



Beckett Suchla, 3rd grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

January 2024

Deuteronomy 31:6 – “Be strong and courageous. Do not fear...for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

Dear Friends of St. John's,

It is a new year for all of us. It is a time of new hope. It is a time of new vision. It is a time of new opportunities for all of us to paint the blank canvas in front of us, with the vibrant colors of our gifts. We are all contributors to the beauty, the artistry, and the inspiring life we celebrate together here at St. John's. Which leads me to ask: what's your favorite color to add into the life of this church we call home, we call sanctuary, we call rest?

This is an exciting time in which the Holy Spirit is let loose among you to foster conversation, ideas, vision, and questions concerning the future. You are all an integral part of the colorful discovery of which this time, is a gift. It is a gift to truly embrace the process of transition, of exploration, and identification of this congregation's uniqueness and personality. You have individuality within the greater Lutheran church, within the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, and within the communities of Sauk City and Prairie du Sac. You have a long history of being a teaching parish for future pastors and church leaders. You have a long history of pastors who served faithfully for many years. You are a unique and faithful church within which, God is faithful, active, and present. These are just some of the colors I see when I look at you, see you, and serve with you.

Many of you have inquired about the transition process and where we are at. I am happy to share that the “wheels are rolling.” Early in December, the executive committee and I met with the Assistant to the Bishop, Marie Leafblad to discuss the initial steps to begin the transition process. From that conversation, it was suggested that a transition team be put together consisting of 6-9 people who comprise a thoughtful cross section of the congregation.

The transition team is responsible for “deep diving” into a contextual study of St. John’s, asking questions about identity, mission, history, growth opportunities, gifts, etc. And these are just some of the possible areas for conversation and discovery. This team will work in partnership with me to help foster, facilitate, and comprise information from listening sessions, temple talks, possible small groups, education opportunities, etc. This team will be responsible for compiling information necessary for the eventual call committee to take that information full of findings and discoveries to help write the congregational profile needed for the call process.

It’s helpful to keep in mind: the transition team is NOT the call committee but rather a team of people who will help the call committee in being able to put language to the paperwork necessary to call a new lead pastor for St. John’s. By the time you read this, the executive committee has been generating names, and having conversations with these people if they would be interested in serving on the transition team. The goal being that by the end of January, there will be a viable transition team ready and excited to begin. While the transition team will be a smaller group of people, please know that **all of your voices** will be invited and welcomed to share in this process as participatory sessions/activities are offered.

St. John’s, we have a faithful God who does not leave us nor forsake us to live apart from his accompanying wisdom, love, and safety. God is leading this congregation into a new phase, a new chapter, and will work to bring blessing into this process. God is here and leading you to discover who you are as a church, as a faithful community of forgiven people, as a beautiful canvas of colorful gifts, as a place where lives have been changed and memories celebrated and even mourned. For many of you, this church represents a venue where the sacred has met you in all the variables of emotions, feelings, and questions. It will continue to be that place. This is the promise of a present God who meets us where we are and reveals who God is in the love of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for such knowledge and truth.

Peace to You,
Pastor Jason



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:

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

Interim Pastor: 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

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

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Pancake Mix | Syrup |
| Canned Stews | Flavored Rice pouches |
| Hot Cocoa Mix | Granola Bars |
| Dish Soap | Shampoo |

Keep this list handy as you do your grocery shopping during the next few weeks. You may bring your donations to the table in the gathering area at any time.



Birthday Greetings

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



Marge Erlandson (4)
1425 Hemlock Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Mel Lohr (4)
S9591 Church Road
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jim Weeks (13)
930 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Arlene Foell (18)
7343 Tetiva Road
Sauk City, WI 53583

Carol Benson (19)
713 Madison St., Apt. 111
Sauk City, WI 53583

|  | Women of the Church News |  |
|---|--|--|
| | <u>Lydia Circle</u> Combined Circles Meeting, Thursday, January 11 St. John's fellowship hall | 10:00 am |
| | <u>Martha Circle</u> Combined Circles Meeting, Thursday, January 11 St. John's fellowship hall | 10:00 am |
| | <u>Ruth Circle</u> Combined Circles Meeting, Thursday, January 11 St. John's fellowship hall | 10:00 am |
| | <u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Combined Circles Meeting, Thursday, January 11 St. John's fellowship hall | 10:00 am |

