

Audrey Sandberg while in 6th grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

September 2023

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Paul wrote most of the letters in the New Testament. They have a similar pattern. They begin with a greeting followed by a thanksgiving. I realize that many of my Visitor articles have had a similar pattern. As I have already greeted you, let me continue with my Thanksgiving.

I cannot begin to thank God enough for all that you have meant to me these many years. You welcomed me as a new pastor, still wet behind the ears. You gave me time to grow into my pastor role as I stumbled and learned. You forgave me when I failed and challenged me to be better. You rejoiced in my success and celebrated our joys. You are the congregation I needed in my first call as your Associate Pastor (1998-2005) and you allowed me to grow into my second call as you Lead Pastor (2005-2023). You have been more than I deserved, and I will be forever grateful for our time together.

As we part ways, I pray that our mutual grief and joy will remind us of our connectedness as well as open us to embracing a new future. You embraced me knowing little about me. I came knowing little about you. Someone will follow me doing the very same thing. I know you will embrace them as well.

As I move into a new future, I will be absent from your daily lives. Please know that this absence is hard for me. I have lived among the people of St. John's for 25 years. I have baptized, confirmed, married, and buried hundreds and hundreds of people. Our lives have been and will be forever entwined. Yet now we will walk together in new ways.

Along with leaving the congregation, I am leaving an amazing staff. Remember that my absence will affect them as well. Until an interim pastor is found, my work will be shouldered by them. My absence will also affect our council and especially our Executive Director, Nancy Kaufman. Keep the staff and Parish Planning Council in your prayers.

Finally, I sign off with the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter the Philippians, "I thank my God every time I remember you."

Shalom,



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 register before September 15.** Financial support is available! Email questions to penny@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:

Pastor: 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 anytime. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

Cereal
Canned Chili
Dish Soap

Hamburger Helper
Cornbread Mix
Paper Towels

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 September. The day is in parentheses.

Gene Mowitz (5)
S7499 Hwy. 23
Loganville, WI 53949

Fay Rentmeester (5)
930 Prairie St., Apt. 203
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Benny Stenner (10)
415 Brigham Lane
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Almay Nelson (13)
821 Hanksfield Place
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Mary Risgaard (17)
507 Lake Wisconsin Drive
Merrimac, WI 53561

Joyce Kinnamon (18)
1008 Elm St., Apt 204
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Ellen Hamlin (19)
1050 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Henryelsing (21)
2020 Hanksfield Place
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Janet Anderson (22)
1020 Monroe Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Dick Yanke (26)
S9080 Meadowdale Rd.
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



Dear Friends in Christ,

It's hard to believe that we're already gearing up for the beginning of our education programming! Time flies, doesn't it? I am grateful for our staff, Parish Education Board, and volunteers who are all working very hard to fine tune all of the details so we're ready to welcome back our students and adults later this month.


While I am working alongside this fantastic team, I am also gearing up for some other tasks. Namely, serving as your solo pastor for an unknown period of time. I am grateful for all of your support as we enter into this transitional time.

There are some very important pieces of our relationship that I am fully committed to in this 'in between' time. Please continue to let me know about your surgeries, hospitalizations, and need for pastoral care. There is no such thing as "too busy" when it comes to these important times in your lives. It will be most helpful for me if you communicate important dates and hospitalizations directly to me or through Linda Hines in the front office. Because of healthcare privacy laws, hospitals cannot call churches unless specifically directed to by patients, so we have no way of knowing unless you tell us.

Please remember Pastor Fred's retirement impacts the entire staff, not just my position. Communication, patience, and teamwork will be very important in the months ahead. While our ministry together will look different without Pastor Fred, our ministry in Christ's name continues. God is still present and the Spirit is still working. I look forward to reflecting on and discerning where the Spirit might lead us!

We currently do not have any information as to when an interim pastor will start. Nancy Kaufman, Executive Director of the Parish Planning Council, will share information about the next steps on this journey as we know more. Until then, we rest assured that God is here and we keep being God's hands and feet in this place.

