



Sam Philo, Grade 5

Prairie du Sac, WI

November 2023

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING October 15, 2023 –
(In building and via Zoom platform)

PPC Executive Director, Nancy Kaufman, confirmed at least 50 members were present and called the meeting to order at 9:02am. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2024 budget, vote on nominees for the Parish Planning Council, approve nominating committee members for PPC recruiting, and approve Synod Assembly voting representatives.

The minutes of the October 2022, Congregational Meeting were published in the October Visitor as well as in the October 8 and 15, 2023 Sunday bulletins in lieu of reading them at the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as provided was made by Peter Heide and seconded by Donna Nelson. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Nancy described the 2024 budget changes and pointed out those most significant changes including an increase for the Youth Gathering trip that will happen in 2024, for an increase for Parish Education for a change in the Lutheran magazine and a plan to restart outsourcing Vacation Bible School. Benevolence budget is down due to no seminary assistance needed for interns, but that line item will return next year. WELCA has decreased their budget numbers to better match actual spending and the Administration budget includes salary for a Lead Pastor as well as an increase in benefits and other costs for current staff. A motion to approve the budget was made by Donna Knickmeyer and seconded by Alice Chenowith. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Nancy thanked our outgoing board chairs for their years of service and then moved on to list nominees of 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. A motion to approve the nominees was made by Eunice Yanke and seconded by Jerry Kaufman. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Third, we approved the Nominating Committee to recruit members for additional PPC members that includes Pastor Sally, Janelle Hupp as the outgoing PPC Director, three congregational members (self-nominated) that include Kathy Lovell, Josie Fentress and Donna Knickmeyer. Three PPC members will be determined. A motion to approve the nominees was made by Marilyn Herschleb and seconded by Donna Nelson. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Our final topic was to accept nominations for attendees to the Synod Assembly in May 2024. 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 Sally is also a voting member. Dale Haroldson, Nancy Passehl and Linda Lintl were nominated to attend. A motion to approve the nominees was made by Mary Weeks and seconded by Crystal Lautenbach. If any adult under 30 or a high school youth is interested, please contact Linda Hines in the church office.

An update on the Interim pastor by Nancy included that we are close to signing a six-month contract and if it is finalized, the interim will begin November 1, 2023.

Bill Burton made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Anne Klinkner. Director Nancy Kaufman asked if there were any objections and after receiving none, she adjourned the meeting at 9:12 am.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Yanke

Interim Pastor News

Now that the contract has been signed, we can officially announce that Rev. Jason Hill has been appointed by the synod to be our interim pastor. He resides in Oregon, WI and will commute to St. John's. His first day is Wednesday, November 1. A much more detailed introduction will be made in the December Visitor.



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	Gwen Ringelstetter	(608) 643-6922
Fellowship Board	Cathy McAlexander	(402) 689-5196
Lay Ministry Board	Gina Varley	(608) 544-5002
Member-at-Large	Roger Seymour	(608) 588-3198
Parish Education Board	James Newman	(608) 512-7623
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	Tracy Pape	(608) 544-2727
Youth Member-at-Large	Sean Jager	(608) 434-0755

The Staff:

Pastors: Sally Williams sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 643-7810

Interim: Jason Hill jason@stjohnssaukprairie.org 643-2439

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour
ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org (h) 588-3198

Youth Director: Penny Johnson penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org
(c) 370-4279

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
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Wisconsin 53578

Newsletter Articles for December's *Visitor* are due November 15. We will assemble the newsletter on **November 24.**

We are getting new carpeting in the fellowship hall and gathering area during the last week of November so there will be limited access to the fellowship hall.



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:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cake or brownie mixes | Kid's cereal |
| Taco seasonings | Taco or tortilla shells or wraps |
| Canned meals (ravioli, beefaroni, etc.) | |
| Box meals (hamburger helper, tuna helper) | |
| Toilet paper | Dish soap |



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 November. The day is in parentheses.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Evelyn Gorsuch (6)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583 | Shirley Uttech (9)
3125 Smith Road, Apt 619
Fairlawn, OH 44333 |
| Macel Magnussen (10)
930 Prairie St., Apt. 202
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578 | Vi Bohler (12)
N750 Golf Road #3
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578 |
| Janis Klaetsch (22)
886 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578 | Dale Haroldson (23)
938 Water St., Apt. 301
Sauk City, WI 53583 |

