



Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits

On September 15, 2023, we sent out boxes and boxes of kits and quilts to Lutheran World Relief. This effort was made possible by many hearts and hands. We thank all of you who donated supplies, organized, bundled, packed kits, tied quilts, loaded boxes, and drove them to Madison to start their journey helping others around the world. St. John's sent out 33 Sewing Kits, 101 Baby Care Kits, 112 Personal Care Kits, 216 School Kits and 400 Quilts! Below are some of the busy hands from 2023:





Reverend Duane Lokken's Ordination Anniversary

On October 25th, Rev. Duane Lokken will be celebrating his 48th ordination anniversary. We give thanks for his answer to call, his leadership and his ministry to God's people. If you would like to send him a note his home address is: 1253 S. Forest Lane, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578. Congratulations Rev. Lokken!

October is Clergy Appreciation Month

October has been designated as Clergy Appreciation Month. St. John's is blessed to have ordained members of clergy as a part of our St. John's family – Pastor Sally Williams, Pastor Peter Heide, Pastor Dan Odden, Pastor Eldor Fruehling, Pastor Duane Lokken, and Pastor Derek Rosenstiel.

In October we will celebrate our pastors, the work they have done for us and the leadership they have provided.

On October 22nd, we will have cards expressing our gratitude to sign in our gathering area.

Beginning on October 1, we will provide a prayer calendar for the month of October for each pastor. Please sign up for the day or days in which you or you and your family will pray specifically for that pastor. We would like to have prayers being said for each pastor on each day of October.

*Thank
you*

Greetings from Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Dear St. John's,

I am overwhelmed by your love for me and my family. Sunday's (September 3) celebration was just one more reminder of how blessed I was to be called to be your pastor. My 25 years of pastorship with you was a gift that continues to remind me of God's love made known in you. I ask for your prayers as we transition into this new phase of our lives, and I will continue to do the same.

Thank you again for your love and support.

Blessings,



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		
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

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:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Spaghetti | Spaghetti Sauce |
| Granola Bars | Crackers |
| Soup | Cereal |
| Graham Crackers | Frosting |

Keep this list handy as you do your grocery shopping during the next few weeks.

THANK YOU

Your gift of \$368.66 from the Youth Car Wash is sure to make a positive impact for families in the Sauk Prairie area! Thank you for your generosity. Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry



Birthday Greetings

We hope you take a moment to send greetings to the following people who have birthdays in October. The day is in parentheses.

Dean Pfaff (4)
1050 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Norma Newman (4)
11020 Thousand Oaks Dr
Huntersville, NC 28078



Jim Sauer (10)
88 Norfolk Pine Ln
Naples, FL 34114

Yvonne Richard (14)
930 Prairie St., Apt. 211
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Diane Tenley (18)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53578

Dorothy Halverson (18)
9456 County Road Y
Sauk City, WI 53583

Karen Bader (27)
N2388 Trails End Rd
Lodi, WI 53555

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, October 12, at Diane Elsing's, 2020 Hanksfield Place, Prairie du Sac	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, October 5, in St. John's Library, Ruth Dresser, Hostess	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, October 9, at Patty Barritt's, 314 Hickory Street, Sauk City	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, October 3, in St. John's Library	9:30am

30 ladies attended Circle meetings in September. We began with a very interesting study in September: Session 1 on "Holy Places", which was led by Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Kathy Lester, and Patty Barritt. In October, Session 2 of the same series will be led by Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Kathy Lester, and Marian DeGiovanni.

We are very happy that all our Kits and Quilts for Lutheran World Relief were boxed up and taken to the Boxcar Loading on Saturday, September 16th. Sincere thanks go to Henry Elsing and Roger Maynard for taking them to Madison. We also thank Henry, Roger, Lon Kaderavek, Steve Barritt, Don Bohler and Donna Nelson for loading the boxes in the trailer and all the people who worked so diligently in getting everything purchased and packed up to go. The numbers are as follows: 400 Quilts, 33 Sewing Kits, 112 Personal Care Kits, 101 Baby Kits and 216 School Kits.

