



Spring Rainbow by Tatum Sorg, 4-K

Prairie du Sac, WI

April 2024

Dear Friends of St. John's,

I have been thinking about this word "relevant." I see it and hear it within St. John's and the many conversations I share with you. We all might call it different things, and address it differently, but we are all concerned about the *relevancy* of the church and where that leaves us as a congregation. Relevance is defined as "relating to or bearing upon the matter in hand; implies a traceable, significant, logical connection." What is the matter at hand? What is the logical connection?

When I was a young "Luther Leaguer," the ongoing joke at that time, was the church was 20 years behind the curve. And that was in 1988! What makes the church behind the curve to begin with? Well, the gospel doesn't change. According to Hebrews 13:8. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow." God certainly does not change. We as human beings change, evolve, grow, and learn. At least that is the idea. So why is the church stuck in this question to begin with? Maybe because churches are unsure about their place in society to begin with. And I would say this uncertainty has only gotten wider and more distorted since Covid.

I remember going to these youth ministry conferences about 20 years ago, and the question of relevancy was answered by encouraging the church to embrace all the many and various forms of expression to reach all people: art, poetry, visuals, electronic media, music (every genre), meditation, experiential worship, gospel thin/safe messages, and worship leaders who "dressed

down.” It was labeled an “ancient-future” church movement. I will say that I was drawn to a lot of it. It felt different. It felt new. It felt exciting. And for some time, I saw the potential for this “ancient-future” church movement to truly build momentum. The problem with such an approach though, is that it proved unsustainable. By the time a church embraces the answer to the question of cultural relevancy, the answer is no longer relevant to the question. Time has moved forward. Churches struggle to keep up, almost as if it wants one foot in the past, and one foot sprinting forward. It is a difficult balance to say the least. But is this balance worth the effort? Is it a shallow attempt to follow the culture?

I believe the church has great potential to exist as a leader and not a follower. Trying to be culturally relevant isn't the answer. No, I do not want the church to be a place where the relics of tradition are lifted up and worshiped more than why we truly gather in the first place. That would be idolatry. The church can celebrate its history without living there. My hope is that the church discards this idea that it has to be all things to all people. The church should lead, serve, and empower. If all we do as a church is care about cultural relevancy, we are following and not leading. The church then becomes almost a parody of the culture. While I was a student at Wartburg Seminary, I was well taught and trained to think about serving within “the context.” Serving within a particular place that is unique and specific to who they are. We were trained to learn the context, learn the specifics, learn the culture, and learn the history. We were taught to think about contextual reality above cultural relevancy.

Churches who are contextually real are just that, *real*. Authentic, genuine, honest, true. Yes cultural relevancy allows easy answers to difficult questions. Those answers are palatable, easy, broad, and comfortable. However, it loses something very important to each of us. It overlooks the very personal intimacy of our faith. It denies the scared reality of the gospel's truth: Jesus meets us where we are at, and not where we think Jesus ought to be. We are more likely to trust the gospel's truth because it is personal for each of us. My friends, you as a congregation are real, you are leading, you are who you are. You are also growing in your self-understanding, value, and potential. You are transitioning. You are evolving. Yet the gospel is anchoring you and holding your hearts together as a beautiful community of faith. Stay true to who you are and embrace your authenticity. Always be contextually real.

Peace,
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) 963-0325
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) 574-0577
Youth Member-at-Large	Sean Jager	(608) 643-2439

The Staff:

Pastor: Sally Williams sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org 370-4501

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

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour

ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Youth Director: Penny Johnson penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Custodian: John Hines john@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Office and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines

linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Sunday School Superintendents: Joanna Jones and Miranda Jager

sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org

St. John's Lutheran Church: (608) 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:

Applesauce	Hamburger/Tuna Helper
Peanut Butter	Pudding Cups
Tuna	Shampoo
Noodles	Toothpaste

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 April. The day is in parentheses.