Blessings,

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, September 14, in St. John's Library, Karen Bader, Hostess	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, September 7, in St. John's Library, Ruth Dresser, Hostess	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, September 11, at Marian DeGiovanni's, 295 Water St., Prairie du Sac	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, September 5, in St. John's Library	9:30am

We are looking forward to getting back to our regular Circle Meetings in September at the times and places listed above. The fall study will start with a 3-session Bible Study by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, entitled "Holy Places." In this fall study we will explore what holy places mean, not only for the Holy Land of the Bible, but for each of us, wherever that may be. It should be an interesting study and if you haven't attended Circle meetings before, we would very much love to have you join us. We always get into some good discussions, and any one of the Circles would be happy to welcome you. It's very informal and you don't have to be an authority on the Bible to participate. Bible Study leaders for September will be Mary Weeks, Patty Barritt and Kathy Lester.

Our Circles take turns visiting St. John's Special Friends (members who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes...or older people who live alone and enjoy having company). Visiting with these people is an interesting and fun thing to do. Lydia Circle is visiting Special Friends in August and September. Ruth Circle will visit them in October and November.

There will be a WELCA South Central Synodical Biennial Convention and Gathering at Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 4329 Tokay Blvd., Madison on Saturday, October 7, 2023. The theme is: "Good Things Come in Small Packages", Luke 12:15-21 "And he said to them, "Take Care! Be on guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions" ...But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God." Early Bird Registration fee is \$25, which covers the cost of the program, materials and lunch, if you pay by September 9th. September 10 – October 7 the cost is \$40. **We should have checks payable to WELCA into the**

church office by September 7th in order to get the early bird rate. Each congregation is invited to be represented at the business meeting with 1 voting member. This meeting is from 8:15 – 9:15am. The Opening Session is at 9:30am with Bishop Joy Mortensen-Weber and Pastor Ellen Stelzle from St. John's Lutheran Church, Oregon leading the worship using a liturgy to celebrate bold women. The convention offering will be collected with 33% to go to Second Harvest, 33% to Madison Area Jail Ministry, and 34% to WELCA Synodical Treasurer. There will be several workshop opportunities:

- Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin
- Open Doors for Refugees
- Support, Advocacy, and Education – Alliance on Mental Illness
- Holding Hope for God's Creation
- The Chaos of Incarceration – Madison Jail Ministry
- Quilts Connect Us
- Explore Your Personal Abundance with Yoga
- Chocolate Bar Tasting – Equal Exchange

In-kind gifts to be donated are non-perishable food items for the St. Mark's Lutheran Church food pantry. Also, spiritual devotionals for the Bible Book Drive for the Madison Area Jail Ministry. Only soft-cover books please. Spanish books are especially needed. A Suggestion List is at <https://scsw-elca.org/welca/>

This is always a very nice event with worship, the workshops and speakers and we urge you to prayerfully consider attending. The lunch is always good too! This year it will be a Pasta Buffet Luncheon. The Closing Session begins at 1:35pm and adjourns at 2:30pm. Pennies for Poverty offerings will be distributed to Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin if we take the money to this meeting. We have the option of giving it to a local food pantry. Last year we gave our pennies to Hope House at the end of the year and there was \$200 from the Pennies Jar! We haven't decided yet what to do this year, but whether we give it to a place like Hope House or Second Harvest, it will be a worthy cause and we should all look for the "Pennies for Poverty Jar" on the name tag table and give as generously as possible. We will carpool to the meeting and will have more information on what time we will leave closer to the date of the event.

All the Circles have been very busy shopping for and working on the various Lutheran World Relief Kits: School, Baby Care, Personal Care and Fabric Kits, and of course the Quilters have been working hard all year making the beautiful quilts. All the kits

and the quilts need to be boxed up and ready for shipment by September 14. We all have lots to do in order to meet the deadline.

