



Love one another...John 13:34

Evelyn Haffemann, Kindergarten

Prairie du Sac, WI

February 2024

Dear Friends of St. John's,

If you are anything like me, the promise of a new year feels like pressing the reset button on our lives. We become optimistic, hopeful, and grateful that we have another opportunity to grasp onto the gift of life and make the most of it. We want to live better, eat better, get more sleep, love the people around us better, exercise more, etc. We want to live life in a more authentic way. Because the busyness of our lives can hijack our sense of thankfulness, gratitude, and ability to not take life for granted. A new year becomes another deep dive to believe and embrace that we are made for so much more. We are made to grow, evolve, change, and when we need to, completely renovate the superstructure of our souls. We are made to become more authentically and transparently; the people God made us to be. We are made to live, fully aware that there is room enough for God to reside in our hearts, as we clean out that which does not align with the faith we profess. It's not easy by any means, but that is the hope of a God who loves us so dearly. Hope in acknowledging our potential to be better human beings to ourselves and to each other. And just as we have the hope of God believing in us as His people individually, there is also His belief in us collectively. God believes in us to live out our faith in ways that offer peace, love, and grace in Jesus' name.

We do that well here at St. John's, especially in the midst of this transitional time of remembering who you have been as a congregation, your history, your memories, your stories, recalling the pivotal points along the church's trajectory as a community of faith. We remember the pastors who have served you faithfully,

respectfully, and lovingly. We remember the dates of importance for you: weddings, funerals, confirmation, anniversaries, programs. We recall the ways in which you offer your time and passion for this church through the numerous opportunities to be involved. We celebrate the history of this church and the generations of the faithful who came before us, teaching us and inspiring us to receive and pass on the flame of the Holy Spirit.

In this first phase of the transitional process, you as a church will have the opportunities to help define and understand who you have been by telling the congregational story, recalling the church's movements: the ways in which St. John's initially influenced the contexts of Sauk City and Prairie du Sac, how did the growth of the church look during the early years you can remember, what were the moments of celebration that brought the church together, what was the overall feeling(s) of the church at that time, how were the generations brought together to learn from each other and grow from each other's experiences? These are just some of the questions that you will have opportunities to reflect on, have conversations about, and express to the transition team in the coming months.

At the time of this writing, I am happy to announce that we have a dedicated group of seven people who have agreed to serve on the transition team, and by the time you read this article, we will have had our initial meeting to come together, answer initial questions and thoughts, and roughly sketch out a "roadmap." I am in communication with our Synod and they are excited about this process for us, and are willing to assist us in resources and also meeting with us. I am sure I will be able to give you a fuller update about our initial meeting and progress for next month's newsletter. Know that we are in the hands of a God who loves us, cares deeply about us, and will see to this congregation's present hopes and dreams to carry us into a faithful future. Please pray for God's wisdom, inspiration, and vision as we participate in this vital work of transition and celebrate the story of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Faithfully,
Pastor Jason

thank you!

The Good Neighbor Clinic of Sauk Prairie wishes to extend our appreciation for the generous donation of \$500.00 in support of our medical services. Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely, the Good Neighbor Clinic



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

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:

Cereal	Instant Oatmeal
Tuna	Mayo/Salad Dressing
Brownie Mix	Hand Lotion
Baby Food	Diapers

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 February. The day is in parentheses.

Ginny Nimmow (1)
216 Washington Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Dick Dobrzynski (12)
50 Hemlock St., Unit 1
Sauk City, WI 53583



Marilyn Larson (**February 18, 1925**)
930 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Diane Elsing (19)
2020 Hanksfield Place
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Eunice Yanke (24)
S8651 Old Bluff Trail
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

THANK YOU

"Thank you to all who took time to send Mel Lohr a birthday greeting. Mel always looks forward to the daily mail." It meant a lot to him.