Rev. Eldor Fruehling (3)
1425 Hemlock St., Apt 107
Sauk City, WI 53583

Helen Bjelde (5)
Oak Park Place
800 Waldo Street
Baraboo, WI 53913

Nick Lester (10)
741 Water Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Eldoris Lovell (12)
1425 Hemlock St., Apt 118
Sauk City, WI 53583

Jake Degenhardt ((16)
612 Eagle Crest Court
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jean Knuth (23)
160 – 7th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Robert Straub (25)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Roger Allen (30)
6890 Breunig Road
Mazomanie, WI 53560

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, April 11, at Darlene Holl's, 418 Lueders Rd., Apt. 9, Sauk City	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, April 4, at Pine Glen Apts., 930 Prairie St., Prairie du Sac	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, April 8, at Marian DeGiovanni's, 295 Water St., Prairie du Sac	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, April 2, in St. John's Library	9:30am

In March, 20 ladies attended Circle Meetings with Darlene Holl, Maren Andersen Boerger, and Kathy Lester leading the Bible Study. In April, the Study will be led by Diane Elsing, Barb Salveson, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester. We have been studying Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith – Creatures and Rivers and the study in April will be on Teachers of Faith – Food. Focus verse: Romans 14:6: “Those who observe the day, observe it with the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.”

The Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 20th at St. Pau's Lutheran Church, 728 8th St., in Baraboo. Registration 9:00-9:25 a.m., Devotions 9:30-10:00, Speaker Keri Olson 10-10:40 and then a Business Meeting 10:50 to 11:45. Keri Olson is a 3-time cancer survivor, Flower Photographer, and Inspirational Writer. She should have a very interesting message. After her talk there will be a Soup and Sandwich Lunch for \$10.00. We will car-pool and you should let Linda in the office know if you want to attend. We hope to have a good representation from St. John's attending this event. Registration must be done by April 12th, so be sure to let Linda know by then. This is always a very interesting and enjoyable event and also ALWAYS a good lunch!

Sarah/Mary Circle has been visiting Special Friends in February and March. Lydia Circle visits them in April and May. We are planning an All-Circle Picnic in June.

On April 20th, you should read the Prayer for Peace found in this Visitor.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for May will be on Tuesday, April 30th.

Adult Education

This month we will spend time with Pastor Jason talking about the transition process.

Your St John's Transition Team (TNT) continues this First Phase of the transition process. Since the beginning of March, we launched the process of taking a pulse of the congregation by addressing two distinct questions through various means and methods to reach as many of you as possible. This includes mailings, hard copies of hi-viz paper near the front entrance with an answer box, announcements in the weekly bulletin and Visitor, along with the opportunity to send your responses in by email using our own TNT email address. In the near future, there are going to be some new questions to consider, small group opportunities for discussions between worship services, writing and offering your own thoughts and memories using a timeline to indicate significant moments in the life of St. John's along with some space to cast your hopes and dreams into the future, as well as a special event here and there along the way. Please be looking for frequent involvement and information updates in the weekly bulletin. If you have any questions, comments, curiosities, musings, responses to questions, etc., please talk to one of the TNT team members: Gary Tomter, Jordan Small, Marv Hupp, Megan Tarnutzer, Kristin Ryan, Derek Rosenstiel, Donna Knickmeyer. Cathy Yanke is the representative of the PPC along with Pastor Jason representing the synod office. Or if you prefer, please use the TNT email address at TNT@stjohnssaukprairie.org



WELCA BARABOO CONFERENCE SPRING GATHERING

Saturday, April 20, 2024

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Baraboo, WI

Registration 9:00am – 9:25am

Soup and Sandwich Lunch \$10.00

Contact Eunice Yanke 608-643-8289
before April 12, 2024



Dear Friends in Christ,

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

As the worship leaders walked into the sanctuary on Sunday the energy was lively and beautiful. I am always very thankful when our Kids of the Kingdom and Sunday School students lead us in praising God through song!

We often talk about how we can best welcome and encourage the participation of students and families here at St. John's. I believe the strongest way to do so is to build relationships with one another, especially with our students. Perhaps you're saying, "Pastor Sally, I don't know these students. How can I do that?" I have some ideas for you!

The best way to get to know our students is to be where they are. I know that teaching Sunday School is a very big commitment and maybe that doesn't work for you, but there are many other ways you can meet and get to know our students. Here are just a few:

- Volunteer with Dale Clason in the library. She reads to them and helps them check out books.

- Vacation Bible School is coming back in August! (YEAH!) We always need many helpers to make this program a success: from greeting students in the morning, helping with snack shopping and/or snack time during the week, or worshipping with them and playing games. The sky's the limit!

- Send them a birthday card. Linda Hines always publishes the birthdays of our youngest students in the monthly Visitor. Getting snail mail is so exciting for most of our kids!

- When you sit near children in worship, introduce yourself. After they sing in worship, praise them for their leadership.