Remember to look in this Visitor to join in the Prayer for Peace on the 20th of the month.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for October will be September 26th at 9:00am.

Submitted by Ruth Dresser, WELCA Secretary



Worship Time Change

On Sunday, September 10th, our worship service times will change to **8:00am and 10:30am** with both services being held in the sanctuary and live via ZOOM. This will be our schedule until Memorial Day weekend.

Adult Education

Adult Education classes will be starting up mid to late September. We gather in room 3 in the Sunday School hall at 9:15-10:15. More information to come in the weekly bulletins!



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, aides, 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 special blessing!



JUST BAKERY

A JustDane Initiative

Just Bakery will be back on Sunday, September 17 between our worship services. Stop in the fellowship hall to check them out!

Sauk Prairie CommUNITY Acceptance Now Events (SP CAN)

Join other members of the community in a book read, speaker, and film screening! This year's book is William Kent Krueger's *This Tender Land*. Free copies are available at the local libraries.

SP CAN invites you to the following opportunities:

- October 5: Community Read Discussion (option 1). Discuss at 6:30pm at Ruth Culver Library.
- October 10: Community Read Discussion (option 2). Discuss the same book as printed above at 1pm at George Culver Library.
- October 16: Speaker: Janice Rice, member of Ho-Chunk Nation at 6pm at Ruth Culver Library.
- October 25: Film Screening of Indian Horse at 6pm at Ruth Culver Library.

See posters hanging on the kiosk at church or contact Pastor Sally for more information at 608-643-2439 or sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org.

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Lord, when my heart is overwhelmed, overwhelm me with Your peace.

Lead me to You, my rock. Guide me to Your word which gives me strength and refuge.

Help me not to run to lesser things. Draw me to run to You first.

Help me get into the habit of taking my “overwhelmed” and placing it under your will.

Thank You, Lord.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

— Lysa TerKeurst



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Brody and Jenna Stuetgen family of the death of Brody's grandmother, Christine Lammi.

Roger Clason on the death of his sister-in-law, Bonnie Haag.

Linda and John Hines and their family on the death of Linda's mother, Marlene Steinke.

Brian and Tracy Breunig and their family on the death of Brian's sister-in-law, Vicki L. Breunig.

Please keep these families in your prayers.



American Red Cross

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive at St. John's on **September 18th, 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** If you are able, consider signing up to donate via their website at www.redcrossblood.org.



St. John's is scheduled to deliver Mobile Meals from the Sauk Prairie Hospital the second and third weeks of October. The dates are October 9 – 13 and October 16 – 20. Delivery time is usually one hour beginning about 11:30am. More details are on the sign-up sheet on the kiosk. If you are interested and have questions, please contact Ellen Jorgensen at domine.ellen@gmail.com.



Choirs for the Fall of 2023

Do you like to make music? There are lots of opportunities at St. John's.

Each week we have a CANTOR lead the psalm. Would you like to be put on the rotating list?

SENIOR CHOIR rehearses weekly, and we sing 3-4 times a month. We are ALWAYS open to new singers! Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7-8PM, and we'll begin on Sept. 6.

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM is our children's choir for grades 2 and beyond. We rehearse Wednesdays from 5:00 -5:45pm and will begin on Sept 13. If you're a little nervous about joining the choir, come try us out for a few weeks and then decide if you want to continue. We'd love to have you join us!

St. John's HANDBELL CHOIR rehearses on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00pm. We will begin rehearsing August 31st. We'll play for the first time on October 15.

If any of the opportunities above sound interesting, please email me at Ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org for more details.

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 our Sunday school teachers, librarians, adult education teachers, confirmation teachers and aides, director of music and education board members. Please join us as we rejoice in God's gifts made manifest in these individuals.



Young Adult News

We continue to celebrate the milestones of our St. John's Young Adults! These folks, who we watched grow up in our midst, are now inviting us to celebrate with the successes in their adult lives.

