginning of the school year with a special back-to-school blessing on Sunday, September 17 at both services. We invite students of all ages, teachers, principals, administrators, school office personnel, cooks, librarians, custodians, bus drivers...anyone that plays a role in our school systems...to come on September 17 to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work. Join us for this Milestone Ministry event!

### **Parish Education Staff Installation**

We will install our 2023-2024 educational staff on September 24 at both our 8:00 and 10:30 services. Included in this group are our Sunday school teachers and aides, librarians, adult education teachers, confirmation teachers, Director of Music and education board members. Please join us as we rejoice in God's gifts made manifest in these individuals.



### **American Red Cross Red Cross Blood Drive**

The American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive in St. John's fellowship hall on Monday, September 18 beginning at 11am. Go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment. Appointments due tend to fill up quickly, so check it out today!

<b>Congregation Totals</b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Offering</u></b>
July 2	186	\$13,122
July 9	203	\$ 7,605
July 16	192	\$ 9,869
July 23	168	\$ 4,858

## Calling All Artists

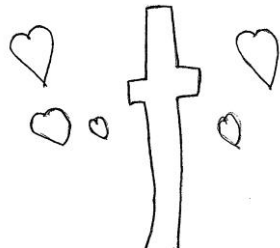
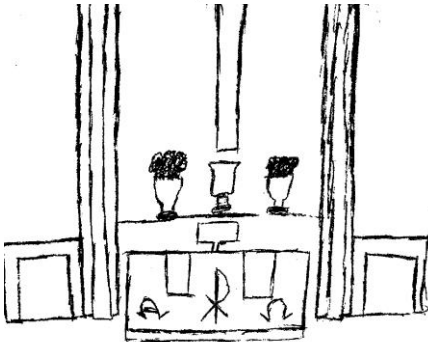
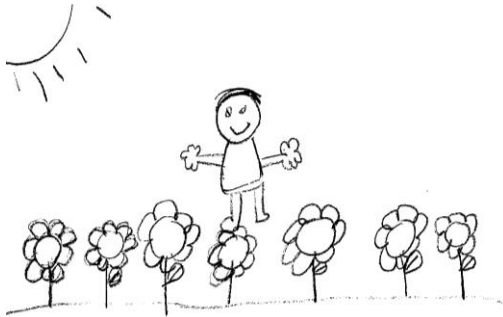
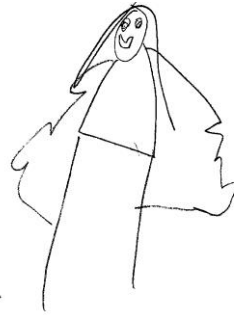
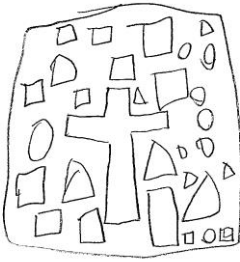
Do you enjoy seeing the wonderful art on the front of the *Visitor* when it comes each month? I know I do! I need more drawings to include on the covers of our newsletter.

Please draw a picture of St. John's, a picture that illustrates your favorite Bible story, a portion of the Sunday service that has special meaning to you, or something inspiring that says "St. John's" to you.

It works best to use pencil and a quarter-sheet of copy paper. Please include your name on the **back** of the picture. Drop off or send your drawing to Linda in the church office.

Thank you and have fun!