- Support them in their offering projects. This year they've been collecting money and items for Porchlight Ministries.

These are just a few of the many ways we can continue to get to know each other in this place, and especially how we can encourage our children in their faith journeys.

Let's keep working together to fulfill our promises to them in their baptisms:

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

AMEN.

In Christ's love,



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Sandy Frey on the death of her brother, Stanley "Tom" Diehl. Tom was an uncle to Lynn Artemchuk and Kevin Diehl and also a cousin of Ginny Nimmow, Donna Hosking and John Laughnan.

Josie and Bob Fentress on the death of Josie's mother, LaVina Meier. LaVina was the grandmother of Megan Tarnutzer and Lucas Miller and their daughters, and Dani and Colin Myhro and their daughter.

The family and many Pine Glen friends of Yvonne Richard.

Maureen Patterson on the death of her brother, Thomas Zimmerman. Thomas was an uncle to Robyn Patterson and her family, and Randy and Marie Patterson and their family.



Baby Celebrations

We rejoice with Kyle and Tayler Goodwin on the birth of their daughter, Harlow Ann. Harlow joins brother Graham at home and she is the great-granddaughter of Marilyn Herschleb.

We celebrate with Keith and Janelle Slotty on the birth of their son, Harlan Dane. Terry and Sue Slotty are Harlan's grandparents.

SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray on the 20th day of April.

Lord, you have called us to be fishers of people and shepherds of your flock. Teach us to follow, to love and to serve; to feed those who hunger and cast out our nets to welcome the world into your eternal realm, so that all may know your love and peace; in Jesus Christ our Lord, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Thank you!

**To all VOLUNTEERS of
St. John's Lutheran Church**

**To show our appreciation for all you do,
we invite you and your family to lunch on
Sunday, May 5, at 11:45 a.m.**

**in the fellowship hall where we will honor you for
your dedication and generosity.**

Have you seen one of these cards yet? They are being handed out very soon. This is an invitation to all of St. John's Volunteers to come and enjoy a lunch on Sunday, May 5.

If you have been an usher, a reader, a musician, a greeter, an acolyte, an assisting minister, a choir member, a communion assistant, someone who has set-up or cleaned-up communion, a cantor, a member of the Tech Team working with Zoom, someone who has picked up donut holes and made the coffee for Sunday morning, a Quilter, a Parish Planning Council member, a Board member, a Sunday School teacher or assistant, a Confirmation teacher, a Singspiration leader, someone who mows the lawn or shovels snow, a volunteer who comes early on the last Friday of the month to assemble the newsletter, a Wednesday night meal prepper or member of the clean-up crew, worked at the Palm Sunday Breakfast, a church library aide, helped pack kits, someone who volunteers to fold bulletins, delivered Mobile Meals, food pantry donations or clothing to Madison, or just someone who pitches in wherever you are needed, then you are a ST. JOHN'S VOLUNTEER and we want to honor and thank you. Celebrate!



First Communion Instruction

Did you miss the First Communion class in March but are interested in having your child begin communing? The pastors are happy to meet with families individually to talk more about First Communion! Please call 608-643-2439 or email jason@stjohnssaukprairie.org or sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org



Vacation Bible School

VBS will be back this summer! This is scheduled for Monday August 5th through Thursday August 8th and will run each day from 9 am to 2 pm. Vacation Bible School is open to kids who have completed kindergarten through 6th grade. There is no cost to attend but kids will be asked to bring their own lunch. There will be a sign-up table in the front lobby between worship services on Sunday April 21st and Sunday April 28th. If you have any questions, please contact either James Newman or Pastor Sally at 643-2439.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Offering

We encourage our Sunday School students to keep bringing in their offerings for Porchlight ministries – both in financial offerings and donated items. Porchlight is very grateful that our students and families have remembered them in this way this year! The last day to bring in items is Sunday, May 5. (Some needed items are deodorant, disposable razors, toothbrush, toothpaste, twin sheets, blankets, pillows, laundry basket, laundry soap, dish soap, floor cleaner, bathroom cleaner, toilet paper, paper towels, sponges, microwave safe bowls and cups, and 13-gallon trash bags.)

Welcome Back!

We are glad to welcome you back to Sunday School class after our Easter break! We will meet each Sunday in April, but then Sunday School is quickly coming to an end! May 5 is our last day.