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, February 8, at Darlene Holl's, 418 Lueders Rd., Apt. 9, Sauk City	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, February 1, at Maplewood, 245 Sycamore St., Sauk City	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, February 12, at Ruth Ann Corrao's, 265 Holly Ct., Prairie du Sac	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, February 6, in St. John's Library	9:30am

Circles will meet in February as shown above. The study for these months is on Scripture and Nature. The writer of the lessons, Rev. Sara Olson-Smith, does a wonderful job of showing us scripture passages about nature and the weather and explaining them. The Bible Study Leaders in February will be Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester.

Twenty-Six ladies attended the joint circle meeting on January 11th. After a social time of shared treats and coffee, Interim Pastor Jason gave a very interesting talk about his experiences as a chaplain for Agrace Hospice. We then had a meaningful memorial service for those from St. John's who have died in the past year, including:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Bev Clason | Bev Christenson |
| Neva Virnig | Robert Knuteson, Sr. |
| Paul Bringle | Jeannine Robertson |
| Marvin Beuthin | Bonnie McGuine |
| Tom Luetscher | Shirley Bruckert |
| Bette Shively | Marlene Steinke |
| Inez Zitlow | LaVonne Knuth |
| Ray Bolton | Dean Pfaff |
| David Clason | Dede Egan |

Martha Circle visited Special Friends during December and January. Sarah/Mary Circle will visit them in February and March.

Remember to look in this Visitor for the Special Prayer to read on January 20th at 9:00am.

The Bible Study Leaders' Meeting for March will be on Tuesday, February 27th at 9:00 am.

Circle Invitation

Are you interested in joining a Bible Study group? Our Circles would like to add new members. You don't have to know a lot about the Bible, you learn about the Bible as we study. We meet once a month for study and wonderful fellowship. If you have questions, please call Eunice Yanke at 608-643-8289. We would love to see you!

Adult Education

All are welcome to join us in Room 3 in the Sunday School wing for adult education on Sundays from 9:15-10:15am. Over the next couple of months, we will have a combination of offerings including text studies on the upcoming Gospel lessons and some special speakers. More information will be included in the weekly bulletins.



ASH

WEDNESDAY

Lent begins February 22

Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024. This marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We will have Worship Services with Ashes at 1:00pm and 6:30pm. Services will be available on ZOOM also.

A light lunch will be served at noon if you would like to join us. The cost is \$2.00 for children and adults, \$1.00 for senior citizens.



Lenten Worship

We will continue our Lenten Worship Services each Wednesday, February 21 through March 20. Lenten services will take place at 1:00pm and 6:30pm. This year our Lenten offering will go to 6:8 of Sauk Prairie.

There will be a light lunch offered before each 1:00pm service beginning at noon. All are welcome at the noon meal and the 5:30pm meal. (Note: The 5:30pm meal will NOT be served February 14.) The cost is \$2.00 for children and adults, \$1.00 for senior citizens.

SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray this prayer February 20th,

Gracious God, You who are the source of all love and goodness: enable us to see the needs of our neighbor. Show us what we can do to bring about healing. Change us, so that we can love all our brothers and sisters. Help us to overcome the obstacles of division, that we might build a world of peace for the common good. Thank you for renewing your Creation and leading us to a future which is full of hope: you who are Lord of all, yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.



Thank you Volunteers!

Thank you to the Mobile Meal volunteers for sharing your time and kindness with our neighbors. Without you, this program would not be possible. God Bless –

PR & Social Concerns Committee

Those who delivered meals in January are:

Rich Frey	Kris Frey
Alice Chenoweth	Barb Breunig
Allan Van Landuyt	Lisa Van Landuyt
Dan Lovell	Kathy Lovell
Mike Langer	Kim Langer

Fellowship Committee News

We will welcome New Members on January 28 at fellowship time. Please bring a pie to help celebrate. Pies can be delivered to the church on Friday, January 26 or prior to the 8:00AM service on the 28.

Lenten lunch meals will be served beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14.

The sign-up sheet for the Palm Sunday Brunch will be posted beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14.

We thank the team of Gloria Moles, Gwen Ringelstetter, Kris Frey, Maren Anderson Boerger, Cathy McAlexander and Donna Nelson for cleaning the kitchen on January 22, 2024.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Here's a fun church fact for you: Ever wondered how Easter Sunday is determined? It is the first Sunday after the first full moon in the spring equinox, and this Sunday is just a week shy of being the earliest it can be. Now that you know this fun fact sure to impress all your friends, let's talk about this year's Lenten theme.