*(P.S. Below I have included some past drawings for your inspiration!)*



## Serving in August

### Ushers

August 6

### 8:00 a.m.

Steve Barritt  
Parker Frosch

### 9:30 a.m.

Tom Varley  
Gina Varley  
Madyn Ludowitz

August 13

Sophia Hanson  
Lon Kaderavek  
Dale Haroldson

Parker Frosch  
Steve Sprecher  
Cheryl Sprecher

August 20

Austin Urban  
Lon Kaderavek  
Dale Haroldson

Butch Passehl  
Nancy Passehl

August 27

Gina Wyttenbach  
Todd Wyttenbach  
Sophia Hanson

Tom Varley  
Gina Varley  
Kendra Frey

### Acolytes

August 6

### 8:00 a.m.

Willy Pickett  
Ella Stephan

### 9:30 a.m.

Kiptyn Suchla  
Kiptyn Suchla  
Liam Hart

August 13

August 20

August 27

Willy Pickett

Madyn Ludowitz

### Assisting Ministers

August 6

### 8:00 a.m.

Patty Barritt  
Donna Knickmeyer  
Jude Hanna  
Patty Barritt

### 9:30 a.m.

Patty Barritt  
Donna Knickmeyer  
Clay Hutchins  
Patty Barritt

August 13

August 20

August 27

### Readers

August 6

### 8:00 a.m.

Mary Halweg  
Donna Knickmeyer  
Janelle Hupp  
Dale Haroldson

### 9:30 a.m.

Doris Lohr  
Donna Knickmeyer  
Jama Graves  
Dale Clason

August 13

August 20

August 27

### Cantors

August 6

### 8:00 a.m.

Becky Weittenhiller  
Lisa Davis  
Bill Burton  
Doug Slater

### 9:30 a.m.

Becky Weittenhiller  
Marv/Janelle Hupp  
Bill Burton  
Doug Slater

August 13

August 20

August 27

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

August 6

Patty Barritt  
Kris Frey

### 9:30 a.m.

Donna Knickmeyer  
Marian DeGiovanni  
Lillyann Nurkala  
Marian DeGiovanni

August 13

August 20

August 27

Jayne Carlson

**Communion**

August 6

August 13

August 20

August 27

**Set-Up**

Dorothy Halverson

Rich/Jane Calenzo

Jayne Carlson

**Clean-Up**

Dale Clason

Audrey Luetscher

Dale Clason

Lillyann Nurkala

Deb/Gerry Westphal

**Coffee Servers**

August 6

August 13

August 20

August 27

Linda Michaels

Kris Rilling

Linda Michaels

Abbey and Lee Nolden family

**Sunday Stewards**

August 6

August 13

August 20

August 27

**8:00 a.m.**

Nancy Kaufman

Nancy Kaufman

Cathy Yanke

Nancy Passehl

**9:30 a.m.**

Roger Seymour

Sheila Peak Dittberner

Linda Michaels

Gina Varley

**Greeters**

Aug. 6 (Sanctuary)

(Front doors)

Aug. 13 (Sanctuary)

(Front doors)

Aug. 20 (Sanctuary)

(Front doors)

Aug. 27 (Sanctuary)

(Front doors)

**8:00 a.m.**

Don/Vi Bohler

John/Linda Hines

Bob/Josie Fentress

Rich/Kris Frey

Parker Pape

Parker Frosch

Todd/Gina Wyttenbach

**9:30 a.m.**

Tom/Gina Varley

Dale Clason

Gerry/Deb Westphal

Steve/Cheryl Sprecher

Lillyann Nurkala

Austin Urban

Tom/Gina Varley

Jackie Frosch

**Technical Support**

August 6

August 13

August 20

August 27

**8:00 a.m.**

Alyssa Himebauch

Charlie Kruchten

Ellen Jorgensen

Alyssa Himebauch

Ellen Jorgensen

Eric Kaul

Lisa Davis

**9:30 a.m.**

Sean Jager

Roger Seymour

Hudson Ballweg

Charlie Kruchten

Roger Seymour

Hudson Ballweg

Jeff, Nicole, Audrey

Sandberg

Hudson Ballweg

Jeff, Nicole, Audrey

Sandberg



# Sunday School News

## Sunday School Information

### Rally Day

Mark your calendars for Rally Day, Sunday, September 17. The first day of Sunday School will be Sunday, September 24.

### Singspiration

Our desire is to bring back Singspiration as part of the Sunday School hour. We have one volunteer who is available to lead this once a month. Would you be willing to join the team?

### Sunday School Teachers

The majority of our teachers and helpers are returning for the 2023-2024 school year. Yeah! We are looking for 1-2 people to teach 4K and also 2nd grade teachers. Please contact Joanna and Miranda at [sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org) or Pastor Sally if you're interested!