Middle and High School News

Trailer/Wagon Needed

Do you have an open trailer or wagon (24 ft or more) that could serve as our “St. John’s parade float” in this year’s Cow Chip Parade? We are seeking a trailer that is big enough to fit lots of Sunday School and Confirmation kids, that is easy to get on and off, and that children can safely ride during the parade. If you have a trailer, or know someone who can help, please email Penny at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Affirmation of Baptism is Sunday, April 28

Join St. John’s as we celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism with our 9th grade students! Sunday, April 28th at the 10:30 Service, ninth grade students will complete their confirmation program by affirming the promises made at their baptism. Parents, Mentors and Confirmands are asked to arrive at 10am to prepare for service. We’ll have a small reception and professional photographs after the service. If you have any questions, please contact Penny at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Sixth Graders - Orientation to Confirmation is May 1

On Wednesday, May 1st we begin the process of introducing the incoming confirmation class to our confirmation program. Students who are currently enrolled in the Sixth Grade, along with an adult, are invited to attend! We’ll talk about confirmation requirements, introduce confirmation education, talk about mentorship, and give instruction on worship jobs. We will meet from 6:00pm – 7:00 pm. Both youth and a parent must be present for this orientation.

Graduation Sunday is May 19

On Sunday, May 19, St. John’s will honor our high school graduates during the 10:30 service. If you are the parent of a high school senior, please plan to have your student attend service in their graduation cap and gown. Prior to service, we will recognize the graduates during a reception with members of the congregation. More information will be postal mailed to students and their families.

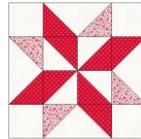
Young Adult Updates

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.



Stock the Schools

As a community project, St. John's is collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. Each month we will have different items to collect that will help our local students. Some of these items can be used in school and some at home. April's items are: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Shampoo/Conditioner and Lotion. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations.



From St. John's Quilters

The St. John's quilters thank you for your generous donations. We've completed over 225 quilts in our current cycle, which will end in September. Large pieces of fabric, especially gently used sheets, continue to be our greatest ongoing need. We also welcome helping hands on Wednesday mornings. No sewing skills are needed! We are grateful for your continued support of our global ministry through Lutheran World Relief for God's people in need.

Hospice Kits for GHM

We are in need of a few more items for the Hospice Kits that we send to Global Health Ministries. Would you like to help out by donating Ivory Soap (bath-size bars), kitchen gloves (medium), pick combs, single toothbrushes, vasoline (4 oz.) and wash cloths? Thank you.

Here are the results of our last Congregational Meeting held on March 10, 2024.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING March 10, 2024
(In building and via Zoom platform)

PPC President, Nancy Kaufman, confirmed at least 50 members were present and called the meeting to order at 8:55 am. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the estimate to fix the organ.

The minutes of the October 15, 2023, Congregational meeting were published in the March Visitor as well as in the March 3 and 10, 2024, Sunday bulletins in lieu of reading them at the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as provided was made by Brian Weeks and seconded by Connie Burton. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Nancy described the purpose of the meeting to be for approval of \$25,000 to have the organ fixed as proposed by Bogue Services. Additional information included some history of the organ including that the organ was purchased when the church was built in the 1960s. The current value of the organ is \$450,000. It is not currently working to its capacity. The fix as proposed is to return the organ to a functional level. If we were to return it to its concert level, the cost would be \$250,000.

A motion to approve the \$25,000 to return the organ to its functional level was made by Mary Weeks and seconded by Janelle Hupp. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Nancy K shared other housekeeping items including the need for Palm Sunday breakfast volunteers, a request for input to the Transition Committee's questions, and a request for volunteers to sign up to serve coffee between services.

Marv Hupp made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Donna Nelson. Executive Director Nancy Kaufman asked if there were any objections and after receiving none, she adjourned the meeting at 9:09 am.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Yanke

Serving in April

Greeters:

April 7 (Front Door)
(Sanctuary)
April 14 (Front Door)
(Sanctuary)
April 21 (Front Door)
(Sanctuary)
April 28 (Front Door)
(Sanctuary)

Early Service

J/L Hines
Jill/Sam Krueger
S/C Sprecher
S/H Kindschi
Dylan Walker
Kendra Frey
Karen Bader
T/G Wyttenbach

Late Service

Michael Jolicoeur
Dale Clason
Dale Clason
Audrey Luetscher

Jackie Frosch
T/G Varley

Ushers:

April 7

April 14

April 21

April 28
Affirmation Sunday

Early Service

Kim Larson
Duane Larson
Parker Frosch
Lon Kaderavek
Dale Haroldson
Paityn Hauge
Lon Kaderavek
Dale Haroldson
Kendra Frey
Gina Wyttenbach
Todd Wyttenbach
Cannon Esser

Late Service

Janelle Hauge
Joel Liedtke
Lillyann Nurkala
Laura Hutchins
Joel Liedtke
Alyssa Himebauch
Tom Varley
Gina Varley
Tyler Jorgenson
Laura Hutchins
Bill Wardwell
Paityn Hauge

Acolytes:

April 7
April 14
April 21
April 28 Affirmation

Early Service

Michael Jolicoeur
Joslyn Schultz
Brooke Braund
Cora Miller

Late Service

Ella Stephan
Clay Hutchins
Ryan Jorgenson
Tyler Jorgenson

Assisting Ministers

April 7
April 14
April 21
April 28 Affirmation

Early Service

Marv Hupp
Jude Hanna
Janelle Hupp
Jordan Small

Late Service

Jude Hanna
Jude Hanna

Clay Hutchins

Readers:

April 7
April 14
April 21
April 28 Affirmation

Early Service

Marilyn Herschleb
Gary Tomter
Dale Haroldson
Janelle Hupp

Late Service

Doris Lohr
Jude Hanna
Dale Clason
Jon Neubacher

Cantors:

April 7	<u>Early Service</u> Marv/Janelle Hupp	<u>Late Service</u> Doris Lohr
April 14	Connie Burton	Connie Burton
April 21	Melani Wheeler	Melani Wheeler
April 28 Affirmation	Chris Stephan	Chris Stephan

Communion Set/Clean Set Up

April 7	A/J Chenoweth	<u>Clean Up</u> Dale Clason
April 14	R/J Calenzo	G/D Westphal
April 21		Aubree Deuman
April 28 Affirmation	Jayne Carlson	Dale Clason

Communion Assistants Early Service

April 7	Patty Barritt	<u>Late Service</u> Dale Clason
April 14	Kris Frey	Audrey Luetscher
April 21	Chesney Braund	Aubree Deuman
April 28 Affirmation	Jayne Carlson	Dale Clason

Technology Team

April 7	<u>Early Service</u> Ellen Jorgensen	<u>Late Service</u> Charlie Kruchten
April 14	Alyssa Himebauch	Braylin Breunig
April 21		Jeff, Nicole, Audrey Sandberg
April 28 Affirmation	Ellen Jorgensen	Sean Jager
		Bryce Ballweg
		Jeff/Audrey Sandberg
		Liam Hart

Coffee Servers

April 7	Nancy Kaufman
April 14	Allan and Lisa Vanlanduyt
April 21	Karen Bader, Cheri Kehl, Nickole Stoffels
April 28 Affirmation	Nancy Passehl

Refrigerator Request

The Fellowship Committee is in need of an additional refrigerator for use for funerals, Palm Sunday brunch and various other functions.

If you are thinking of replacing your existing (good working condition and energy efficient) refrigerator, please consider donating it to St John's. Please contact the church office if you can be of help. (608-643-2439)

Agrace Offers Virtual Grief Support Group

In April, Agrace is offering “Bridges,” a professionally led, virtual grief support group for adults who are grieving the death of any loved one.

Bridges meets Wednesday, April 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., via Zoom.

There is no fee for this program if a participant’s family member was in hospice care in the past 12 months; fees for others can be lowered or waived, if needed. Pre-registration is required for each session; call (608) 327-7118 with questions or to register.

Agrace Seeks Volunteers in Sauk County

Volunteers are needed to make companionship visits to local Agrace Hospice Care patients. No health care experience is needed. Schedules are flexible, and free training is provided.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Agrace at (608) 327-7163 or visit Agrace.org/Volunteer.

T-N-T

As you may already be aware, St. John’s Transition Team (T-N-T) has asked a couple of questions for the members and visitors to think about and to give your input. We have already had some very insightful responses, for which we are thankful.

The first two questions (yes, there may be more) are: (1) What are some things we (St. John’s) do well as a congregation? What are some things we don’t do well? (2) What trends in our church and community should be addressed and considered?