Thirty-two ladies attended Circle Meetings in December, with Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni. and Eunice Yanke leading the Bible Study. The Bible Studies in September, October and November have been about Holy Places. Pastor Sally and Jan Floeter had visited the Holy Land several years ago and did a presentation of slides and information about that area on November 21st. There were a lot of people (both men and women) and Pastor Sally gave us a lot of information and explanation about the area which is now being torn by war and destruction. There was a lot of discussion by the many people in attendance. Pastor Sally also led us in a very appropriate prayer. Thank you to Pastor Sally and Jan Floeter for their very interesting and informative presentation.

Our Thankoffering Service was on November 26th. The total amount received is \$515.00. This offering goes to the National WELCA organization and provides funds for World Hunger, global ministries, and other important programs.

We are looking forward to our meeting in January. We will not have our individual meetings, but ALL CIRCLES WILL MEET TOGETHER ON JANUARY 11TH, AT 10 A.M We are hoping for a good crowd! We are asking for anyone who would like to bring food to bring finger food of any kind.... such as leftover Christmas cookies, cheese, chips, fruit.....anything you would like to share. We will have the coffee ready! All women of St. John's and guests are most cordially invited!

Interim Pastor Jason will lead the Bible Study and after that we will have our special Candlelight Service for members of St. John's who died during 2023. We also invite all members of St. John's who have lost loved ones to light a candle for the loved one even if the loved one is not member of St. John's. We hope to see you there, so mark your calendar and plan to come. It is an impressive and moving ceremony.

Remember that this year the Pennies for Poverty money is going to 6:8. The last time we counted this money we had \$300! The Pennies Jar will be on the name tag table until December 27. Coins, bills, checks.....it all helps a very worthy cause!

Martha Circle is visiting Special Friends during December and January.

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

The Bible Study Leaders' Meeting for February will be on Tuesday, January 30, at 9:00am.

Respectively submitted, Ruth Dresser



Milestone Ministry: Baptism Anniversary

All children of God who were baptized in 2023 are invited to take part in a special Baptism Anniversary celebration on Sunday, January 7 at either service. Please mark your calendars and invite your congregational sponsors to attend worship with you and your children that day. A letter of invitation was sent in December. Let Pastor Sally know if you have any questions. We look forward to celebrating with you.



New Member Exploration

Have you been visiting St. John's and are interested in becoming a member? Or perhaps you know of someone looking for a new church home. We will receive new members on Sunday, January 28 at the 8am worship service followed by a reception in their honor. We will have New Member Classes on January 7, 14 and 21st at 9:15am. Please see Pastor Williams with any questions

PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear Friends in Christ,

I've recently fallen in love with the writings of Jan Richardson. In a reflection on the scripture for Christmas Day (John 1), she writes:

This God who worded the world into being, John tells us, is the very Word who took flesh and came to walk among us.

And this Word was life.

And this Word was light.

And the darkness did not overcome it.

And what more shall we say on this Christmas day?

Perhaps just this: that for John, the Book of Beginnings was still being written, a story both ancient and new, a sacred text that God was yet inscribing among God's people. And is inscribing still. We who celebrate the birth of Christ are called also to be his body, and to participate in the ongoing process of the Word becoming flesh in this world. In us, in us, Christ continues to be born. In this and every season.

© Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com.

This is a time of beginnings and not just because it's a new calendar year, but because St. John's is embarking on a journey of self-discovery through the transition team led by Interim Pastor Jason (more information to come on this from Pastor Jason and Nancy Kaufman, Executive Director). Who are the people of St. John's? What distinguishes them from other faith communities? What are the traditions held dear? What are the dreams of this place going forward? What are the heartaches? Where is God calling St. John's to go and to be, and eventually, who will you seek to call as your Lead Pastor to help guide you there?