## Middle and High School News

### Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes start next month! On Wed Sept 20<sup>th</sup> we invite all confirmation students and guardians to attend Welcome Back night. We'll have a fellowship meal at 5:30pm, and the Welcome Back program begins at 6pm. Come meet our confirmation teachers, pick up your students' workbooks and get to know the other confirmation families that make this a great program. You'll also get a jump-start on registering for the confirmation expectations that are a required part of the confirmation program.

### Worship Jobs in Summer

The "Summer" season for Worship Jobs goes *thru September*. We are asking each student to participate in 4 Worship Jobs during this period. If your student is struggling to complete their worship jobs, as a requisite part of the Confirmation Program, please contact Penny ([penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org)) for help. You can sign-up for the available spots at <https://signup.com/go/HtCaUTB>.

## **ELCA Youth Gathering: Summer 2024**

Next Summer, St. John's will be traveling to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering. The Gathering's mission of faith formation in young people is the hub from which all things come. Our goal is to create environments and opportunities for faith formation through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service and fellowship. Participants come together for music, speakers, worship, interactive learning, and experiencing God's work.

This is a powerful and transformational ministry if you are brave enough to let your guard down long enough for the Spirit to enter in, if you can be quiet long enough to listen to someone different from yourself, if your prayer is to be open to what God is calling you to, if you realize the strong roots of a community will ground you no matter the strength of life's storms, if you imagine yourself as part of something bigger than you. All students who are currently in grades 8 through 11 are invited to join us. If you want to join this amazing trip, you are **required to attend** our informational meeting:

**Tuesday, August 1**

**7:00 pm**

Attend in person at St. John's or join the online meeting by scanning the QR code below:



Email questions to [penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org)



### **Final Summer Youth Event**

On Sunday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30pm St. John's youth, friends and families are invited to meet at the North Shore of Devil's Lake for swimming and s'mores. Join us for this casual gathering to have some fun and soak up the end-of-summer rays! Bring your swimming towels and dinner. St. John's will supply the s'mores.

## Lutheran World Relief Kits

Please help us complete kits before September 13<sup>th</sup>.



### School Kit Supplies

We are asking for your help in gathering supplies for our School Kits again this year. The kits are sent to Lutheran World Relief each fall. LWR asks that we do not use items with a U.S. flag, military symbols, camouflage or religious symbols on them. Each kit needs:

- Four** 70-sheet notebooks
- One** 30 cm. ruler (or one with inches and cms.)
- One** pencil sharpener
- One** blunt scissors
- Five** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Five** black **or** blue ballpoint pens
- One** box of 24 crayons
- One** 2 ½ inch eraser

\*\*pencil sharpeners and blunt scissors are especially needed



### Personal care kit supplies

- One bath-size towel (not longer than 48" and thinner please)
- Two bath-size bars of wrapped soap
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original wrapping  
or sealed in a business size envelope
- One sturdy comb
- One metal nail clipper

\*\*\*bath towels and soap are especially needed



### **Baby care kit supplies**

- Two cotton/cotton-blend t-shirts
- Two gowns or sleepers without feet
- Two receiving blankets
- Four cloth diapers
- One hand towel
- One sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket with a hood, (or include a baby cap)
- Two pairs of baby socks
- Two bath-size bars of Ivory soap
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins

*Sizes up to 24 months may be used. Consider varying the sizes of the clothing items so the layette will continue to be useful as the baby grows. Gently used, clean items may be substituted for new ones.*

**\*cloth diapers are especially needed**



### **Fabric kit supplies**

- Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric, cut into pieces measuring:
  - 2 ¼ yards of 60" wide, **OR**
  - 3 yards of 44" wide, **OR**
  - 4 yards of 36" wide fabric
- Two spools of matching **OR** neutral-colored general-purpose thread, 250-300 yards each

*Ordinary items become extraordinary gifts when you send LWR Quilts and Kits around the world!*

# PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

## July 5, 2023

**Present:** Donna Nelson, Nancy Kaufman, Nancy Passehl, Cathy Yanke, Fred Rilling, Sally Williams, Lon Kaderavek, Eunice Yanke, Megan Tarnutzer, Roger Seymour, Gina Varley, Ellen Jorgensen, Linda Michaels

**Absent:** Sheila Dittberner, Anne Klinkner, Jonah Richard

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Prior to the meeting, Bishop Joy was present and shared information regarding the next steps following Fred's retirement. Following her discussion, we moved to our regular meeting where Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Gina and seconded by Eunice. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Roger.