Jonah Richard, son of Carrie and Rob Richard, graduated from Air Force Basic Training in August and now is officially an Airman! Congratulations to Jonah and we pray for his continued safety and growth as he serves our country.

Sunday School News

RALLY DAY and Back-to-School Blessing

Rally Day is September 17! Come join the excitement as we prepare for Sunday School. Register for class, meet your teacher, and have fun. Look for the table in the Sunday School hall to get started.



3-Year-Old & 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

On Sunday, October 1, at the 8am & 10:30am services we will present Bibles to our 3-year-olds and third grade youth. In our Baptismal liturgy we promise to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of our candidates. A letter was sent home at the end of August with more details. If you did not receive a letter, please contact Pastor Sally at 608-643-2439 or email sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, Sept 20! All confirmation students and at least one guardian should plan to attend Welcome Back night: 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. You can find the full confirmation calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/ConfirmCal>

ELCA Youth Gathering: Summer 2024

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ELCA 2023 Youth Leadership Summit

The ELCA 2023 Youth Leadership Summit empowers and inspires young people to become influential leaders in all the ways that our ministry appears in this world. This year's theme, 'Called on The Way' focuses on exploring the unique journeys that individuals take in response to their calling and how these journeys shape their leadership abilities. To be considered for this event, please email or call Penny before Oct. 1st.

2023 ELCA Youth Leadership Summit

When: November 2-5, 2023

Where: ELCA Churchwide Office in Chicago, IL

Who: 9-12 Graders

Worship Job Sign-Up

Each student needs to complete 4 Worship Jobs from June to September. There are many open spots that need to be filled! If your student is struggling to complete their worship jobs please contact Penny (penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org) for help. Sign-up for the available spots at <https://signup.com/go/HtCaUTB>

Serving in September

Greeters:

Sept 3 (Sanctuary) Todd/Gina Wyttenbach
(Front doors) Jackie Frosch

8:00 a.m.

Sept 10 (Sanctuary) Don/Vi Bohler
(Front doors) Rich/Kris Frey

Sept 17 (Sanctuary) Violet Richard
(Front doors) Joslyn Schultz

Sept 24 (Sanctuary) Steve/Cheryl Sprecher
(Front doors) Todd/Gina Wyttenbach

10:30 a.m.

Doris Lohr

Dale Clason

Dylan Walker

Michael Jolicouer

John/Ellen Mast

Ushers:

September 3

9:00 a.m.

Gina Wyttenbach, Todd Wyttenbach, John Herbst, Nancy Kaufman, Evelyn Bahe

8:00 a.m.

September 10

Lon Kaderavek
Nancy Kaufman
Kendra Frey

10:30 a.m.

Wolfgang Reich
Diane Reich
Evelyn Bahe
Steve Kindschi
Holly Kindschi

September 17

Lon Kaderavek
Rob Richard
Joslyn Schultz

September 24

Gina Wyttenbach
Todd Wyttenbach
Charlie Lueck

Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Cannon Esser

Acolytes:

September 3

9:00 a.m.

Carter Kruchten

8:00 a.m.

September 10

September 17

September 24

Cora Miller

10:30 a.m.

Clay Hutchins

Assisting Ministers: 9:00 a.m.

September 3

Donna Knickmeyer

September 10

September 17

September 24

8:00 a.m.

Cora Miller
Cora Miller
Jude Hanna

10:30 a.m.

Alyssa Himebauch
Clay Hutchins
Jude Hanna

Readers:

September 3

9:00 a.m.

John Hines

September 10

September 17

September 24

8:00 a.m.

Nancy Kaufman
Carrie Richard
Gary Tomter

10:30 a.m.

Denny Dederich
Bob Nelson
Kathy Lovell

Cantors:

September 3

September 10

September 17

September 24

9:00 a.m.

Melani Wheeler

8:00 a.m.