Nine ladies from St. John's will be attending the WELCA South-Central Synodical Convention at Midvale Lutheran Church in Madison on Saturday, October 7th. We will report on that meeting in the November *Visitor*.

PLEASE NOTE: The Pennies for Poverty Jar will be out on the name tag table for the next few weeks. We have chosen to give our Penny Jar money to 6:8. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause that helps men, women and children in need in our local community, it would be very much appreciated.

Pennies...larger coins, paper money or checks...it all counts! We know 6:8 is a very worthy cause!

The ThankOffering Service will be Sunday, November 26th. This is a special opportunity to honor God by making a donation, thanking Him for all He has done for us. Put your contribution in an envelope marked "THANKOFFERING". There will be a marked basket outside the sanctuary for this purpose. This offering goes to

the National WELCA and provides funds for World Hunger and other important programs.

Christmas Cheer recommendations for our WELCA gifts are Special Olympics and Hope House. (We give \$200 for each group.) These choices will be voted on/approved by the Circles during our October meetings.

Lydia Circle has been visiting Special Friends in August and September. Ruth Circle will visit them in October and November.

Remember to look in this Visitor for the Prayer for Peace to be read on October 20th.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for November will be October 31st at 9:00am.

Adult Education

Adult Education will now be held in Room 3 (green room) in the Sunday School Hallway.

Rev. Peter Heide will lead the Adult Study group in a series of discussions on the Church, the State, and Native Americans. The dates and topics are:

Sept. 24 - What do we know or think we know about this topic?

Oct. 1 - What does the ELCA say about it? Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org)

Oct. 8 - Teach the Truth Wisconsin Week of Action
#TeachTheTruthWI – Wisconsin Council of Churches (wichurches.org)

Oct. 15 - -What is the ELCA doing? What is South-Central Synod of Wisconsin doing? South-Central Synod of Wisconsin | Racial Equity (scsw-elca.org)

Oct. 22 What is St. John's doing? What can we do together and alone?



90th plus Birthday Celebration

Join us on October 29th as we rejoice with our St. John's family members who have celebrated 90 or more birthdays. We will have warm wishes cards to sign in our gathering area, along with special treats at coffee hour.

SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray this prayer on the 20th day of October.

Lord, you are the God of peace. May your peace be with our pastor's family no matter what circumstances they are facing today. Though I may not understand their trials fully, help me to know how I can come alongside them with Christian love. Bless each one with good physical and emotional health. Give them grace and mercy and encourage them during times of stress or sorrow. Amen.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Jeff and Kathy Ochsankehl and their family on the death of Jeff's mother, Patricia Ochsankehl.

Lois and David Kaul, Matthew, Steven and Eric Kaul and their families on the death of Lois's aunt Inez Zitlow.

Sue and Larry Hitchcock, Craig and Kristina Hitchcock, Rebecca and Jason Patterson and their families on the death of mother and grandmother, LaVonne Knuth.

Rhonda, Ryan, Rory, and Reyna Bolton and their families on the death of husband and father, Ray Bolton.

Vi and Don Bohler, Annie and Paul Kippley and their families on the death of Vi's sister and Annie's aunt, Kate Hochstein.

Lori Klitzke, Sheri and Steve Wideen and their families on the death of Sheri and Lori's father, Walter Klitzke.

Peggy and Craig Johnson on the death of Peggy's mother, Margaret (Marge) Michulsky.

Please keep these families in your prayers.



Grandbaby Congratulations

We rejoice with Jackie and Dan Frosch on the birth of their grandson, Wesley Own. Ally and Brad are Wesley's proud parents.



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Sometimes I have the opportunity to take a step back to take in all the God's hands and feet in this world are doing. The first couple of weeks after Pastor Fred's retirement gave me ample opportunity.