This year's theme is about finding rest in the chaos. That chaos can be the ebb and flow of daily life, the journey of grief, the ups and downs of faith, illness and health, and all sorts of things that we as humans experience. Where and how do we find rest?

We will be focusing on the book of Psalms again this Lent as we dive into the journey to resting in God. Here is what we will explore:

Psalm 23 - The Lord as our shepherd

Psalm 3 - The Lord as our shield

Psalm 62 - The Lord as our fortress

Psalm 131 - The Lord and quiet trust

Psalm 139 - The inescapable God

We will focus on these Psalms on Wednesdays during Lent, beginning the week after Ash Wednesday (February 14). We will again have our 1pm and 6:30pm services. A meal will be offered before each service. See the bulletins and other announcements in this newsletter for information about that.

Pastor Jason and I look forward to studying God's Word of rest for us this Lenten season. May we all find rest where we need it most.

Peace,

Lenten Offering

This year our Lenten offerings will go to 6:8 of Sauk Prairie for their projects in our local community. Give generously!



New Member Reception

We are happy to announce that St. John's received the following people as new members on January 28.

Gloria Straw

Kim Diehl

Liz Ziehlsdorf

Garrett Ziehlsdorf

Charlotte Ziehlsdorf

Amelia Ziehlsdorf

Lisa Van Landuyt

Allan Van Landuyt

Cortney Dean

Clay Dean

Henry Dean

Brantley Dean



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Melani and Brent Wheeler and their family, along with Gene Mowitz on the death of Melani's uncle and Gene's brother, John Mowitz.

Rich and Kris Frey and their family, Steve and Cheryl Sprecher, and JoAnnah and Todd Sorg and their family on the death of Rich's brother, Steve's brother-in-law and JoAnnah's uncle, John Frey.

Mary Dodd and the Hart family on the death of Mary's close friend Edna Hart.

Leon and Jolene Herbrand and their family, and Brent and Alaina Herbrand and their family on the death of Leon's sister and Brent's aunt, Jean E. Acker.

Bob Egan and his family, and Gina and Tom Varley and their family on the death of Bob's wife and Gina's sister, Dede Egan. Dede was also mother to Cody Egan (Ben Bisbach) and Courtney and Michael Schwartz and grammy to their children Cadence and Kane Schwartz.

Alysia Herritz and her children Evelyn and Brayton Bahe on the death of Alysia's mother, June Herritz.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Bake Sale

The Sunday School students of the 5th and 6th grade will hold a Bake Sale on Sunday, February 11 beginning at 9am. All monies collected will go to the ELCA's Good Gifts God's Global Barnyards program. The students appreciate your support for this project and are eager to share with you all the work they have put into making the bake sale a success. Please stop by and greet the students.

Confirmation News

Alive Youth Night

The next "Alive" Youth Night is Sunday, February 4, 2024, at Immanuel Lutheran in Watertown, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. This night is for middle and high school students from our South-Central Wisconsin Synod and includes dinner, games, icebreakers, fun, worship, and music. \$5.00 / person. Register by emailing Penny and learn more at <https://scsw-elca.org/youthministry/#alivenight>

Snow Tubing at Tyrol Basin

All youth, teens and families are invited to go Snow Tubing at Tyrol Basin on Friday February 16, 5-9pm. The cost is \$18/Person and attendees need to provide their own transportation. Registration is required and due before February 10, 2024.

- Registration Link: <https://shop.tyrolbasin.com/groups>
- Group Code: STJOHNS

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

The group continues to meet and prepare for this momentous event. During the last zoom meeting of youth leaders, we learned that there are 10,000 people already registered! The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will take place July 16-20, 2024. The travel for our group has been confirmed and we will fly with the Synod from Milwaukee to New Orleans. We anticipate confirmation of our hotel reservations this month. Later in Spring, we will receive our full schedule of activities. The goal of this week-long event is to help youth be affirmed and challenged in their faith, experience new perspectives, ponder their vocation, bond with other church members, and learn more about the wider ELCA.