Senior Choir

Chris Stephan

Bill Burton

10:30 a.m.

Senior Choir

Chris Stephan

Bill Burton

Communion

September 3

September 10

September 17

September 24

Set-Up

Donna Knickmeyer

Marsha/Rodney

Key

Youth

Jayne Carlson

Clean-Up

Marilyn Herschleb

Dale Clason,

Audrey Luetscher

Youth

Audrey Luetscher,

Dale Clason

Communion Assistants 9:00 a.m.

September 3

September 10

September 17

September 24

Gina Varley

8:00 a.m.

Kris Frey

Violet Richard

Marilyn Herschleb

10:30 a.m.

Laura Hutchins

Youth

Kathy Lovell

Sunday Stewards

September 3

September 10

September 17

September 24

9:00 a.m.

Nancy Kaufman

8:00 a.m.

Nancy Kaufman

Nancy Passehl

Ellen Jorgensen

10:30 a.m.

Sheila Peak Dittberner

Linda Michaels

Roger Seymour

Technical Support

September 3

September 10

September 17

September 24

9:00 a.m.

Lisa Davis, Ellen Jorgensen, Charlie Kruchten

8:00 a.m.

Alyssa Himebauch

Charlie Kruchten

Alyssa Himebauch

Liz/Malcolm Leith

Lisa Davis

Ellen Jorgensen

10:30 a.m.

Jeff, Nicole, Audrey

Sandberg

Jeff, Nicole, Audrey

Sandberg

Eric Kaul, Liz Leith

Madyn Ludowitz

Coffee Servers:

September 3

September 10

September 17

September 24

Linda Michaels

John and Linda Hines

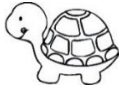
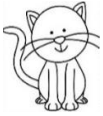
Steve and Patty Barritt

Garrett Ziehlsdorf family



Stock the Schools

In cooperation with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's is collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. Each month we will have different items to collect that will help our local students. Some of these items can be used in school and some at home. **Items needed for September are: Ramen Noodles, individual Mac & Cheese Cups and 3-inch-wide Ring Binders.** Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations. Thank you.



Pet Blessing

On Sunday, October 8th, we will hold a Pet Blessing Service outdoors after the 10:30am service, beginning about noon. Pets hold a special place in our hearts, and this service is one way to remind us that God loves and cares for all of God's creatures, even the furry ones! You are welcome to bring your well-behaved and social pet. If your pet doesn't enjoy being around other animals or people, or has passed away, consider bringing a favorite photo. To create a safe and stress-free environment, it is important that everyone follow these guidelines for participation in the Pet Blessing:

- Keep pets on a short leash or kenneled at all times.
- Bring domestic animals only; no "exotic" pets.
- Pets are to stay outdoors while on church grounds.
- Parents must be present to assist small children with their pets. We ask that parents tend to the pet during the service.
- Be respectful of other pets. Since pets can be nervous in group situations, respect a pet's "space" by not crowding around them. If you wish to approach a pet, ask the owner first.
- Do not bring pet food or treats with you to the service.
- You are responsible for your pet at all times. Please have clean-up bags with you (just in case...).

We hope to see you and your pet at this fun event! Share a favorite photo of your pet with us on the St. John's Facebook page!

Meet the Parish Planning Council

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the Boards at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church? We will be featuring a Board each month in the Visitor. Since this idea was suggested by the Stewardship Board, that board will be the first one spotlighted.

The Stewardship Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. The board is chaired by Anne Klinkner. The other members of the board are the Lead Pastor, the Treasurer (Donna Nelson), Cathy Yanke and Roger Seymour. We need more members. Contact Anne Klinkner at 608-393-6453 if you are interested in joining us.

The current functions of the Stewardship Board are to

- Conduct an annual Stewardship Response Program.
- Develop a time and talent survey.
- Select a committee to review the financial records and determine how to act on the recommendations from the financial review.
- Assemble the annual congregational budget.
- Order offering envelopes.
- Encourage financial giving.
- Encourage missionary sponsorship both locally and globally.
- Distribute special benevolence offerings.