God is inscribing still, and we are all called to be part of the Body, participating in the ongoing process of the Word becoming flesh in this world. What an exciting time to be St. John's! And maybe a little unnerving and chaotic as we dive deeper into the unknown future. But we must remember that the Word was life and light and there is no chaos or questions or heartache that can snuff out the light of the world.

This is just the beginning, my friends. The Spirit is at work as always. Our story is still being written. What good news!

I look forward to partnering with you on this journey. What a privilege it is to be one of your pastors!

Peace,



SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to join us in prayer on the 20th day of each month. On January 20th, please repeat the following prayer:

Lord, as we embark on this new year, we lift up to you our loved ones, our communities, and the world. May your peace reign in our hearts and in the hearts of all people. Bring healing where there is brokenness and reconciliation where there is division.

Let us start the new year with peace and faith. Let us release the bitterness and frustrations of the past year. Let us move into the new year knowing God loves us and wants the best for us. Let's pray that the new year will be focused on healing ourselves through renewing our minds. We were not meant to live life alone! We can bring the light of hope into our own hearts, home, and world through Jesus Christ. Amen.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Katelyn and Jake Keller and their family on the death of Katelyn's sister Kristina and Kristina's unborn baby, Karina Maria.

Rob, Carrie, Jonah and Violet Richard on the death of Rob's mother, Diana David Richard.

The family and friends of Dean Pfaff.



Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Renee Ballweg and Cal Hansen who were married December 2, 2023. Renee's parents are John and Aletha Ballweg.



Baby Congratulations

We celebrate with Tiffany and Matthew Katzman on the birth of their daughter Presley Lynn. Presley joins Emersyn and Briggs at home. Her great-grandma is Marilyn Herschleb.

We also celebrate with Mel and Doris Lohr on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Elnora Marion Foster Dunlap. Her parents are Jake and Kayla Foster Dunlap. Elnora's grandparents are Gary and Deb Lohr Foster.



Baptism

We welcome our new sister in Christ through Baptism:

Briar Rose Wyttenbach, the daughter of Mark Wyttenbach and Ashley Frey was baptized December 17. Her sponsors are Ridge Frey and Kassie Gavol.

thank you!

A big Thank You to our "Technology Team" Lisa Davis, Ellen Jorgensen, Eric Kaul, Charlie Kruchten, Liz Leith, Malcolm Leith, Amy Nelson, Jeff and Nicole Sandberg, Roger Seymour, Alyssa Himebauch and Sean Jager for their dedication, flexibility and team spirit in making audio/video/Zoom continue to happen for our congregation.

thank you

Thank you for remembering our family this Christmas season with your kind cards, well-wishes, gifts, and hugs. We continue to be grateful to be part of this loving faith community!

Thank you,

Pastor Sally, Jeff, and Molly Williams



JUST BAKERY

A JustDane Initiative

Just Bakery items will be sold on January 21 between our worship services. Stop by the display table and purchase a great tasting baked good to take home with you!

Thank you

Dear Friends at St. John's,

As we celebrate JustDane's 50th anniversary, we want to take a moment to give thanks for our friends. We are keenly aware that our ministry is made possible by the generous support of our partners like you. We are truly grateful for your gifts, for your compassion and your commitment to JustBakery. On behalf of the Board and Staff of JustDane, thank you for your support.

With deep appreciation and in faith,

Linda Ketcham, Director



Wanted: Mobile Meals Delivery Volunteers!

St. John's has committed to delivering meals the weeks of January 15-19 and January 22-26. We need two volunteers every weekday. One should plan to drive his/her car on the route, and one should plan to "run" the meals to the houses. Meals are ready for pickup at the Sauk Prairie Hospital near the Emergency entrance between 11:20 and 11:30 a.m. Total delivery time is usually one hour. Routing and delivery instructions are provided when you pick up the meals. This is a very rewarding volunteer experience.

If you are available to help, please add your name and phone number to the schedule on the kiosk.