Women's Circles poured in to put together kits. The quilters packed up the 400 quilts they made. Several people showed up to load up Hank Elsing's truck with all of these boxes earlier than anticipated because of a funeral. Funeral luncheon volunteers came in to prepare, serve, and clean up. Our staff working hard as always, but with increased hours and workload with a number of funerals and events happening in a short period of time.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg of what's happening around here.

It's easy to minimize this work. To say all I did was weigh some boxes and put them in a truck, or to believe that setting up tables and chairs is not really that big of a deal. But those boxes are filled with necessary items that could change someone's day. Those tables and chairs hold the grieving up as they eat and try to nourish their tired bodies and souls.

It all makes a difference.

Isaiah 52:7 says, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'"

These kits, quilts, funeral luncheons, table setting up, hard work, showing up for each other, and praying for each other are ways that you are the hands and feet that announce God's peace, God's good news, and God's salvation in Christ.

The Spirit is surely moving among you. While many among us are grieving these days, we have reason to give thanks because you continue to be Christ's face to one another.

With deep gratitude,

Sally



MEETING

Congregational Meeting

On October 15th, at 9am, we will have a congregational meeting between services in the sanctuary to approve our 2024 budget, elect members to our Parish Planning Council, elect three voting members to attend the Synod Assembly in 2024 and elect three congregational members to serve on our Nomination Committee. Please join us for this important meeting.

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 Voting Members 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.

All active members of St. John's are invited to attend.

Reading of the Congregational Meeting Minutes

In lieu of the reading of the minutes from the October 2022 Congregational Meeting, the minutes are listed here. Please take the time to read through them before attending the meeting on October 15, 2023. You will have an opportunity to ask questions at that meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING October 16, 2022 –

(In building and via Zoom platform)

PPC Executive Director, Janelle Hupp, confirmed at least 50 members present and called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2023 budget, vote on nominees for the Parish Planning Council, approve nominating committee members for PPC recruiting, and approve Synod Assembly volunteers.

The minutes of the February 2022, Congregational meeting were read by secretary, Cathy Yanke. Motion to approve was made by Nancy Kaufman and 2nd by Megan Tarnutzer. Executive Director, Janelle Hupp asked if there were any objections. None

were given, motion was unanimously approved, and minutes were approved as read.

Janelle described the 2023 budget and pointed out the most significant changes included the administration budget increase for the intern salary and moving the musician's salaries to this program as well. The Youth Board decrease is because the youth gathering is held every 3rd year. A motion to approve the budget was made by Donna Knickmeyer and 2nd by Donna Nelson. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Our second topic was to approve PPC nominees being Nancy Kaufman as Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director as Nancy Passehl, the Chair of PR and Social Concerns Committee as Ellen Jorgensen, and the Chair of WELCA is Eunice Yanke. We still need a Parish Education Chair. A motion to approve the nominees was made by Marv Hupp and 2nd by Josie Fentress. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Third, we approved the nominating committee to recruit members for additional PPC members that includes Pastor Fred, Janelle as the outgoing PPC Director, 3 congregational members (self-nominated Dale Haroldson, Connie Burton, and Donna Knickmeyer) and three PPC members to be determined. A motion to approve the nominees was made by Nancy Kaufman and 2nd by Donna Nelson. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Our final topic was to accept nominations for attendees to the Synod Assembly on May 20, 2023. We can send 3 adults (either 2 males and 1 female or 2 females and 1 male), 1 young adult (under 30 years old) and 1 high school youth. Pastor Fred and Pastor Sally are also voting members. Nancy Kaufman and Doug and Donna Nelson volunteered. If any adult under 30 or a high school youth is interested, please contact Nancy. A motion to approve the volunteers was made by Nancy Passehl and 2nd by Donna Knickmeyer. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Janelle described our Zoom services as our newest ministry and thanked Roger Seymour for leading this group that allows us to keep everyone connected to the church no matter where they may be. If anyone wants to help, please contact Roger.