In response to the financial review, an Administrative Procedure Manual was developed during several of our 2022 and 2023 meetings. It will be reviewed annually with the first review scheduled for fall of 2024.

In addition to the duties outlined above, during 2023 and 2024 an Investment Policy will be developed, and we will continue to monitor and look for ways to increase financial support.

We truly appreciate all of the financial support we receive from all of you. Rest assured we are able to continue our mission and programs thanks to your support. St. John's is able to continue to pay our bills and keep our doors open. The primary need for increased giving is to fund our current year budgeted expenses with current year giving. That allows us to maintain our investments and savings without having to use them for budgeted expenses. Thank you for taking time to learn more about the Stewardship Board.

May God bless you,

Anne Klinkner, Stewardship Chair

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: August 2, 2022

PRESENT: Donna Nelson, Nancy Passehl, Eunice Yanke, Fred Rilling, Sally Williams, Roger Seymour, Ellen Jorgensen, Sheila Dittberner, Gina Varley, Anne Klinkner, Linda Michaels

ABSENT: Nancy Kaufman, Lon Kaderaveki, Megan Tarnutzer, Cathy Yanke.

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:03p.m. by Nancy Passehl. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Sheila and seconded by Eunice. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Nancy P.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer report:

The committee reviewed and discussed the July 2023 Treasurer Report submitted by Donna Nelson. For the month of July 2023, expenses exceeded income by \$13,000. A transfer of \$25,000 was made from the savings account to the checking account. We are current on all expenses, but income needs to increase to meet our budgeted expenses for the year.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- Discussion Evangelism Chairperson Replacement (have names to submit to committee).
- Pet Blessing - schedule for October 2023
- Guest Book UpToDate.
- Post Cards reorder or have stock remaining?
- Discussed update Entry Board Sept 23 with new board members.

- Continue to remind and encourage group/members to participate with services; communion setup, readers, usher, entry door greeters, etc....
- Next Meeting: 9/10/23 9:00ish am

Fellowship: Linda Michaels reported:

- Ruth Dresser has a birthday on Aug. 22nd and is providing cake and ice cream to celebrate on Sunday, August 20
- Bob Nelson has worked at St. John's for 25 years. We will celebrate on Aug. 27th.
- Still trying to get people to sign up for serving coffee through the end of the year. With me going off the board and Pastor Fred's retirement, I am trying to fill it to the end of the year so that Pastor Sally, the interim pastor, or my replacement do not need to worry about that for a while.
- September 3, 2023 is the retirement celebration for Pastor Fred Rilling. There will be a service at 9:00 on that day followed by the celebration.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

Lay Ministry has nothing to report.

Parish Education: Pastor Sally Williams reported:

- We are making the switch to the curriculum that explores the most familiar stories vs. the lectionary cycle. This gives our teachers more freedom and resources at their disposal. The cost is the same.
- We are almost FULLY staffed for Sunday School and Confirmation! We are waiting on one more person to respond about teaching and we'll be good to go, INCLUDING Singspiration! Rally Day is Sept 17 and classes start Sept 24.
- We will start the year using a library cart for book check out and have a volunteer read a story to the classes. If this is successful, we'll talk about having the classes visit the library and adult ed can move into an empty Sunday School room.
- Sally will look into getting some more children's resources for the library (Veggie tales, books, etc.)