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, November 9, at Carol Mallon's, N1617 Fjord Circle, Prairie du Sac	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, November 2, in St. John's Library, Ruth Dresser, Hostess	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, November 13, at Patty Barritt's, 314 Hickory Street, Sauk City	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, November 7, in St. John's Library	9:30am

Twenty-seven ladies attended Circle meetings in October. Our Bible Study for the past 3 months was written by Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. She is a missionary living in Jerusalem. A recent communication dated October 10th inquiring about her safety said that she is safe. We pray for her continued safety. The study was divided into 3 parts: Session 1: Holy Places: Home; Session 2: Holy Places: Sanctuary; In November Session 3: Holy Places: Pilgrimage. Sarah/Mary and Martha Circle had the very exceptional and interesting experience of viewing a special presentation of pictures of the Holy Land by Jan Floeter. She had visited that area several years ago and made a book of all the pictures she had taken with an explanation of each picture. We thank her so much for that. Diane Elsing and Marian DeGiovanni led the Bible Study for the two other Circles. In November the studies will be led by Diane Elsing, Barbara Salveson, Kathy Lester and Marian DeGiovanni, which will be the last session of the Holy Places theme and in December our study will be an Advent Devotional.

The South-Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization of the WELCA Convention was held on October 7th, 2023, at Midvale Community Lutheran Church, in Madison. Nine ladies from St. John's attended: Eunice Yanke, Marian DeGiovanni, Darlene Holl, Diane Elsing, Dorothy Halverson, Kathy Lester, Sandra Frey, Barbara Salveson and Ruth Dresser. Thank you to Darlene Holl and Marian DeGiovanni for driving us there. Each congregation was invited to be represented at the business meeting with one voting member. Kathy Lester was our representative, and we thank her for attending the meeting that began at 7:45am. We also thank her husband, Nick, who drove her in to Madison early for that meeting. Kathy reports that the two main items of that meeting were to elect officers and approve the budget for the next two years. Donna Peterson from Grace Lutheran, Dodgeville was elected President for her second term. There were eight who were elected to serve on the

board including two from our Baraboo Conference, Geraldine Gorman from Rio and Alene Olson from Wisconsin Dells. The budget was also approved unanimously. It's good to know that this group can continue to operate our synod WELCA and donate so generously thanks to the women of so many congregations, including St. John's. The rest of us got to the convention in time to have coffee and juice before our first gathering, which began at 9:30am. This was a very nice worship service which was led by Rev. Joy Mortenson-Wiebe, Bishop, and Rev. Ellen Stetzle from St. John's Lutheran Church, Oregon, WI. The main theme was "Good Things Come in Small Packages", making references to the stories of the widow's mite, feeding of the five thousand, Jesus healing the blind with mud. Small things can lead to some very amazing things. The little things we do can make a huge difference many times while doing God's work. After the worship service we had our choice of several different workshops we could attend. Open Doors for Refugees was very interesting, which was about how volunteers are helping refugees make a home in the Madison area. Collecting furniture and household items, setting up apartments, providing language support and many other things. We can help by making monetary and other donations, such as furniture and household items of many kinds. The Chaos of Incarceration was another workshop which was about Jail Ministry. The speaker used an example of a young boy who had no parents, being sent from one foster home to another and being without friends because of moving so much and ending up dealing with drugs because they were the only "friends" he thought he could have and eventually he ended up in jail. Jail ministry is about helping inmates to know Jesus. There are so many very difficult problems for them to get restarted in their life after serving a prison sentence. Other workshops were Second Harvest Foodbank of Wisconsin, Explore your Personal Abundance with Yoga, Alliance on Mental Illness, Holding Hope for God's Creation, Quilts Connect Us, and even Chocolate Bar Tasting. The Yoga workshop was a primer on Yoga for most people, the relaxing qualities of it and just what it can do for you. In "Holding Hope for God's Creation", we learned about our Synod's Care and Creation Ministry and the help it can give congregations and individuals to help alleviate climate change. One comment that impressed everyone was the harmful effects of using Styrofoam.