News from the Fellowship Board

We invite everyone to share their "over-abundance of holiday goodies" during fellowship time on December 31. This will be a good time to "share the wealth" of those cookie and candy trays and help remove the temptations as we go into the new year.

We will welcome new members at fellowship time on January 28, 2024.

St John's will be hosting a Synod event on February 17, 2024. We will serve coffee and treats throughout the day and a noon meal. Please consider volunteering to help on this day.

Lenten lunches will be served beginning February 14, 2024.

Thank you.

Cathy McAlexander



Stormy Weather Approaching

How will you know if St. John's is closed for worship services and Sunday School? You can call the church office; the answering machine message will state the times of service or the news that the church is closed. You can also look at our facebook page. We will send you an email if we have your address. If you have any doubt about road conditions and your ability to maneuver, don't risk a fall or an accident. Please stay home and watch us on ZOOM.

Thank You



Thank you to all the many hands that helped with our candles for the Christmas Eve services. Those who helped set up the candelabra, those who put fresh candles out for each service, those who helped to put the candelabra away at the end of the evening and especially those who kept an eye on the burning candles to save us from a fire during our services. It takes many volunteers to create such a beautiful service and we thank you all for helping out.

St. John's Staff

Those Serving in January

Greeters:

Jan. 7 (Front doors) John/Linda Hines
(Sanctuary doors) Don/Vi Bohler
Jan. 14 (Front doors) Rich/Kris Frey
(Sanctuary doors) Don/Vi Bohler
Jan. 21 (Front doors) Joslyn Schultz
(Sanctuary doors) Kendra Frey
Jan. 28 (Front doors) S/H Kindschi
(Sanctuary doors) T/G Wytttenbach

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Dale Clason
Tom/Gina Varley
John/Ellen Mast
Caden Argall
Aubree Deuman
Austin Urban
Dale Clason
Tom/Gina Varley

Ushers:

January 7

January 14

January 21

January 28

8:00 a.m.

Dale Haroldson
Lon Kaderavek
Austin Urban
Dale Haroldson
Lon Kaderavek
Joslyn Schultz
Dale Haroldson
Lon Kaderavek
Parker Frosch
Gina Wytttenbach
Todd Wytttenbach
Parker Frosch

10:30 a.m.

Tyler Jorgenson
Deb Westphal
Gerry Westphal
Cannon Esser
John Mast
Ellen Mast
Evelyn Bahe
Tom Varley
Gina Varley
Aubree Deuman

Acolytes:

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

8:00 a.m.

Cora Miller
Willy Pickett
Evelyn Bahe

10:30 a.m.

Elio Piccinelli
Clay Hutchins
Elio Piccinelli
Elio Piccinelli

Readers:

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

8:00 a.m.

Carrie Richard
John Hines
Mary Halweg
Donna Knickmeyer

10:30 a.m.

Bob Nelson
Dale Clason
Denny Dederich
Donna Knickmeyer

Cantors:

January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

8:00 a.m.

Katie LaVigne
Becky Weittenhiller
Connie Burton
Lisa Davis

10:30 a.m.

Katie LaVigne
Becky Weittenhiller
Connie Burton
Lisa Davis

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

January 7 Marv Hupp
 January 14 Nancy Kaufman
 January 21 Janelle Hupp
 January 28 Donna Knickmeyer

10:30 a.m.

Jordan Small
 Alyssa Himebauch
 Jordan Small
 Donna Knickmeyer

Communion Set/Clean 8:00 a.m.

January 7 Dorothy Halverson
 January 14 Rich/Jane Calenzo
 January 21
 January 28 Jayne Carlson

10:30 a.m.

Dale Clason
 Audrey Luetscher
 Aubree Deuman
 Dale Clason

Communion Assistants 8:00 a.m.

January 7 Patty Barritt
 January 14 Kris Frey
 January 21
 January 28 Jayne Carlson

10:30 a.m.

Dale Clason
 Laura Hutchins
 Aubree Deuman
 Dale Clason

Sunday Stewards 8:00 a.m.

January 7 Nancy Passehl
 January 14 Cathy McAlexander
 January 21 Gwen Ringelstetter
 January 28 Cathy McAlexander

10:30 a.m.