- Joanna and Miranda will look into the Hayride date. Penny and Sally are set to lead the hayride event if it doesn't work for our Supers as they are looking forward to an awesome family wedding in October!
- We are looking for a Christmas Program Director. If we can't find someone, we feel comfortable either having an Advent Festival or a Christmas party.
- We decided to try the card creating party this fall when people are reengaged in the program.
- There are no new items for the Confirmation Program, just reaffirming that we will have Welcome Back night on Sept 20 with a fellowship meal and family information session / kickoff event. Confirmation classes begin on Sept 27, and each night of class will have a fellowship meal the half-hour prior to class time. We will hold a teacher orientation meeting on Aug 30 to make preparations for the new academic year.
- Adult Ed is going well. We've met four times now on Civic Life and Faith. We will resume our Sunday morning classes this fall - date TBD. I will be seeking assistance from our retired pastors and lay leaders in teaching as we move into the transition of Fred's retirement.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

The roof leak is being taken care of by the contractor. There will be no charge for the repair to the congregation.

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

There is no report.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- The Stewardship Board did not meet in July, 2023.
- The Procedure Manual and 2024 budget will be sent to the PPC for approval at the August, 2023 meeting.. Update: The approval for the Procedure Manual will happen in September, 2023.
- A date for the Congregational Meeting will be finalized at the same meeting. Update: The Congregational Meeting has been set for October 15, 2023.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- We were very pleased to have 37 women attend the Picnic in June. Thank you to Pastor Sally and Ginny Nimmow for being the speakers at our meeting.
- Many of the Circles have been able to get the \$250 grant money from Thrivent to use towards the Lutheran World Relief kits that we are putting together this fall. Thank you to Ginny Nimmow for her guidance,
- All Circles are busy collecting items for their LWR kits. (See the list in the Visitor if you would like to donate.) Kits and Quilts are shipped on September 16.
- Biennial WELCA Convention of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin is October 7, 2023, at Midvale Lutheran Church of Madison. Our Penny Jar money will be turned in at the Convention. Everyone, remember to donate!

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- Youth board had a successful trip to the jet boats.
- Meetings will also start soon for next year's youth gathering.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

There is nothing to report.

Youth member at Large: This position is currently vacant.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Fred's Report:

- This will be my last pastoral report to the PPC. I will be officially retired by the next PPC meeting in September.
- People have been asking what I will be doing in my retirement and if we will be moving. Here is some of what I have said...
 - We are not moving at the current time.
 - I will be taking a year off from any pastoral responsibilities. This means that not only will I follow the rules that require I refrain from serving members of St. John's (doing funerals, weddings, and such), but I will not do any pastoral acts for anyone.

- I will be looking at volunteering more during the summer in my role as a sailing instructor through the UW Hooper's Sailing Club.
- Kris and I plan on doing some traveling and of course, we will be spending more time with our grandchildren.
- I look forward to retiring but I will miss deeply the people of St. John's and serving as their pastor. I am grateful that we have a wonderful staff and a supportive bishop. I look forward to my next steps and those of this congregation that I love dearly.

Sally's Report:

- My adult ed report is included in the Parish Ed report below
- Fred and I continue the 'transfer of information' process as his retirement nears. Plans for a celebration in his honor are in the works led by the Fellowship Board.
- Ruellene and I are in conversation with Linda and the musicians about using a different worship setting that includes a guitar part. It's from With One Voice and we have done it in the past. It has a more upbeat feel to it but is also pretty easy to sing. One benefit is those who have been here for a while will already know it and can be leaders for the rest of the congregation. We will learn parts of it late summer/early fall before we start using it.
- We have a growing number of youth who are learning about how to do tech during worship. It is great to see their interest, ability, and the relationships they're building with the adult tech leaders. Thank you, tech team!
- The next ELCA Youth Gathering will be in the summer of 2024. We are holding an informational meeting at 7pm on Tuesday (I will have to leave PPC a little before 7pm). Once we know the interest level, I will update the council on the financial details.
- Latest childcare update from Tywana German: They have evaluated 6 spaces to date and Sandra is working on one final space to review. They hope to send a report and connect with each community partner no later than the middle to end of August.