### **Secretary Minutes:**

The June 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 June 2023 Treasurer Report submitted by Donna Nelson. June expenses exceeded income by \$9,000. It helped that expenses for the month were also down.

At the halfway point of the year, our total expenses have exceeded our total income by \$3,400 year to date.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Evangelism:** Sheila Dittberner reported:

· No report was available

**Fellowship:** Linda Michaels reported:

· I will be calling the most recent confirmation students to ask if they would be willing to serve coffee and donut holes for our social hour. I am hoping to fill the schedule through the end of the year to complete the contest and make sure it is filled past the time that I will be stepping off the council.

- July 9th is our celebration for Eldor Fruehling's ordination anniversary. Cake will be served during our social hour.
- August 27th we will be celebrating the 25 years that Bob Nelson has worked for St. John's.
- October 1, we will celebrate Pastor Appreciation month.
- September 3, Pastor Fred's celebration. Plans are in the works.

**Lay Ministry:** Gina Varley reported:

- No report was available

**Parish Education:** Sally Williams reported:

- Possible future planning discussion
- Day with service vehicles (police, EMT, firetrucks), Letter writing day, Nursing home residents, Playdate, Signs, Games, Kids of the kingdom singing, Church picnic,
- Sunday school Rally Day Sept 17th
- Budget discussion. Budget was submitted to Anne.

**Properties:** Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Nothing to report

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

- No report was available

**Stewardship Board:** Anne Klinkner reported:

- The committee expressed their best wishes for Fred's retirement.
- The budget will be finalized at the July 12, 2023, Stewardship Board meeting. It will be brought to the Parish Planning Council on August 1, 2023. The Stewardship Committee Budget and the Special Benevolence budget were finalized at the June 13, 2023, meeting.
- Proposed final version of the Administrative Manual will be reviewed by Anne. It will be taken to the Parish Planning Council for approval after that. It will be revised annually after approval.
- The parish Quick Books program used for accounting needs to be updated. This was discussed and Anne will send a list of questions to Kari Apel to discuss. Once we receive her replies, we will review this again as a board.

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

- Some of our Circles are taking time away from the Bible Study during July and August. They will hold "fun" meetings instead.
- Each Circle is gathering items for Lutheran World Relief kits to be assembled this September. Check the Visitor for needed items that you can donate.

- Triennial Convention is in Phoenix, AZ September 19-22 this year. Biennial Convention for the South-Central Synod is October 7th at Madison.
- Please donate to the Penny Jar which can be found on the name tag table on Sundays.
- No Bible Study Leaders' Meeting will be held in July.

**Youth Committee:** Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- No report was available

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

- No report was available

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

- No report was available

## **Pastors Reports**

### **Fred's Report:**

- The PPC Executive Committee met on June 12 and prepared the annual administrative budget for the calendar year 2024. It has been forwarded to the Stewardship Board.
- I rejoice in being able to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Rev. Eldor Fruehling's ordination. He was ordained on July 5 and we will celebrate with him on July 9th between services. I encourage all to attend.
- I will be conducting a wedding for Rick and Arianna Kruetzmann in Minneapolis on July 14.
- Bishop Joy will be attending our July 5 PPC meeting to explain the next steps in processing my retirement and beyond.
- I will be participating in the July 24th youth event in the Dells.
- I rejoice in the birth of a second grandchild. Bowen Carl Janis Rilling was born on June 29. He is welcomed by his big sister, Ava, Alec and Molly.
- We continue to be blessed by so many talented and gifted members. This last week, computers have taken up lots of time. I am grateful for Paul Nurkala and Lucas Miller for using their considerable gifts making sure software was doing what it should. Thank you both!