We had a delicious lunch with lots of pasta and you could have alfredo sauce or spaghetti sauce, salad, bread, and cookies for dessert. The Closing Session began at 1:30pm with Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, and Marie Leafblad, Associate to the Bishop for

Leadership Support. Bishop Joy installed the new Synodical Board and Officers and recognized those whose terms are ending. There was an offering taken at the Opening Session and they announced that the total amount of the offering was \$2,511.73. The offering will be divided 3 ways: 34% Synodical Women of the ELCA; 33% to Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin; 33% for Madison Area Jail Ministry. The Pennies offerings will be distributed to Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. There are 133 congregations in the South-Central Wisconsin Synod. There were about 100 ladies in attendance. All of us were very much impressed with everything at this event and appreciate all the people who did the work and organization of it.

As we have said before, we had the option of giving our Pennies Jar money to a local charity and we elected to give our money to 6:8. The Pennies Jar will be out on the name tag table for several more weeks and we have big hopes of being able to give a nice donation to 6:8, which we all know is a very worthy cause. Last year we reached our goal of \$200 for Hope House from the Pennies Fund. It would be very nice if we could do that for 6:8 also.

The ThankOffering Service will be Sunday, November 26th. In giving thankofferings, we share in the tradition that goes back to at least the 1800s when Christian women formed "mite" or "cent" societies of giving to support the mission of the church. When others said there was not enough money to carry out the church's work, the women believed otherwise and acted together. When the ELCA formed several years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude to God for His many blessings. The offering goes to the National WELCA, and provides funds for World Hunger, global ministries and other important programs. Put your contributions in an envelope marked THANKOFFERING. There will be a basket outside the sanctuary for this purpose.

St. John's Women's group Bible Studies these past months are written by a pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem. She has incorporated things about the Holy Land in her writings that were so informative and eye opening. It's been even more interesting to us since the recent fighting there. We found out that both Pastor Sally and Jan Floeter have visited the Holy Land and are willing to share from their experiences, so we've planned a gathering for anyone, both men and women, who are interested at 10:00 a.m. on November 21st in the fellowship hall.

The Christmas Cheer recommendations from the WELCA Board are Special Olympics and Hope House. We will give \$200 to each of these worthy causes.

Lydia Circle visited Special Friends in August and September. Ruth Circle visits them in October and November.

Remember to look in this Visitor for the Special Prayer to be read on November 20th.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for December will be November 28th, at 9:00 a.m.

Adult Education

We are thrilled to welcome Lo Yu-Ting, a visiting teacher from Taiwan to our classes on November 5 and November 12 to share her culture with us. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about Yu-Ting and Taiwan!

November 19 will be a text study on Matthew 25:31-46, Christ the King Sunday. We will not meet on November 26 as it is the weekend of Thanksgiving.

Adult Education meets in Room 3 in the Sunday School Hallway.



Thank You, LORD!

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Join us for a special Thanksgiving Eve worship service here at St. John's on Wednesday, November 22 at 6pm. We will celebrate Holy Communion together and collect an offering of non-perishable items for the local food pantry. All are welcome!



Thanksgiving Community Meal

The Sauk Prairie Community will host a free Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 23 at St. Al's school gym. All are welcome!

St. John's has been asked to help provide pies for this meal. If you are able to donate a pie (or two) please bring your pie to St. Al's gym by 3:30pm on Wednesday, November 22.

SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray this prayer on November 20th.

God of all creation, bring justice and peace to our world.

Teach us to be peacemakers. Guide us in our pursuit of justice and the common good. Inspire us to welcome all, forgive all, and love all. Direct us as we walk in the shadow of Jesus: the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Inspire us to perceive the world through your eyes, that we might find hope and joy each day, supportive of each other, for the sake of your Kingdom.

- Author Unknown



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

The many cousins and friends of Judy Smith.

Randy and Pattie Cook on the death of Randy's father, Everett Cook.

the family of Greg Laughnan; his brother John Laughnan, sister Gretchen Cutler, and aunts Sandy Frey, Ginny Nimmow and Donna Hosking.



Wedding Congratulations

We celebrate with the following couples from St. John's who were recently married:

Mikayla and Tyler Hartmann were married on September 30. Mikayla is the daughter of Melani and Brent Wheeler.

Jacob and Tabatha Jones were married on October 21. Jacob is the son of Joanna and Andy Jones and the grandson of April and Larry Sawyer.

Alex Kaufman and Major Tim Gearns were married on October 21. Alex is the daughter of Jerry and Nancy Kaufman.

Baby Congratulations

We rejoice with Dave and Jennifer Sweeney on the birth of their son, Waylon Alan on September 26. Waylan joins his siblings Annabelle and Gibson at home.