Confirmation and Lenten Evening Services

St. John's is excited to have the confirmation students lead the Lenten Evening Services! There is no class on February 14, Ash Wednesday, however students are encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday Service.

For all other Wednesdays in Lent, students are welcome to eat at 5:30pm, attend classroom lesson at 6:00pm then attend service, 6:30pm-7:00pm. Parents, family, friends, and mentors are invited to attend Lenten Evening Services and support your students as they lead!

Service Leaders	Lenten Service
Grade 9	21-Feb
Grade 8	28-Feb
Grade 7	6-Mar
Grade 9	13-Mar
Grade 8	27-Mar

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.

thanks

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation to Sauk Prairie Dollars for Scholars, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000.00 toward the St. John's Lutheran Church Scholarship. We appreciate your continued support of our mission.

Thank you for being a part of that commitment to our community's young scholars.

Sincerely,

Andrea Mauch, Executive Director

(This donation is a budgeted item in St. John's annual budget.)



Global Health Ministries

The origins of GHM are rooted in Lutheran missionaries who lived and worked in the red dirt of Madagascar, in Liberia, Tanzania, and Cameroon. Global Health Ministries is an independent Lutheran nonprofit (501c3) established in 1987 and specializes in building Lutheran health systems and to “support and assist our overseas Lutheran churches in realizing the full potential of Christ’s healing ministry,” serving some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

The kits we send to GHM each spring are Hospice Kits and Newborn Kits. Our volunteers are ready to pack these kits and would greatly appreciate your help in collecting the needed items:

Hospice Kits include:

One wash cloth
One bath-size bar Ivory soap
One adult toothbrush
One “pick” style comb
One nail clipper
Six Band-Aids
One 4-oz petroleum jelly
One pair kitchen-type gloves

Newborn Kits include:

One wash cloth
One bath-size bar Ivory soap
One newborn T-shirt
One newborn stocking cap
Two diaper pins
Two cloth diapers



Thank you all for your kind words and expressions of sympathy during the loss of our beloved Dede/Mom/Grammy. Hearing about your memories and how she touched so many lives has warmed our hearts and given us great comfort. Thanks also to Pastor Sally and Pastor Jason for officiating a wonderful memorial service, Ruellene for the music, Linda for taking care of the worship bulletin and the Funeral Lunch group for managing the meal for the large gathering afterwards.

Bob Egan
Courtney, Mike, Cadence & Kane Schwartz
Gina & Tom Varley

C A L L A B T O O F B O N R
L R B A D G E R S G A N O O
Y E K C O H A P P Y E I R M
R C N C H A P L A I N L T U
A A F T I F E C I P S O H H
N R M B I R T H D A Y T D Y
I G A M Y R G R U B T R A W
M A E A E N I L L O C E K E
E S R C P A S T O R O T O R
S E N I R E V L O W F I T D
N O G E R O N I R G F R A N
C H Z Z A J A S O N E E S A
A S M I R E T N I G E M O !

Agrace, Andrew, Badgers, Birthday, Call,
Chaplain, Coffee, Collin, Concert, EAA, Emma,
Faith, Football, Grin, Happy, Hockey, Hospice,
Humor, Interim, Jason, Jazz, Lego, Lent, Magi,
Meriter, North Dakota, Oregon, Pastor, Seminary,
Shoes, Synod, Wartburg, Wolverines

Circle the letters to find the words above and when you are done
you can find the hidden message with the remaining letters.

Solution:(17 letters)

Those Serving in February

Greeters:

Feb. 4 (Front doors) John/Linda Hines
 (Sanctuary doors) Don/Vi Bohler
 Feb. 11 (Front doors) Rich/Kris Frey
 (Sanctuary doors) Tara/Caden Argall
 Feb. 14 (Front doors) John/Ellen Mast
 Feb. 18 (Front doors) Hudson Ballweg
 (Sanctuary doors) Parker Pape
 Feb. 25 (Front doors) Steve/Holly Kindschi
 (Sanctuary doors) T/G Wyttenbach

10:30 a.m.