Old Business:

- Sunday Steward Sign Up: The list was passed around.
- Daycare Update: This is included in Pastor Sally's report.
- PPC Retreat Follow-up: We continue to be watchful for people to welcome at our services.
- Parsonage Usage: The school district employee will be looking at possible rentals the first week of August 2023.
- Pastor Fred's Retirement: It is happening. Join us on Sunday, September 3, 2023, for the celebration.

New Business:

- The 2024 budget in the amount of \$613,264 was discussed. A motion was made by Gina and seconded by Donna to approve the budget. The motion carried.
- Procedure Manual: The manual will be voted on at the September 2023 PPC meeting.

Next PPC meeting is Tuesday, September 5, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Sheila.

Donna made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Eunice. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 6:57pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy Passehl.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Klinkner.

Congregational Meeting

On October 15, after the first service, we will have a congregational meeting to approve our 2024 budget, elect members to our Parish Planning Council, elect 3 representatives to attend the Synod Assembly in 2024 and to elect three congregational members to serve on our Nomination Committee.

We will be voting to fill the open positions on our PPC. Our nominees are: Evangelism Chair – Gwen Ringelstetter, Fellowship Chair – Cathy McAlexander, Parish Education Chair – James Newman, Youth Board Chair – Tracy Pape and Youth Member-at-Large – Sean Jager. Our nominees for Synod Assembly representatives are: Dale Haroldson, Nancy Passehl and Linda Lintl. Nominees for the Nomination Committee will be taken from the floor on the day of the meeting.

Please join us for this important meeting.

St. John's Budget for 2024 We will be voting on the 2024 Budget at our Congregational meeting on October 15.

PROGRAM	APPROVED 2023	BUDGETED 2024	% CHANGE
Administration	\$424,248.00	\$448,444.00	5.70%
Lay Ministry	\$9,800.00	\$10,000.00	2.04%
Evangelism	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
Stewardship	\$2,125.00	\$2,100.00	-1.18%
PR & Social Concerns	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00	0.00%
Parish Education	\$12,793.00	\$11,770.00	-8.00%
Youth Board	\$5,700.00	\$30,300.00	431.58%
Fellowship	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
Properties	\$52,500.00	\$51,850.00	-1.24%
Lutheran Church Women	\$3,375.00	\$2,500.00	-25.93%
Benevolence	\$54,450.00	\$49,450.00	-9.18%
TOTAL	\$571,841.00	\$613,264.00	7.24%

The Youth Board budget figure includes money set aside to help finance our trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering which meets every 3 years. St. John's sets aside money each month to support our youth to attend this Gathering. The ELCA Youth Gathering is July 16-20 in New Orleans.

A more itemized listing of the various board budgets is available in the church office. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Happy September Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

No under 3-year-old birthdays to report this month

Our Sunday School Students:

Metta Opie (1)	Ira Opie (3)
Olin Frey (4)	Malania Hitchcock (4)
Ryan Bakken (7)	Olivia Stephan (9)
Elliot Harms (10)	Tate Neubacher (10)
Lucas Muehrer (12)	Corbin Colby (13)
Teddy Rosenstiel (13)	Vinny Meyer (15)
Maximus Nelson (15)	Callie Lohr (17)
Hayden Ballweg (23)	McKayla Peterson (24)
Caleb Anderson (27)	Nicole Scott (27)
Owen Robertson (29)	

Our Youth:

Ramona Blau (2)	Audrey Sandberg (3)
Josey Thomas (5)	Masen Schmidt (8)
Gavin Sawyer (9)	Austin Urban (12)
Cannon Esser (15)	Claire Hartman (15)
Ryan Jager (16)	Brooke Braund (17)
George Colby (18)	Lauren Endres (18)
Micah Boerger (19)	Ellery Apel (20)
Erelyn Apel (20)	Michael Blau (21)
Matthew Johnson (24)	Malea Schonenberger (28)

College and Career-age Young People:

Gavin Tomplin (4)	Samantha Johnson (7)
Annika Braund (10)	Ashley Pape (17)
Kyra Manning (18)	Carly Coy (22)