Parting words from director Janelle included appreciation to the PPC team and others in the congregation who work behind the scenes that allow her to be a part of St John's success.

Marv Hupp made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was 2nd by Harold Carlson. Director Janelle Hupp asked if there were any objections and after receiving none, she adjourned the meeting at 9:18 am.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Yanke

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 the Youth 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, 2024, in New Orleans.

A more itemized listing of the various board budgets is available in the church office.

Outgoing Parish Planning Council (PPC) Members

We are grateful for the wonderful work all our PPC members have done this past year. Four of those leaders will be leaving the council this year. Sheila Peak Dittberner, Linda Michaels, Megan Tarnutzer and Jonah Richard. They all have served two years or more during a time when the pandemic challenged all of our assumptions about what it meant to be 'church.' Please take a moment to share your gratitude with these members for their service.



St. John's is scheduled to deliver Mobile Meals October 9-13 and October 16-20. 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 meals, please sign up on the kiosk. There are directions also posted on the kiosk, but if you have any questions please contact Ellen Jorgensen at domine.ellen@gmail.com for details on how delivery works.



Coats for Kids

St. John's is working with Concordia United Methodist Church to collect winter wear for children in need in the Sauk Prairie School District. Please keep this in mind as you clean out your closets this fall. Bring your gently-used coats, boots, hats, mittens, scarves and gloves to the back area of the coat room. We need all sizes. Thank you.

Technology Help

We are looking for a few more people to join our Technology Team. This team works in pairs to provide our Sunday morning ZOOM broadcasts. You can work the 8:00am worship service or the 10:30am worship service. Roger Seymour is the team leader and very knowledgeable in teaching you what is needed. It is a flexible schedule, and you can work just once every 4-5 weeks if you want to. Contact Roger Seymour if you are interested, rremor@gmail.com or (608) 588-3198.



Wisconical River Horn Quartet

Please join us for an afternoon of music!

On October 29 at 4:00pm, the Wisconical River Horn Quartet will give a concert at St. Johns. (This is the French Horn quartet that has played for St. John's services in the past.) Katie LaVigne, Julia Bird, Rebecca Schroeder, and MaryJo Wilson have prepared some Classical music, as well as showtunes, jazz, and more! A freewill offering is the only cost for admission!

*Thank
you!*

Dear Pastors and Members of St. John's,
I would like to thank the Pastors and the St. John's congregation for thoughts and prayers that were offered on my behalf for the past two years. It has certainly helped and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again and God Bless and Love you all.

Garry Bahe

thanks

Thank you to all for recognizing me for 25 years of weed pulling, mowing, pruning, and watering. The time flew by, and it was a labor of love. A piece of that cake was a just reward.

Shalom, Bob Nelson

Thank you

A sincere thank you from Jeff and Kathy Ochsankehl for all the kind words and thoughtful gestures they received from the people of St. John's at the passing of Jeff's mother, Patricia. They were greatly appreciated.

Serving in October

Greeters:

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Oct. 1 (Sanctuary)	Don/Vi Bohler	
(Front door)	Bob/Josie Fentress	Dale Clason
Oct. 8 (Sanctuary)	Cliff/Cindy Thompson	Dale Clason
(Front door)	Rich/Kris Frey	John/Ellen Mast
Oct. 15 (Sanctuary)	Youth	Youth
(Front door)	Youth	Youth
Oct. 22 (Sanctuary)	Don/Vi Bohler	Tom/Gina Varley
(Front Door)	Steve/Cheryl Sprecher	Jackie Frosch
Oct. 29 (Sanctuary)	Todd/Gina Wytttenbach	
(Front Door)		John/Ellen Mast

Ushers:

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
October 1	Dale Haroldson	Bill Wardwell
	Steve/Patty Barritt	Roger Seymour
	Youth	Youth
October 8	Dale Haroldson	Bob Fentress
	Nancy Passehl	Josie Frentress
	Butch Passehl	Youth
October 15	Dale Haroldson	Steve Kindschi
	Lon Kaderavek	Holly Kindschi
	Youth	Youth
October 22	Cathy Yanke	Gina Varley
	Cheryl Sprecher	Tom Varley
	Steve Sprecher	Youth
October 29	Gina Wytttenbach	Janelle Hupp
	Todd Wytttenbach	Marv Hupp
	Youth	Youth

Readers:

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
October 1	Patty Barritt	Marian DeGiovanni
October 8	Crystal Lautenbach	Doris Lohr
October 15	Dale Haroldson	Dale Clason
October 22	Marilyn Herschleb	Jude Hanna
October 29	Donna Knickmeyer	Donna Knickmeyer

Cantors:

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
October 1	Becky Weittenhiller	Becky Weittenhiller
October 8	Megan Tarnutzer	Doris Lohr
October 15	Katie LaVigne	Katie LaVigne
October 22	Jeff and Kathy Ochsankel	
October 29	Senior Choir	Senior Choir

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

October 1 Donna Knickmeyer
 October 8 Nancy Kaufman
 October 15 Patty Barritt
 October 22 Jude Hanna
 October 29 Donna Knickmeyer

10:30 a.m.

Clay Hutchins
 Jordan Small
 Clay Hutchins
 Jude Hanna
 Donna Knickmeyer

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

October 1 Donna Knickmeyer
 October 8 Dorothy Halverson
 October 15 Youth
 October 22 Jayne Carlson
 October 29 Darlene Holl
 Diane Williams

10:30 a.m.

Barb Salvesson
 Ginny Nimmow
 Youth
 Deb/Gerry Westphal
 Gwen Ringelstetter

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

October 1 Patty Barritt
 October 8 Kris Frey
 October 15 Youth
 October 22 Jayne Carlson
 October 29 Kim Larson

10:30 a.m.

Marian DeGiovanni
 Caden Argall
 Youth
 Mary Weeks
 Doris Lohr

Sunday Stewards

8:00 a.m.
 October 1 Ellen Jorgensen
 October 8 Lon Kaderavek
 October 15 Eunice Yanke
 October 22 Cathy Yanke
 October 29 Ellen Jorgensen

10:30 a.m.

Linda Michaels
 Linda Michaels
 Anne Klinkner
 Roger Seymour
 Roger Seymour

Technology Help:

8:00a.m.
 October 1 Ellen Jorgensen
 Leah Kruchten
 Charlie Kruchten
 Ellen Jorgensen
 October 8 Ellen Jorgensen
 October 15 Charlie Kruchten
 Carter Kruchten
 Liz Leith
 October 22 Lee LaVigne
 October 29 Ellen Jorgensen
 Liz Leith

10:30a.m.

Roger Seymour
 Alyssa Himebauch
 Jeff Sandberg
 Nicole Sandberg
 Sean Jager
 Nicole Sandberg
 Jeff Sandberg

Coffee Servers:

October 1	Linda Michaels
October 8	Karen Bader and Cheri Kehl
October 15	Patty and Steve Barritt
October 22	Pastor Appreciation Sunday – Fellowship Bd.
October 29	90 th Birthday Celebration – Fellowship Bd.

Monthly Stewardship Update

August 2023	Monthly	Year-to-Date
Total Income	\$48,310	\$358,843
Total Expenses	\$41,744	\$368,841

Thank you for your continued support, Stewardship Board



Pet Blessing Service

On Sunday, October 8th, we will hold a Pet Blessing Service outdoors after the 10:30am service, beginning at **12pm**. 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, feathered, and scaled 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.

The following are reminders for an "uneventful" event:

- Pets must be kept 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...).

See you there! In the meantime, we invite you to share a favorite photo of your pet with us on the St. John's Facebook page!

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.

Agrace Offers Three Grief Support Groups in October

In October, Agrace is offering three professionally led grief support groups for adults who are grieving the death of any loved one.