Gerry/Deb Westphal

 Austin Urban
 Kiptyn Suchla
 Ginny Nimmow
 John/Ellen Mast

Ushers:

February 4

 February 11

 February 14

 February 18

 February 21
 February 25

 February 28

8:00 a.m.

Dale Haroldson
 Lon Kaderavek
 Hudson Ballweg
 Dale Haroldson
 Lon Kaderavek
 Austin Urban
 Dale Haroldson
 Steve Kindschi
 Holly Kindschi
 John Ballweg
 Aletha Ballweg
 Parker Frosch
 Dale Haroldson
 Todd Wyttenbach
 Gina Wyttenbach
 Parker Frosch
 Dale Haroldson

10:30 a.m.

Laura Hutchins
 Austin Urban

 Lillyann Nurkala

 Tom Varley
 Gina Varley
 Ryan Jorgenson

 Austin Urban

Acolytes:

February 4
 February 11
 February 18
 February 25

8:00 a.m.

Charlie Lueck
 Parker Pape
 Charlie Lueck
 Charlie Lueck

10:30 a.m.

Clay Hutchins

 Tyler Jorgenson
 Madyn Ludowitz

Readers:

February 4
 February 11
 February 14
 February 18
 February 25

8:00 a.m.

Crystal Lautenbach
 Gary Tomter
 Dale Haroldson
 Marilyn Herschleb
 Nancy Kaufman

10:30 a.m.

Doris Lohr
 Marian DeGiovanni
 Kathy Lovell
 Dale Clason
 Jon Neubacher

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

February 4 Patty Barritt
 February 11 Marv Hupp
 February 18
 February 25

10:30 a.m.

Jordan Small

 Jordan Small

Cantors:

February 4 Doug Slater
 February 11 Senior Choir
 February 18 Marv/Janelle Hupp
 February 25 Melani Wheeler

10:30 a.m.

Doug Slater
 Senior Choir
 Doris Lohr
 Melani Wheeler

Communion

February 4

 February 11
 February 14
 February 18
 February 25

Set-Up

Dorothy Halverson

 Alice/Joe Chenoweth

 Sophia Hanson

Clean-Up

Barb Salveson
 Sarah Warmke
 Dale Clason
 Marilyn Herschleb
 Aubree Deuman
 Gerry/Deb Westphal

Communion Assistants 8:00 a.m.

February 4 Patty Barritt
 February 11 Kris Frey
 February 14 Mary Weeks
 February 18 Joslyn Schultz
 February 25

10:30 a.m.

Laura Hutchins
 Audrey Luetscher
 Mary Weeks
 Alyssa Himebauch
 Dale Clason

Technology Team

February 4

 February 11
 February 14

 February 18

 February 21
 February 25

 February 28

8:00 a.m.

Charlie Kruchten
 Evelyn Brennan

 Ellen Jorgensen
 Roger Seymour

 Roger Seymour
 Lee LaVigne

 Ellen Jorgensen

10:30 a.m.

Ellen Jorgensen
 Cannon Esser
 Alyssa Himebauch
 Ellen Jorgensen
 Alyssa Himebauch
 Jeff, Nicole, Audrey Sandberg

 Jeff, Nicole, Audrey Sandberg
 Roger Seymour

Coffee Servers

February 4 Nancy and Butch Passehl
 February 11 Doug and Donna Nelson
 February 18 Steve and Patty Barritt
 February 25 Marilyn Herschleb

Sunday Stewards

February 4
February 11
February 18
February 25

8:00 a.m.

Lon Kaderavek
Cathy Yanke
Lon Kaderavek
Eunice Yanke

10:30 a.m.

James Newman
Ellen Jorgensen
Sean Jager
James Newman

THANK YOU

Thank you very much for your contributions of time, talents, and treasure in 2023. The gifts you shared helped many people, both locally and beyond the Sauk Prairie area. Your gifts are truly a blessing to the ministry of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. You are always such a blessing to us, and especially in this past year. May God bless and keep you in 2024.