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

- Thank you all for the ordination anniversary wishes. It's hard to believe it's been 17 years. It's a privilege to be your pastor.
- June was full of nursing home services, baptisms, and graduation parties. It was good to be with our people in these ways.

- Thank you to the Women of the ELCA for the invitation to join their combined circles picnic and to lead the Bible study. I am grateful for their faithful leadership and service to the people of St. John's.
- Adult Education starts up this week (Thursdays at 2pm through August 10). We are working through a series on Civic Life and Faith created by a task force from the ELCA. We were invited to do the series and offer feedback on the materials.
- Rev. Jason Poole-Xiong will be leading an informational meeting for Youth Directors in our synod regarding the ELCA Youth Gathering for summer 2024. This will take place on Saturday, July 15. Penny and I will lead an informational meeting for any interested youth and parents in August.
- At our last Synod Council meeting we discussed the resolutions from May's Synod Assembly. Here is what we need to know at this point:
  - o Resolution 1: Care of Creation - the Synod Council and Staff are working with the authors of the resolution to create a document and avenue for sharing the information with all congregations. At this point we don't need to do anything until we are given this information...but that doesn't mean we can't take inventory and think of new ways to care for God's creation as a congregation in the meantime.
  - o Resolution 2: Updating Reconciling in Christ Commitments - we do not need to do anything with this one since we are not RIC.
  - o Resolution 3: Land Acknowledgement - The Synod Council and Staff are working to form a task force who will educate the synod about what this means, how it impacts congregations, what is expected, etc. I will share more as time goes on.

### **Old Business:**

- Child Care Update. Camp 4K is off for the summer. Plan for 2023-2024 is unknown. No further update on the new plans for childcare.
- PPC Retreat Follow-up. Continue to reach out. One easy way is to ask a stranger to help Steward.
- Nomination Committee. Eunice Yanke, Nancy Passehl, and Gina Varley as well as Dale Haroldson, Connie Burton, Donna Knickmeyer, Janelle Hupp and Fred/Sally. A motion to approve the nominating committee was made by Donna and seconded by Megan. Motion carried.
- Parsonage Usage. Has been offered to the school district. Will not know until Sept if they use it or not.
- Inactive Member List. Linda will update the list with our findings. Eventually 'write off' those who do not respond.



- Synod Annual Meeting. Discussed three resolutions. See Sally's notes.
- LGBTQ update. On hold for now but will list in the call paperwork that we will consider.

**New Business:**

- Fred's retirement and transition team/call committee
- Microphones. Some need to be updated.

Next meeting is Tuesday, August 1, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Nancy P. Lon made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Megan. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm. with The Lord's Prayer led by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.

*Thank You!*

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting me on my Mission Trip with 6:8.  
Kennedy Colby

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for donating to my Joplin Mission Trip! It was fun helping people in need and spending time with my friends!

Thank you, Boden Frosch

*(Below is a picture of Boden and some of his friends helping Harry rebuild his steps.)*





## **Happy August Birthday!**

*The day is in parenthesis*

### **Our Youngest:**

Rayne Kruchten (4)                      Eldin Nelson (9)  
Graham Goodwin (15)

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

Ellen Krueger (1)	Natalia Kelley (4)
Marli Fisher (7)	Hana Smith (8)
Cashton Suchla (9)	Elsie Orris (11)
Quinn Goetsch (13)	Odessa Wolfe (13)
Rhett Kruchten (14)	Cameron Ayers (16)
Natalie Schulenburg (17)	Laila Steinmetz (17)
Elliot Herbrand (18)	Khloe Perry (18)
Isaac Sailor (22)	Grace Hanson (24)
Olivia Steinmetz (24)	Andrew Kraus (25)
Janie Kinney (26)	Rosemary Nolden (27)
Giselle Plescia (28)	Olivia Thorne (30)
Natalie Nurkala (31)	

### **Our Youth:**

Ella Stephan (1)	Chesney Braund (4)
Addison Douglas (10)	Brayton Bahe (14)
Josie Frey (18)	Chase Urban (22)
Dylan Walker (24)	Violet Richard (25)
Oliver Harms (28)	

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

Morgan Evert (11)