We congratulate Leah and Luke Lengfeld on the birth of their daughter, Gemma Jade on October 2. Gemma is welcomed home by sister Willa, grandmother Robyn Patterson and great-grandmother Maureen Patterson.

We celebrate with Jackie and Dan Frosch the birth of their grandson, Wesley Owen. Wesley is the son of Jackie and Dan's daughter Ally and Brad Youderian.



Dear Siblings in Christ,

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”
Philippians 4:6

I love this scripture passage and sometimes it annoys me.

I love the command to boldness in presenting every situation to God in prayer. There are no rules about what you can or cannot share with God. There is not one particular way in which you are required to pray. You can pray in the car, in the church, at your soccer game, or while you sing. There are no limits.

Here is what annoys me: Then what? What exactly is supposed to happen after I present my requests to God? Is this like my grocery list? I give my list to God and God fulfills it?

(By the way, this part of scripture annoys me because I like things to be black and white, neat and tidy. This scripture, and God, are rarely ever those things.)

Prayer is simply talking to God. While there are certainly days where it can feel like you are just talking to yourself, prayer is never passive.

Praying is not simply checking off our grocery items. It changes us. It deepens our relationship with God; it makes us more aware of the needs of others and helps us see things from different perspectives. There are even studies that show the impact of prayer on our physical bodies, blood pressure, heart rate, and overall health!

It is not even close to being a passive activity.

My friends, when you pray, you are living your faith. It might not feel like you are contributing a lot when you are sitting alone in prayer, but you are affecting the whole Body of Christ. You are making a difference in your own faith life and in the community of faith.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

Keep praying,

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



JUST BAKERY

A JustDane Initiative

Just Bakery baked goods will be available for purchase on Sunday, November 19 between our worship services. A great way to add some special treats to your Thanksgiving feast!



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 is 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.

Sunday School News

Singspiration Sings at Worship

All Sunday School students will be joining together as Singspiration sings during our worship services on Sunday, November 5. This is All Saints' Sunday and also the weekend that our clocks are set back. Please bring your students to church at 7:40am that morning for a quick warm-up of their song. They will sing at both the 8:00am and 10:30am worship service.

There will not be Sunday School classes on Sunday, November 26 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Confirmation Classes and Fellowship Meal

Prior to each confirmation class, all are welcome to join us for a delicious meal, and we ask for a \$2 contribution per person. This month, there will be no class on Nov. 18th (Second Mentor Night) and no class on Nov. 22nd (Thanksgiving Eve Service). You can find the full confirmation calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/ConfirmCal>

Potato Peeling for Sauk Prairie Thanksgiving Meal

Is your student looking for a service project? St. John's is gathering a team of helpers to contribute to the Sauk Prairie Thanksgiving Meal. We need 15 students to help peel potatoes, 12Noon-1pm on Wed November 22 at St. Al's kitchen. Even if your kiddo doesn't need a service project, please consider helping a good cause in our community (chaperones needed too!). There is no better way to feel the blessings of God than to help others. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/popeeling> and bring your own peeler.



Stock the Schools

Along with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's is collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. November's items are individual cup-of-soup, breadstick/cheese dip packs, waterproof mittens/gloves, snowpants and boots. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations.

Young Adult News

We continue to celebrate the milestones of our St. John's Young Adults! These folks, who grew-up in our St. John's family, 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.



Stewardship Pledge Sunday

November 12th is 'Pledge Sunday.' On this day we ask that you return your commitment cards for God's ministry at St. John's for 2024. You can place your card in the offering plates, mail it to the office or email Linda Hines (linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org) with your pledge. If you are using Simply Giving, our automatic bank transfer program, or another regular auto contribution mechanism, we will assume that amount is your pledge for the year. For those who use electronic giving, we encourage you to consider an increase for 2024.

We encourage all members to use 'Simply Giving' or other electronic giving methods as a way to consistently support the ministry we all share. If you are interested in using the Simply Giving program, look on St. John's website under Donations for a form to fill out or call/email the church office for a copy of the form. It is an easy way to remember your donation when you are away from home.

Pledge Card and Stewardship Letter

This year you will find your pledge card and the annual Stewardship letter included in an email rather than in a separate mailing. Please look in your inbox or junk email folder if you have not read the letter yet. It was sent under the subject "Stewardship 2024."