The Stewardship Board

Thank You!

We thank the following people for volunteering to handle the 2023 Audit of St. John's Financial Records:

Anne Klinkner, Jon Caflisch, Gina Wyttenbach, and Brian Weeks.

*thank
you*

Thank you for your outstanding donation to the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry. Your gift of \$671.00 (*Thanksgiving donation*) is sure to make a positive impact for families in Sauk Prairie. Thanks to your kindness and compassion for others in our community, we are able to provide access to healthy, life sustaining nutritional food to those who are in need.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and patrons, thank you again for your support.

Sincerely, Jean Schneller, SPAFP Treasurer



Thank you for your generous support! Your generous check of \$1,000 for Habitat for Humanity makes it possible to carry on our mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Thank you so much!

(This check was sent as part of St. John's annual Benevolence budget.)



shutterstock.com - 2224707313

Dear Pastor Williams and the Good People of St. John's,

Thank you for your support and partnership in ministry! You are making a difference at Lutheran Campus Ministry. Your kind and generous gift of \$1,000 fills us with gratitude and confidence in our calling, as we gather students for prayer, support, and spiritual formation. The young people have been blessed, nurtured, and fed through this ministry because of your trust in the Holy Spirit.

Thank you again for your gift. Rev. John Worzala-Dumke
(This check was sent as part of St. John's annual Benevolence budget.)



Thank you for your gift of \$50.00 to ELCA World Hunger. Through this gift you are sharing grace with others around the world. It provides access to clean water, health care, education, peace, and justice. Thank you for your generous gift.

In Christ, Amanda White, Director of Congregational Generosity

Parish Planning Council Minutes **Jan 2, 2024, 6:00 PM**

Present: Donna Nelson, Nancy Kaufman, Nancy Passehl, Cathy Yanke, Jason Hill, Eunice Yanke, Ellen Jorgensen, Roger Seymour, Gina Varley, James Newman, Gwen Ringelstetter, Anne Klinkner, Cathy McAlexander

Absent: Sally Williams, Lon Kaderavek, Tracy Pape, Sean Jager

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Donna and seconded by Gina. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Cathy Y.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer report:

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

- We ended the year with a generous donation in memory of Mac McCluskey of over \$7500.
 - Total income for 2023 was over \$590K and expense total was \$570K which resulted in income for the year of \$20K.
 - We realized gains in the value of our stock portfolio of over \$25K.
- A motion to look into selling a portion of our stock as appropriate to rebalance our investments and take advantage of the market gain we are experiencing now was made by Anne and seconded by Roger. Motion carried.
- After year-end numbers are reviewed and approved by the auditors, the information will be published in the Visitor and the annual report.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- New member welcome will be Jan 28. May have 6 families.

- Penny has addresses and will make labels for the eleven or twelve 2023 high school graduates. Changing package send out time to February.
- Thanks to Sheila for pastor and pet blessing photos on the entrance bulletin boards.
- Proposed taking a group photo of the PPC for the bulletin board as well.

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander reported:

2023

The Nelson family shared Christmas cookies at fellowship on December 10, 2023.

Church members were encouraged to share their “excess Christmas goodies “at fellowship on December 31, 2023.

2024

A day of church cleaning by volunteers will be held on January 15, 2024.

A reception for new members will be held on January 28, 2024.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Lay Ministry did not meet in December.

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

Sunday School

The Christmas program will be on December 17 at 1pm.

The 5th and 6th grade class has chosen February 11, for their Bake Sale Day. Proceeds will go to the ELCA Good Gifts “Barnyard” program as in the past. They will sell their baked goods between services until supply runs out.

- Sunday School Curriculum check in with teachers at new year to find out how they like it. This year we are using a curriculum that does not follow the lectionary cycle.

Confirmation

In November, almost 20 students volunteered and prepared 200 pounds of potatoes for the Sauk Prairie Thanksgiving meal. In December, 12 students and their families went shopping for the Sauk Prairie Caring Tree and provided over 50 gifts for youth in need. We look forward to continuing these types of activities in service to others during the Christmas Season.