James Newman
 Anne Klinkner
 James Newman
 Sean Jager

Coffee Servers

January 7
 January 14 Liz Ziehlsdorf
 January 21
 January 28 Linda Michaels

Technology Team 8:00 a.m.

January 7 Jeff/Nicole/Audrey
 Sandberg
 Ellen Jorgensen
 January 14
 January 21
 January 28 Lisa Davis

10:30 a.m.

Ellen Jorgensen
 Charlie/Leah Kruchten
 Jeff/Nicole/Audrey
 Sandberg

Attendance:

Christmas Eve 725 at St. John's, 57 via Zoom
 Christmas Day 37 at St. John's, 24 on Zoom

Work Day at St. John's

St. John's will hold a Work Day on Monday, January 15 beginning at 9:00am. It has been a tradition at St. John's to encourage our members to volunteer to help others on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

St. John's will be hosting a Synod-wide LEAD Event in February this year, so what better time to give St. John's a good spruce up? We will ask volunteers to help clean some areas of the church that our custodian and kitchen volunteers just cannot get to on a weekly basis. Cleaning the ovens, cleaning the kitchen cupboards, dusting windowsills, etc. would be some of the tasks we are hoping to complete. If you are available on January 15, we would love to have your help for an hour or two.

Sunday School:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our fund for this year's Sunday School project – Porchlight of Madison. We collected many useful items and \$249.00 at our Christmas Program.

A heartfelt thank you to Dave Sweeney and JoAnnah Sorg for organizing our Sunday School Christmas program! Also thank you to Joanna Jones and Miranda Jager (Superintendents) for all their help with the students.

We will resume classes after Christmas break on Sunday, January 7 at 9:15am.

The 5th and 6th graders of Sunday School will be holding a Bake Sale on Sunday, February 11 between worship services. All proceeds go to God's Global Barnyard.



Stock the Schools

In cooperation with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's will be 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. January's items are: granola and breakfast bars, and new or gently used zip hoodies, sizes S-2XL. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office door to drop off your donations.

Confirmation News

St. John's Snow Tubing at Tyrol Basin February 16

On Friday February 16, 5-9pm, St. John's Youth are invited to go Snow Tubing at Tyrol Basin!

- Friday February 16 from 5:00-9:00pm
- \$18 per ticket

You will need to provide your own transportation. Registration is required and due before 2/10/24, at

<https://tinyurl.com/StJohnsTubing>

Christmas Carol Success at Maplewood

St. John's confirmation students and members of the Senior Choir had a wonderful experience when they sang Christmas Carols at Maplewood Nursing Home! They sang traditional songs, carried jingle bells, and spread cheer to the residents. Afterwards, students shared hot cocoa and treats to celebrate the holiday season with the confirmation classes.

Thank You for Supporting the Caring Tree

St. John's Confirmation students and adults shared their time and energy to support families who otherwise would struggle to share in this joyous time of year, when they went shopping to fill an entire tree for the Sauk Prairie Caring Tree! Students were very successful at finding just the right gift for youth-in-need. It was wonderful to see our St. John's Youth recognize the small gesture of selecting a toy, art kit, or even basic clothing for other kids their own age, sharing God's love within our community.

Volunteer Help Need for Wednesday Night Meals

St. John's offers a fellowship meal before each confirmation class (5:30-6:00pm). Confirmation families are asked to help volunteer to set-up, clean-up or donate desserts. Please see the sign-up book in the St. John's kitchen to fill the many empty spots for Spring. Thank you!

Young Adult Updates

New job? Accepted into a new program? Won an award? Need prayers for something specific? Please email Pastor Sally at sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org or message her on Facebook with any updates, so that we may continue to celebrate and pray for you in your life in Christ.

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 Public Relations and Social Concerns (PR & SC) Board.

Hello from the Public Relations and Social Concerns Board!