Please prayerfully consider your donations to St. John's, be they monetary, or giving of your time and talents through volunteering. Let us know via the pledge card of your monetary donation. If you choose to share your time and talents with the church, use one of our online sign-ups or call the church office to let us know what you are interested in doing. There are endless possibilities so if you are ready to volunteer, we will find the place for you!

Monthly Stewardship Update

September 2023	Monthly	Year-to-Date
Total Income	\$55,798	\$414,642
Total Expenses	\$54,833	\$423,675

Serving in November

Greeters:

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Nov 5 (Front Doors) (Sanctuary)	John/Linda Hines Don/Vi Bohler	Dale Clason
Nov 12 (Front Doors) (Sanctuary)	Rich/Kris Frey Steve/Cheryl Sprecher	Ginny Nimmow Tom/Gina Varley
Nov 19 (Front Doors) (Sanctuary)	Evelynn Brennan Dylan Walker	Ella Stephan
Nov 26 (Front Doors) (Sanctuary)	Todd/Gina Wytttenbach	Jackie Frosch Dale Clason

Ushers:

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
November 5	Dale Haroldson Lon Kaderavek Liam Leith	Steve Kindschi Holly Kindschi Ryan Jorgenson
November 12	Anne Klinkner Lon Kaderavek Sophia Hanson	Tom Varley Gina Varley Chesney Braund
November 19	Dale Haroldson Butch Passehl Nancy Passehl Sophia Hanson	Tyler Jorgenson
November 26	Todd Wytttenbach Gina Wytttenbach Braylin Breunig	Gerry Westphal Deb Westphal Austin Urban

Acolytes:

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
November 5	Ella Stephan	Tyler Jorgenson
November 12	Cora Miller	Brooke Braund
November 19	Liam Leith	Clay Hutchins
November 26	Ella Stephan	Madyn Ludowitz

Assisting Ministers:

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
November 5	Patty Barritt	Clay Hutchins
November 12	Jude Hanna	Alyssa Himebauch
November 19	Donna Knickmeyer	Donna Knickmeyer
November 26	Nancy Kaufman	Jordan Small

Readers:

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
November 5	John Hines	Denny Dederich
November 12	Carrie Richard	Kathy Lovell
November 19	Donna Knickmeyer	Donna Knickmeyer
November 26	Jama Graves	Mary Halweg

Cantors:

November 5
November 12
November 19
November 26

8:00 a.m.

Senior Choir
Lisa Davis
Doug Slater
Connie Burton

10:30 a.m.

Senior Choir
Lisa Davis
Doug Slater
Connie Burton

Communion

November 5
November 12
November 19
November 26

Set-Up

Deb Corrao
Dorothy Halverson
Kendra Frey
Jayne Carlson

Clean-Up

Dale Clason
Dale Clason
Cannon Esser
Deb Westphal

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

November 5
November 12
November 19
November 26

Cathy Yanke
Kris Frey
Joslyn Schultz
Jayne Carlson

10:30 a.m.

Laura Hutchins
Kathy Lovell
Clay Hutchins
Mary Weeks

Sunday Stewards

November 5
November 12
November 19
November 26

8:00 a.m.

Cathy Yanke
Nancy Kaufman
Ellen Jorgensen
Nancy Kaufman

10:30 a.m.

Gwen Ringelstetter
Gina Varley
Roger Seymour
Anne Klinkner

Tech Team

November 5

November 12

November 19

November 26

8:00 a.m.

Liz Leith
Ellen Jorgensen
Lee LaVigne
Alyssa Himebauch

Liz Leith
Malcolm Leith
Lee LaVigne
Lisa Davis

10:30 a.m.

Bryce Ballweg
Alyssa Himebauch

Jeff/Nicole/Audrey Sandberg
Braylin Breunig
Sean Jager
Alyssa Himebauch
Jeff/Nicole/Audrey Sandberg

Coffee Servers

November 5
November 12
November 19
November 26

Linda Michaels
Theresa and Ezra Bauer
Donna Nelson
Cliff and Cindy Thompson

****Newsletter Deadline Change****

The deadline for December's newsletter articles and lists is **NOV. 15**. We need to assemble the *Visitor* on Friday, Nov. 24. Installing a new carpet prevents use of the fellowship hall the following week.