Adult Ed

Had a presentation about Hope House in Baraboo.

6-8 Sycamore project presentation.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Next month a discussion on what we want to put together to fill the role of VBS

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Carpet replacement now completed
- Furnace in fellowship hall has been repaired this last month

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

- Just Bakery will be sold between services on January 21st.
- St. John's will deliver Mobile Meals during the weeks of January 15 and January 22nd. Sign up on the kiosk.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- Did not meet in December.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke and Ruth Dresser reported:

- ThankOffering Service was Nov. 26. The total offering collected is \$515.00.
- Christmas Cheer money was sent out. \$200 to Special Olympics and \$200 to Hope House of Baraboo.
- Pennies for Poverty collected \$300 which was given to 6:8 of Sauk Prairie.
- All Circles will meet together on Jan. 11 with Interim Pastor Jason leading the Bible Study. We will then have our Candlelight Memorial Service in memory of those who died in 2023.
- "Gather" magazine is still arriving late to homes despite several assurances that this problem is being corrected. A download has been made available to print out.

Youth Committee: Tracy Pape reported:

Alive Youth Night

- The next "Alive" Youth Night is Sunday, February 4, 2024, at Immanuel Lutheran in Watertown, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, for middle/high school students from our synod and includes dinner, games, worship, and music. \$5.00 / person. Emails and postcards will be sent to confirmands and teens in early January, with a registration deadline of January 25, 2024.
- Final Alive night will be April 24, 2024, at Evangelical Lutheran in Mt. Horeb, and all confirmation students will join as our normally scheduled confirmation class. Penny will order a bus and send information to families in March.

Snow Tubing at Tyrol Basin

- All youth, teens and families are invited to go Snow Tubing at Tyrol Basin on Friday February 16, 5-9pm. Postcards and email invitations will be sent in January. \$18 per ticket. Attendees need to provide their own transportation. Registration is required and due before February 10, at: <https://shop.tyrolbasin.com/groups> Group

Code: STJOHNS. See "How To - Participants" for help with every step of the process.

Discussion items

- How Youth Experience Lent—look to involve youth as what Lent means to them and share on a bulletin board
- Spring Youth Board Activities. Upcoming events include Alive Night on Wednesday April 24, Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday April 28, and Graduate Recognition on Sunday May 19.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report provided.

Youth member at Large: Sean Jager reported:

- School will be back in session from winter break on January 3rd.
- Current active sports:
 - Wrestling, Gymnastics, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Hockey, Girls Hockey, Boys Swimming
- Show Choir season will have their first competition on January 6th.
- No school on January 15th.
- There will be the winter band concert for the high school band class on January 29th.

Pastor/Interim Reports

Interim Jason's Report:

- HUGE thank you to the St. John's staff and volunteers who planned and assisted with the Advent and Christmas worship services this year. Unbelievable experience and so beautiful. I am super grateful for all of your efforts, time, and talents.
- I am leading Bible Study between the worship services for January 7, 14, and 21.
- The WELCA combined circle meeting will be on January 11, at 10am, in the fellowship hall. They have graciously asked me to lead their bible study for that meeting. Planning on offering some thoughts and reflections of my time as a hospice chaplain around a particularly difficult and beautiful patient and family experience.
- I continue to work with the Executive Committee to form the Transition Team; as of this report, we are actively compiling a list of people recommended for the team. Once that list can be generated, these people will need to be contacted if they have interest and then hopefully by the end of this month, we can officially announce the Transition Team Members.
- Pastor Sally and I met to plan out the upcoming Lent schedule where we will focus on particular Psalms around Finding Rest and Hope.

Sally's Report:

- Thank you to the staff and many volunteers who prepared for, implemented, and cleaned up after our Christmas services. It was a wonderful Christmas here at St. John's!
- New Member classes begin Jan 7 with me. The reception will be Jan 28 at 8 am worship and treats between services. Pastor Jason will be teaching adult ed Jan 7, 14, and 21.
- January is a month of reports and paperwork - ELCA congregational report and pastors' annual reports. Are we doing an annual report for St. John's members this year?
- Lent is right around the corner. Pastor Jason created our Lenten theme of rest using the Psalms. Ash Wednesday is Feb 14, which begins our Wednesday service schedule of 1 & 6:30pm.
- I will attend an online Kids Grief Summit continuing education class on Jan 24 and Jan 25.