You have probably seen the committee at work around the congregation. We have a **dedicated team** of volunteers who support a wide variety of initiatives. Such as: deliver mobile meals for the Sauk Prairie Healthcare mobile meal program, 6 weeks out of the year; we deliver St John's non-perishable donations to the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry, and we pick up bakery from Just Bakery in Madison for sale on the 3rd Sunday of the month. By chance did you host a yard sign this summer? Did you know the yard sign was a campaign spearheaded by the Public Relations and Social Concerns Board? Life is busy, so we are so very grateful that you were able to find time to participate in the Board's initiatives. Your dedication doesn't go unnoticed.

We would love to expand our ministries. Have further questions or would you like to explore the board further? Contact Ellen Jorgensen. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm.

Parish Planning Council Minutes December 5, 2023, 6:00 PM

Present: Donna Nelson, Nancy Kaufman, Nancy Passehl, Cathy Yanke, Sally Williams, Jason Hill, Lon Kaderavek, Eunice Yanke, Gwen Ringelstetter, Cathy McAlexander, Sean Jager, James Newman

Absent: Tracy Pape, Gina Varley, Ellen Jorgenson, Roger Seymour, Anne Klinkner

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Nancy P and seconded by Eunice. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Nancy K.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer report:

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

- We received a congregational blessing of generosity in November and expenses were lower than normal. Our YTD income is \$30K more than expenses.
- We will have a remaining bill for the carpet and the asbestos abatement to pay in December and hope to end the year with more income than expenses.
- Stockholdings increased in value by \$13K in November and we received an additional stock donation for almost \$30K.

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Lon and seconded by James. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- Discussion of new member welcome dates and college student kits to be sent.

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander reported:

- The coffee server signup sheets for 2024 have been posted.
- We discussed Volunteer Appreciation Day.
- New Member Welcome Fellowship will be held January 28, 2024.
- St John's will host the Synod Congregation Leadership Event on February 17, 2024. We will serve coffee and lunch.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- We are discussing the possibility of returning to glass, reusable communion cups as there are now trays available for purchase to wash them in the dishwasher. If anyone remembers where the glass communion cups we used to use might be stored please let me know! Purchasing new ones would be a significant investment.
- Christmas Eve candle set up will be on Saturday morning Dec. 23 at 8 am. Please come help if you are available.

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

- No report provided

Properties:

Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Will give update on carpet replacement

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

- Just Bakery between services on December 17th

- Hope House Shelter will be speaking to Adult Ed on December 10th
- Mobile Meal sign up on the kiosk. St John's will deliver meals the weeks of January 15 and 22

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- 2023-2024 CALENDAR REVIEW The Board reviewed the proposed calendar for the 2024 calendar year.
- October 2024 marks the end of Anne Klinkner's 6 years as Stewardship Board Chairperson and Donna Nelson's term as Treasurer. Both positions will have to be replaced by October 2024.
- RESEARCH ON NEW METHODS OF ELECTRONIC GIVING-UPDATE Work continues on adding methods of electronic giving in addition to Vanco and texting.
- INVESTMENT POLICY We discussed the need for a simple Investment Policy. Homework for the board for our January 2024 meeting is to think about the types of investments we are willing to accept. The Gift Release Form was discussed. Anne will work on a proposed final document we can review at our January 2024 meeting.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- The Holy Land presentation from Pastor Sally Williams and Jan Floeter was very interesting and meaningful in our current times.
- ThankOffering Sunday was November 26. To date we have collected \$295. We will continue to accept donations until Dec. 17.
- January's Circle meetings will be combined into one on January 11 at 10am. Interim Pastor Jason Hill will lead the Bible Study, followed by our annual Candlelight Service for the members of St. John's who passed away during 2023.
- We have collected \$209.30 for 6:8 from our Pennies for Poverty Jar so far. If you wish to contribute to this donation, please do so soon.

Youth Committee: Tracy Pape reported:

- Caring Tree Shopping Confirmation students reserve their own "Caring Tree" with 50 tags. We will shop on Wed December 6, with 14 students and 6 adults.
- Caroling at Maplewood Confirmation students will carol at Maplewood Nursing Home on December 13, and Senior Choir members are joining us. Hot cocoa and treats will be shared after singing. Penny will focus on gathering drivers and parents to donate treats.