H.E.L.P.—Red Sled Project

Help **E**xcite **L**ittle **P**eople will be collecting gently, used toys and items for teens this holiday season. The program is based out of the First United Church of Christ, Sauk City, but has become a community-wide project. All items donated are distributed to children/teens that are in need in the Sauk Prairie area. Donations may be brought to the Washington Avenue entrance of First United and placed in the bins near the door or brought here to St. John's and placed in one of the decorated boxes found in the west entrance hall. (A volunteer will then transport them to First United.) The collection at St. John's will run through Sunday, December 10.



Sauk Prairie Area Caring Tree

St. John's is part of the Caring Tree community-wide effort to reach out to those in need during the Christmas season. You may pick a tag from the Caring Tree set up in the gathering area. Most tags have ideas for hoped-for gifts for a particular child identified only by a number, age, sex, and size. You purchase the gift and return it unwrapped with the tag attached and leave it under the tree.

Other tags ask for gift cards for local restaurants or more general "stocking stuffer" items that are appropriate for children, teens, or adults.

The Caring Tree also accepts financial gifts to allow volunteer shoppers to purchase gifts. Watch for the marked envelopes on the tree. The deadline for returning gifts to St. John's is Sunday, December 10.



Coats for Kids

St. John's is working with Concordia United Methodist Church to collect winter outerwear 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. **The last day for collection is Sunday, November 12.**

THANK YOU

Dear Friends in Christ, it is holy and humbling to be held in the prayers of this congregation. Thank you for signing up to pray for me, and the other pastors in this congregation, throughout the month of October. Your prayers brought me great strength, comfort, and encouragement during this time of transition. I cannot think of a better gift during Pastor's Appreciation Month!

Thank you,
Pastor Sally

Thank you!

St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for allowing us to use your fellowship hall and kitchen for our fundraiser card party. It is a wonderful space, and your staff is so great to work with! Please know that we are very grateful for your kindness.

Thank you again!

Friends of Sauk Prairie Healthcare Board

thanks

Dear Rev. Fred Rilling and Friends at St. John's,

Thank you for your participation in the work the Spirit is doing here at Wartburg Seminary. You are a critical part of our work of forming leaders for the church, and we are so grateful for your generous support of our mission. Your gifts, your prayers, and your encouragement all are essential components of this work, and we at Wartburg Seminary count it a privilege to be in partnership with you.

Thank you for your gift, thank you for your support; you are valued members of the Wartburg community, and we give thanks to God for you!

In Christ,

The Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen, Ph.D.

President, Wartburg Theological Seminary

(This note acknowledges our gift of \$2,260 presented to Wartburg's Rev. Dr. Gwen Saylor Scholarship Fund in honor of Pastor Fred's retirement.)

Coffee Serving Contest Winner Named

We have come to the end of September and collected \$93.20 in the donation basket, and we have a winner in our contest – Liz Ziehlsdorf! Liz chose 6:8 as the group to send the donations to. (*Fellowship Board will round the total up to \$100.*)

Meet the Parish Planning Council

In continuance with our series on the different boards that make up our Parish Planning Council, this month we spotlight the Fellowship Board.

From the dictionary, the definition of the word fellowship is:

Noun

1. Friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests.
2. A group of people meeting to pursue a shared interest or aim.

Fellowships build unity. They support one another. Our Fellowship Board does this by providing activities that unite our congregation. Here are some of the things that fall under the Fellowship's responsibilities:

- Coffee and donut holes between services
- Palm Sunday brunch
- Funeral lunches
- Honoring specific events
 - Birthdays and anniversaries of our pastors
 - Birthdays and anniversaries of our staff
 - Recognition of the pastors in our congregation of their ordination
 - Graduation
 - Confirmation
 - Volunteer appreciation
 - Welcoming and saying good-bye to new interns or pastors.
 - Honoring our quilters

This is **definitely** done by many people within our congregation. Some people have taken on the responsibility of chairing events such as the funeral lunches and meals from the kitchen. (And we thank you!!!)

We meet every second Monday of the month at 10:00am. We would love to have you join us for a meeting. It takes a village.

Linda Michaels – chairman of the Fellowship Board

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: October 3, 2023

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

Absent: Nancy Passehl, Jonah Richard, Lon Kaderavek

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Megan and seconded by Gina. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Sheila.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer report:

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

- The congregation gave a \$2260 donation to Wartburg Seminary's Rev. Dr. Gwen Saylor scholarship fund in honor of Pastor Fred's 25 years of service/retirement.
- An anonymous donation of \$25K has been received to purchase new carpet in the fellowship hall and hallways. The carpet has been ordered. The donation was in the form of securities which have been surrendered for cash.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Sheila Dittberner reported:

- Pet blessing scheduled for October 8, 2023.
- Graduation mailers scheduled for December 2023.
- New Evangelism Board Chairperson starts in November.
- Discuss new PPA members introduction November 2023 bulletin board.