Old Business:

- PPC Retreat Follow-up—Continue to welcome attendees to meet and welcome them to church. There will be no PPC retreat this year.
- Carpet update. Completed and paid for!
- Exhibit between services/Lead service. Feb 17 is the LEAD conference, and it would be beneficial for all PPC members to attend.
- Transition team update. We reviewed the names submitted. We have a goal of assembling six or seven members for this team.

New Business:

- None.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.

2023 Financial Report

Checking Account Beginning Balance - 1/1/2023 \$ 29,504.92

Receipts For 2023:

Donations Current, Loose, Sponsored, Misc.	\$ 486,556.00
Benevolence, Special Benevolence	\$ 39,159.50
Building Fund, New Carpet, Columbarium	\$ 34,721.00
WELCA	\$ 3,113.51
Memorials	\$ 12,220.94
Youth	\$ 1,452.00
Fellowship	\$ 2,054.64
Interest	\$ 29.35
Parish Education	\$ 3,899.66
PR & Social Concerns	\$ 1,485.85
Facility Use	\$ 6,468.98
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 591,161.43</u>

Disbursements

Budgeted

Actual

Lay Ministry	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 8,332.44
Evangelism	\$ 600.00	\$ 171.78
Stewardship	\$ 2,125.00	\$ 1,782.85
PR & Social Concerns	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 2,978.56
Parish Education	\$ 12,793.00	\$ 8,482.23
Youth	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 5,172.21
Fellowship	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,947.00
Properties (and new carpet)	\$ 52,500.00	\$ 76,759.60
Administrative Expenses	\$ 423,163.45	\$ 378,711.94
WELCA	\$ 3,375.00	\$ 3,301.40
Memorials	\$ N/A	\$ 5,586.63
Benevolence	\$ 54,450.00	\$ 49,450.00
Special Benevolence	\$ N/A	\$ 24,970.94
Total Expenses	<u>\$570,756.45</u>	<u>\$568,647.58</u>
Transfer to/from other accounts		- \$ 27,474.81

Checking Account ending Balance 12/31/2023 \$ 24,543.96

Summary of 2023 Financial Report						
	1/1/23 Beginning Balance	Change in Value of Investments	Receipts Interest Dividends	Disburse- ments	Transfers	12/31/2023 Ending Balance
Checking Account	29,504.92		591,161.43	(568,647.58)	(27,474.81)	24,543.96
Savings Account	111,017.59		2,136.90		(10,000.00)	103,154.49
Memorial Savings Account	7,464.46		51.63		6,634.31	14,150.40
Commonwealth Stocks Account	125,349.37	25,470.13	2,253.42		30,840.50	183,913.42
Totals	273,336.34	25,470.13	595,603.38	-568,647.58	0.00	325,762.27



Happy February Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Lucas Treffert (1)
Gavin Johnson (25)

Jack Conger (25)

Our Sunday School Students:

Mabel Johnson (5)
Lincoln Ott (8)
Addison Schulenburg (11)
Audrey Conger (14)
Landon Pape (16)
Lucy Pickett (21)
Cashton Lane (22)
Mason Williams (27)

Gage Fourtner (6)
Tenley Sorg (8)
Otis Johnson (13)
Evelyn Hegge (14)
Molly Williams (19)
Hannah Bischoff (22)
Annabelle Sweeney (23)

Our Youth:

Kylie Hutchins (15)
Kate Himebauch (19)
Cheyenne Pffaf-Zasada (24)
Kiptyn Suchla (26)

Colin Wernsing (18)
Ezra Bauer (22)
Evelynn Brennan (26)
Kate Wernsing (28)

College and Career-age Young People:

Jonah Richard (6)
BrookLynn Baier (16)
Will LaCour (21)

Courtney Lautenbach (7)
Haylee Goetsch (21)
Audrie Nurkala (28)