- Youth Gathering Preparation Six students and two chaperones (one male and one female) registered for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. We will have several preparation meetings to go to as a group and prepare the students for the exceptional faith experience. Our next group event will be bowling at the Riv, on January 24, to get to know one another.
- Snow Tubing Based on last years' experience, we would like to repeat the snow tubing event in 2024. We anticipate a fun night of tubing, laughs, and frozen noses! We will promote as details are finalized.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report provided.

Youth member at Large: Sean Jager reported:

- No report provided

Pastor/Interim Reports

Jason's Report:

- Initial conversation with the Synodical Assistant to the Bishop Marie Leafblad via Zoom with Executive Committee and Pastor Jason on Nov. 28, 2023. Purpose was to talk about initial steps associated with the transition team, how to go about forming such a team, and the specific areas of focus for the team.
- An immediate focus of the executive committee will be to generate a list of viable people who would be able to serve as the core of the transition team to facilitate and lead conversations, events, and surveys that would explore the context of St. John's.
- We would hope to have a team in place with no more than 7-10 people identified so that we can begin to start the contextual study. Goal would be to identify these people by our next check in meeting in January.

Sally's Report:

- Thank you to Lon and our staff who have been working with and around the carpet laying and asbestos abatement process. I am grateful for their flexibility, especially in December!
- A letter will be sent out in early December inviting people to consider becoming new members. I will hold three classes on January 7, 14, and 21. We will install them on January 28 at the 8am service with a reception hosted by the Fellowship Board at 9.
- St. John's will be hosting the Synod's LEAD event on Saturday, February 17. I will send out a separate email to the PPC with an invitation to attend this event.

- An Advent 4 devotion will be sent out via mail and email in place of worship Dec 24 morning. Christmas services are Dec 24: 1, 3, 5 and 7:30pm. Zooming only 1 and 5 pm services. Dec 25, 9am (and zoomed). Dec 31, 9am (and zoomed). We will need many volunteers for ushers, candle set/clean-up/replace, etc. Please check out all the sign up sheets and online.
- Pastor Jason and I will be meeting next week to create this year's Lenten season.
- I am grateful for the WELCA group who invited me to speak on the Holy Land. It was very well attended and generated a lot of very good discussion.

Old Business:

- Sunday Steward sign up for Q1 2024 completed
- PPC Retreat Follow-up. When you are a Sunday Steward, reminder to seek out those you may not know or know well to assist with the duty. All PPC members are encouraged to consciously welcome others and introduce themselves.
- Carpet update. Discovered asbestos in three places and is being abated by Robertson Abatement from Waunakee. Will complete an air quality check and then resume carpeting operations. Extra cost of about \$7K for these extra items.
- Exhibit between services/Lead service. Nancy K will call Marie at the Synod to invite the vendors from the Lead conference at St John's on Feb 17, to be available to congregation members on Feb 18.
- Transition team update. Exec PPC and Pastor Jason met with Marie for discussion on the work needed for the transition team. We will be working to gather a committee of 6-8 members by the end of January 2024.

New Business:

- None.

Next meeting is Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Cathy. Lon made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by James. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05 pm. with The Lord's Prayer led by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



Happy January Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis.

Our Youngest:

Rylan Gorsuch (4)

Knox Kruchten (7)

James Johnson (14)

Our Sunday School Students:

Molly Philo (6)

Clare Kaderavek (12)

Maddie Keller (18)

Cole Haug (23)

Emma Naggs (27)

Lincoln Wasserberg (27)

Cadence Schwartz (30)

Brielle Schell (31)

Our Youth:

Kaden Ballweg (2)

Noelle Small (13)

Douglas Jolicoeur (15)

Parker Pape (18)

Sophia Hanson (29)

Andrew King (31)

Nicholas Keyser (31)

College and Career-age Young People:

Jack Boerger (7)

Leo Hartman (16)

Chesney Schonenberger (17)

Karley Blau (29)