- **Bridges (virtual)** meets Wednesday, October 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., via Zoom.
- **Spouse/Partner Loss Support** meets Thursdays, October 12 to November 16, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Agrace in Baraboo.
- **Journey Through Grief (virtual)** meets Mondays, October 16 to November 20, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., via Zoom.

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) 327-7118 with questions or to register.

Agrace Seeks Volunteers in Sauk County

Agrace is seeking volunteers across Sauk County to visit with hospice patients. Volunteer orientation will take place October 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Agrace's Baraboo office. **Pre-registration is required.** Call (608) 327-7163 or visit agrace.org/volunteer.

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.

Sunday School News

3 Year Old & 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

On October 1st at the 8am & 10:30 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. If your student did not receive their Bible please contact Pastor Sally.

Those receiving their Bibles are:

Our three-year-olds:

Cameron Ayers, Ethan Ballweg, Addison Breunig, Maverik Fournier, Estelle Haffemann, Elliot Herbrand, Emersyn Katzman, Rhett Kruchten, Max Nelson, Metta Opie, Leonard Pickett, Owen Robertson, Kolt Steinmetz, Emery Trager, August Zasada

Our third graders:

Caleb Anderson, Madelyn Bischoff, Kohen Chetwood, Marli Fisher, Gage Fournier, Ethan Gilchrist, Vivianne Herbrand, Lincoln Holzwarth, Riley Jorgensen, Clare Kaderavek, Madelyn Keller, Kendall Koenig, Vincent Meyer, Eloise Nelson, Olive Nelson, Adeline Newman, Lincoln Ott, Khloe Perry, McKayla Peterson, Molly Philo, Lucy Pickett, Natalie Schulenburg, Cadence Schwartz, Tenley Sorg, Sofia Stephan, Beckett Suchla, Haylee Williams, Paige Williams

First Communion Instruction

A First Communion class will be held on Thursday, November 2 from 6-7pm. If you would like to explore the possibilities of first communion for your children, no matter what their age, please sign up by calling the church office. Taking the class does not obligate anyone to begin communing nor is it a requirement for communion. The class is simply a time to explore what this gift of God might mean for you. A second class will be offered in the spring.

We will celebrate those receiving their First Communion as a group on Sunday, November 12 at either service, but if it does not work for your family on that day, we can make other arrangements to celebrate your student! Please contact Pastor Sally with any questions or concerns.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes are in full swing! There is always a Fellowship Meal at 5:30pm on nights when we have confirmation class. All are welcome to join us for a delicious meal, and we ask for a \$2 contribution per person. Confirmation classes start at 6:00pm. You can find the full confirmation calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/ConfirmCal>

Worship Job Sign-UP

Each student needs to complete 4 Worship Jobs from October through January. Your student may complete multiple jobs on any one Sunday or spread them across several Sundays, and they are welcome to complete more than four! This is the time for our youth to learn the gift of serving others. If your student is struggling to complete their worship jobs, please contact Penny for help. Sign-up for the available spots at <https://signup.com/go/xnAybEd>

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 Sept. 15. Financial support is available! Email questions to penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: September 5, 2023

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

Absent: Sheila Dittberner, Jonah Richard

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Eunice and seconded by Megan. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Linda.

Secretary Minutes:

The August minutes were submitted online by Anne Klinkner in Cathy Yanke's absence. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Gina and seconded by Lon. Motion carried.