Fellowship: Linda Michaels reported:

- With the end of September and all Sundays accounted for through the end of the year, we will close out our contest for those serving

coffee at our social time between services. The amount that we will be contributing to an organization supported by the church and chosen by the winner, will be \$93.20.

- October 22nd we will be honoring the pastors in our congregation. We will have cards for the congregation to sign and there will be special treats during our social hour.
- October 29th we will celebrate those in our congregation that are 90 years old and over. We plan to have cards for the congregation to sign and present each person with a mylar balloon.
- In preparation for Cathy McAlexander being voted in Oct. 15th, Linda Michaels has met with Cathy and has passed over all files to her.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Volunteer job descriptions have been completed and sent on to our website volunteer manager Abbey.
- Discussed the possibility of making permanent magnetic nametags for volunteers. It was decided to forgo this for now.
- Looking into the idea of going back to reusable glass communion cups as there is a place that sells trays that hold communion cups which can go in a dishwasher.

Parish Education: Pastor Sally reported:

- Our meeting was focused on final details for Rally Day and the hayride. The new (old) routines of library and Singspiration have been met with excitement by many. It's great to have Kids of Kingdom and the Senior Choir as worship leaders again as well! Sunday School and Confirmation are off to a great start!
- Yu-Ting has offered to share her culture, games, and other information with our congregation. Pastor Sally is working with her to finalize arrangements.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Carpet tiles on order, replacement for end of November, first week of December.

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

- Thank you to those who have signed up to host yard signs this summer. Please feel free to start returning them to the workroom at your earliest convenience.
- Look for Just Bakery between services on October 15th!
- Thank you to the Mobile Meal volunteers for sharing your time and kindness with our neighbors. Without you, this program would not be possible.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- FALL CAMPAIGN

- The Fall Campaign and the format of the documents used as part of the Fall Campaign mailing was the primary subject of discussion at this meeting.
 - Nicole Sandberg joined us for this meeting to help us reach our members for giving that are age 45 and younger. Her suggestions are being researched more currently.
 - Stewardship Sunday is November 12, 2023. Either Cathy Yanke or Anne will speak.
 - The year end giving summary letter will include the impact on the overall church income if everyone gives 1% more, 2% more or 3% more over their total giving for 2023.
 - The communication summary planned for the Fall Campaign includes emailing the letter, time and talent survey and pledge form like we have done in the past. We will do a U.S. Postal Service mailing to those who need paper copies of the letter, time and talent survey and the pledge cards.
- AUDIT Cathy and Anne will contact the auditors from last year to see if they can assist us again this year.
- For the next Visitor, Megan and Sheila have been asked to write a description of their committees for next month (November)

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- Fall Bible Studies have begun. Members are receiving their Gather magazines once again.
- We have sent our Kits and Quilts to Lutheran World Relief: 400 Quilts, 216 School kits, 112 Personal Care kits, 101 Baby Care kits, and 33 Sewing kits. We were able to send more kits using the Thrivent money several members received.
- Nine ladies will attend the WELCA South-Central Synodical Convention in Madison on October 7th.
- Time to push for donations to the Pennies for Poverty Jar. We will collect this money to send to 6:8 before the end of the year.
- ThankOffering Service will be November 26th

Youth Committee: Megan Tarnutzer reported:

- The youth have a date to volunteer at the food pantry on the 21st of October from 9- 10:45am
- The corn maze on the 25th of October from 5:45-7:15pm
- Tracy Pape and I are meeting asap so I can transfer leadership information.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

No report

Youth member at Large: Jonah Richard reported:

- No report

Pastor/Intern Reports

Interim's Report:

Stay tuned for December

Sally's Report:

- 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. Due to other events, we pushed the first one to Sunday, October 1.

- Adult Education continues to be led by Rev. Peter Heide on The Church, the State, and Native Americans. The adult ed meeting room has moved from the library into Room 3 in the Sunday School hall to allow our students to have library days again.

- Reminder from last month's report: 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 be on vacation the last week of October. Pastor Karen Hofstad from St. Paul's in Baraboo will provide pastoral coverage for any emergencies or deaths. Pastor Derek Rosenstiel will lead worship on Sunday, October 29.

- October is a busy month with Bible presentations, annual hayride, pet blessing, congregational meeting, 90th birthday celebration, and pastor appreciation. Thank you for the many hands and feet of Christ who work to make all of these things happen!

- I will attend our Synod Council meeting on Tuesday, October 10th which means I will miss our committee meetings that night. Please reach out to me prior to your meeting if there's anything that needs my attention.

- I am beyond grateful for our staff, musicians, food coordinators and servers, and many others who worked to plan and assist with the funerals held here in September. I was also witness to many of our members' expressions of sympathy and outreach to those grieving.

Old Business:

- Sunday Steward sign up—completed November sign-ups

- Daycare update—Camp 4K is here for the school year. The Childcare proposal has determined that St. John’s is no longer a desired location due to the cost of the renovations needed as well as the number of childcare spaces needed.
- PPC Retreat Follow-up—we have a few new families attending
- Parsonage usage—Yu-Ting has offered to Sally to provide some culture classes.
 - Update on Yu-Ting: Nancy P met with Yu-Ting, and she does not have any furniture in the living room. I did not ask to see the other rooms.
 - Lon will take care of moving the loveseat from Megan that is in the youth room to the parsonage but he is gone for the week and it will be done sometime next week.
 - Cathy does have a tv for her and will get it to her when it is available.
 - If someone has a chair or another couch, I think that would be wonderful for her.
 - I did help her find the garage remote so she could get her bike in and out. She will make sure it is on the shelf when she is not using it in case anyone needs to use it for the rickshaw (bike)
- Thrivent—Eunice, Penny and Ginny as leaders for giving causes at church have been able to receive the Thrivent \$250 donations.
- Interim update—We have received a contract from the synod but not yet reviewed. The Exec Committee will meet on Thursday to discuss the contract and questions with Bishop Joy over the phone.
- Carpet—The total cost of the carpet is \$25,135. The \$135 over the donation will be paid for with the Properties budget. The plan is for installation in late November/early December.
- Intern—The Luther intern has changed from a part-time longer-term plan to a yearlong full-time plan beginning in August 2024. She lives in Madison and plans to drive to Sauk Prairie so housing is not needed.
- Exhibit between services—we are discussing with Thrivent the possibility of a ‘services’ fair between services in Feb 2023.
- Annual Meeting—Scheduled for 1October 15 at 9 am. The plan is to not read the minutes of the last meeting until someone objects. The October 2022 minutes have been published in the October visitor as well as October 8 and 15 bulletins.

New Business:

- Heartfelt thank you to Linda, Megan, Jonah, and Sheila for their years of service in leading their boards and participating on the PPC.

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 6:00 pm.
Devotion will be given by Nancy K.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



A huge thank you to the Mobile Meal volunteers for again sharing your time and kindness with our neighbors!
Thank you,

Rich Frey
Kris Frey
Mary Halweg
Rita Amundson
Kim Langer
Mike Langer

Tony DeGiovanni
Marian DeGiovanni
Kathy Lovell
Dan Lovell
Holly Kindschi
Deb Treinen

THANK YOU



Thank you to those who have signed up to host yard signs this summer. Please feel free to start returning them to the workroom at your earliest convenience. If you would like your sign picked up, please call Ellen Jorgensen at 262-995-3248.



Happy November Birthday!

Our Youngest:

Evelyn Muehrer (3)
Lainey Keller (15)
Barrett Larson (28)

Emmett Fuchs (8)
Winnie Gustafson (18)

Our Sunday School Students:

Clara Duren (1)
Kohen Chetwood (3)
Eralyn Greene (5)
Nadya Khodakivska (7)
Myla Steinmetz (8)
Kendall Koenig (20)
Mia Perry (22)
Andrew Ryan (26)
Theo Nelson (30)

Carly Jorgenson (2)
Emma Gilchrist (4)
Olive Nelson (6)
Emersyn Katzman (8)
Kinley Chetwood (17)
Madelyn Bischoff (22)
Kenzie Sawyer (23)
Finn Paque (27)

Our Youth:

Conner Evert (12)
Ryan Jorgenson (18)
Caden Argall (19)

Kaleb Chetwood (14)
Tyler Jorgenson (18)

College and Career-age Young People:

Quinn Baier (2)
Karlie Harpold (30)

Megan Small (22)