Treasurer report:

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

August income was over \$48K and expenses were under \$42K so we have a positive month. With the income for August, we are only down \$10K for the year and I am hopeful we will break even by the end of the year. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Lon and seconded by Megan. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- No report provided

Fellowship: Linda Michaels reported:

- Past parties went well for Ruth Dresser (90th birthday), Bob Nelson (25th work anniversary), and Pastor Fred (25th ordination and retirement)
- Trying to fill empty spots for coffee servers for the rest of the year
- Will be meeting with Cathy McAlexander who has been nominated to lead the board, to transfer information to her as she takes over the Fellowship Board

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. Discussed having just Christmas Eve services and skipping Sunday morning service.
- Writing up volunteer job descriptions to put them on the St. John's website. Discussed highlighting each job one at a time in the Visitor.
- Decided to increase the volunteers for Communion Assisting to two people until interim Pastor comes.
- Beginning new liturgy from With One Voice, Setting 5. Will add segments over the course of the next few weeks until we do the complete service on Sept. 10th.
- We have many used Christmas candles for recycling. Everyone is welcome to them.

Parish Education: Pastor Sally reported:

- Confirmation Teacher confirmed for each grade. Curriculum is set. Teacher training August 30th at 4pm. Penny is leading this.
- **High School** – Penny is working with some volunteers and youth to brainstorm what they need/want to support their faith journey. She is also working to coordinate the ELCA's Youth Gathering. Preferred registration is September 15.

Sunday School

- Curriculum being ordered by Sally.
- Teacher orientation Sunday, September 10th. Between worship services
- Singspiration: Dave Sweeney and JoAnnah Sorg leading. Coordinating with superintendents and music director.
- Rally day and Back to School Blessing - Sept 17th
- Craft in classroom, Superintendents at a table in Sunday School hall. Sunday School offering will go to Porchlight. Porchlight is a Madison area ministry to the homeless. Weekly monetary collection. Monthly item collection. Will advertise what is needed.
- Hayride and Bible Sunday Oct 1.
- Adult Ed Rev. Peter Heide will teach early this fall.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- No report provided

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported.

- Just Bakery is returning September 17th.
- St. John's will deliver Mobile Meals during the weeks of October 9th and October 16th. Sign up on the kiosk.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- CURRENT WEEKLY GIVING SUMMARY Instead of putting weekly financial results in the bulletin, we will publish the following

on a monthly basis in the Visitor and in the bulletin, after the month is complete.

MONTHLY INCOME YTD INCOME

MONTHLY EXPENSES YTD EXPENSES

- **QUICKBOOKS** Quickbooks has been renewed.
- **2024 BUDGET** The 2024 budget was approved by the Parish Planning Council at the August 1, 2023, meeting. It will be in the Visitor for the next 2 months and will be presented for approval at the Congregational meeting on October 15, 2023.
- **FALL CAMPAIGN** The Fall Campaign was discussed. Discussion is ongoing.
- **BOARD SPOTLIGHT** Each month a different board will be spotlighted in the Visitor to educate the congregation on the board's activities, recruit new board members and to hopefully increase contributions as people learn more about the boards.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- Circle groups are finishing up the packing of Lutheran World Relief kits. These will be sent to Madison on September 16
- Circles will begin meeting for Bible Study in September
- The South-Central Synodical Biennial Convention meets in Madison on October 7

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- No report provided

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- Fifteen youth have signed up for tech work. This is an approved 'job' for confirmation students.

Youth member at Large: Jonah Richard reported:

- No report provided

Pastor/Intern Reports

Fred's Report:

- Fred has retired and this space will be reserved for the interim pastor.

Sally's Report:

- Pastor Fred made most of the visits over the summer so he could bid farewell to our homebound members. I will begin making visits again in September. We currently have 26 members on the visit list. Our lay leaders continue to visit our homebound members monthly. We will return to the blessing of the communion kits in worship on the last Sunday of each month.

- Adult Education will be led by Rev. Peter Heide beginning Sunday, September 24 - October 22. His series will be focused on learning about Indigenous People. The adult ed meeting room will move from the library into Room 3 in the Sunday School hall to allow our students to have library days again.
- I serve on the Sauk Prairie CommUNITY Acceptance Now (SP CAN) committee who is hosting another community book read. Please check out the dates in October for the book discussion as well as the film screening and speaker. Free copies of the book are available at either library in early September.
- I will be attending our synod's Fall Summit (formerly known as Bishop's Convocation) on October 15(evening)-16 in Mayville, WI. The focus will be anti-racism training and workshops on the last synod assembly's resolutions. I will share what I learn from this event later this fall.
- I will be shifting my day off from Mondays to Fridays starting September. Linda will contact me in case of emergencies. Pre-surgery visits and funerals will be planned with families and staff as they always have been.

Old Business:

- Sunday Steward sign up—we completed Oct and much of Nov/Dec
- Daycare update—4K contract has been renewed. Childcare program is currently considering six sites. No definitive decisions yet.
- PPC Retreat Follow-up—To encourage the continued welcoming, PPC members are asked to attend Sunday School Rally Day to greet and meet parents. Also consider confirmation start on 9/20. Meal at 5:30.
- Parsonage usage. Yu-Ting is moved in. Lon assisted with a few issues with the house. Nancy will follow up with any needs for furniture or other furnishings.
- Procedural Manual—created by Stewardship Board and sent to the PPC members for review. A motion to approve the manual was made by Lon and seconded by Eunice. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Thrivent has a program for members to receive \$250 gift cards to be used for projects approved by Thrivent. A few members of St John's have used their gifts for kit and quilting supplies. We plan to put information in the Visitor about the benefit. Sally will contact a Thrivent representative to be able to share information with the

congregation to learn more about Thrivent and the program. Nancy K will contact Ginny Nimmow to ask for assistance with the write up.

- Interim update. The Executive PPC group will meet with a Synod-proposed interim pastor. The Synod advised an average 9–18-month interim program. Nancy K will present a temple talk at each service on 9/10/2023 to inform congregation of the plan.
- Leaks in the new roof have been found and construction crew returned to provide fixes. The smaller section of the roof over the back door and near the memorial garden will need replacement in 3-5 years. The Property's board has been planning a carpet replacement in the fellowship hall, entry way, and halls. An estimate will be requested from Willow Creek Flooring. We have received a donation of up to \$25K for the replacement. A motion to approve moving forward with the estimate and order up to \$25K was made Eunice and seconded by Donna. Motion carried.
- Intern. We have been approached by Luther College with a possible part time intern candidate from Madison for an 18-month placement beginning Feb 2024 and ending August 2025. More information will be gathered and report back.
- Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2023, at 9 am (between services). In lieu of the reading of last year's minutes, we will publish the minutes in the Visitor and the Sunday bulletins on October 8 and 15. The purpose of the meeting is to: 1) approve the 2024 proposed budget, 2) approve the Synod Assembly Voting Members of Dale Haroldson, Linda Lintl, and Nancy Passehl, 3) choose 3 members for the Nominating Committee.

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 3, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Sheila.

Lon made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Donna. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:28 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



Happy October Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Briggs Katzman (10)

Our Sunday School Students:

SJ Udelhofen (1)	Sam Philo (2)
Vada Steinmetz (2)	Layla Kelley (4)
June Lochner (5)	Vivianne Herbrand (8)
Beckett Suchla (8)	Elsie Kinney (13)
Kane Schwartz (13)	Violet Udelhofen (13)
Ella Paul (14)	Leonard Pickett (15)
William Wiese (18)	Declan Leith (19)
Della Kaderavek (25)	Milo Lueck (25)
Ella Herbrand (26)	Khloe Walker (29)
Owen King (30)	Matthew Peterson (31)

Our Youth:

Boden Frosch (1)	Kaitlynn Lins (3)
Emelia Greene (4)	Joslyn Schultz (7)
Weston Smith (12)	Thea Harpold (16)
Logan Buchanan (17)	Simon Homp (19)
Jason King (23)	Ava Sandeman (23)
Randy Trudell (25)	Jake Buckles (29)
Kellen Ryan (29)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Ethan Jones (9)	Jacob Schweitzer (29)
Zachary Sucomel (29)	