You can also find these questions on our website; or they are printed out and on a table in the foyer, with a collection box; or you can talk to any T-N-T committee member: Gary Tomter, Marv Hupp, Pastor Jason Hill, Donna Knickmeyer, Rev. Derek Rosenstiel, Kristin Ryan, Jordan Small, and Megan Tarnutzer. We are looking for your ideas and thoughts, as you are St. John’s. The team is just the compiler of your thoughts. Your answers will be kept confidential but may be used in a general sense for reporting to the congregation.

Watch for a historical timeline in the coming month(s), depicting trends and milestones in St. John’s history – good and not so good. You are the heartbeat of St. John’s. Help T-N-T take the pulse of our church!

St. John's is currently looking to add a new paid position to our Staff. The following describes what we are looking for.

Job Description for Financial Secretary

St John's Lutheran Church Sauk City WI is seeking to fill a position for a financial secretary. This position requires an average of 10 hours per week. This position reports directly to the Lead Pastor of St John's, or in the absence of a Lead Pastor, to the Executive Council of St John's. The goal of this position is to provide the necessary management, and attention to detail, to ensure that church financial matters comply with St John's Lutheran Church, Federal, and State of Wisconsin fiscal management and taxation requirements.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Commitment to abide with and be guided by the values, vision and mission of St John's Lutheran Church.
- Working knowledge in finance, accounting, or business-related fields.
- Working knowledge regarding finance management and/or nonprofit organizations.
Working knowledge of Quickbooks
- Must be familiar with the tax code as governs religious and non-profit entities.
- Must be willing to research and learn more about effective financial practices.
- Must be able to work well with church staff, volunteers, committee members, and the church's leadership.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Record deposits, including Simply Giving deposits.
- Keep detailed records of all financial transactions.
- Pay bills, which includes matching invoices and assigning slips to appropriate committees.
- Payroll for Employees on a monthly basis. Decipher timesheets, track vacation, sick leave and insurance.
- Pay Federal and State Taxes as required.
- Develop documents for approval of the pastors' salary, social security offset, benefits, and pension.
- Maintain tax records of employee salaries.
- File the church's taxes. Keep and file all records regarding such transactions.

- Reconcile church bank statements, making note of any discrepancies and bringing them immediately to the attention of the church's Council.
- Provide monthly financial reports for the church Council. Tracking contributions and expenditures by month and make recommendations related to cash management.
- Invest large donations to supplement the church's Trust.
- Participate in any financial audits.
- Communicate with the ELCA headquarters for donations and financial reports.
- Prepare the proposed budget.
- Provide an annual financial report.
- Perform backup duties needed for the Secretary position

Questions can be directed to Nancy Passehl 608-219-1936 or nbpassehl@gmail.com.

Financial Secretary/Treasurer Clarification:

The current PPC treasurer position is being split into two separate roles.

The **treasurer position** requires the individual to be a member of St John's and according to our Synod rules is a 2-year term which can be renewed for a total of four years. Currently, the treasurer position is a member of St. John's, handles most financial duties and serves on the PPC as an executive member.

The **financial secretary** will handle financial duties and relay information to the Treasurer for reporting to the PPC. However, this individual would not be on the PPC and does not need to be a member of St John's.

The benefits of this position will allow consistency with all financial duties. In absence of a lead pastor this position is vital to our Congregation. The treasurer position would then be like any other board member and report financial information at the PPC meetings and sign checks for payroll.

Our current treasurer, Donna Nelson is nearing the end of her term and is not eligible to run again at this time.

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: March 5, 2024

Present: Donna Nelson, Nancy Kaufman, Nancy Passehl, Cathy Yanke, Sally Williams, Jason Hill, Eunice Yanke, Tracy Pape, Roger Seymour, Gina Varley, James Newman, Gwen Ringelstetter, Anne Klinkner, Cathy McAlexander, Sean Jager

Absent: Lon Kaderavek, Ellen Jorgensen

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Anne and seconded by Donna. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Gwen.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer report:

The committee reviewed and discussed the February 2024, Treasurer Report submitted by Donna Nelson.

February report numbers

Current month income	YTD income	Current month expense	YTD expenses	YTD Budget
\$34,963	\$78,326	\$48,840	\$104,877	\$102,211

The treasurers report contains a new line. The restricted income and expenses are used for designated spending that is not special benevolence.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- Board is working on graduation kits, discussing the LEAD event, making coffee/donuts, and accessing PPC minutes electronically

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander reported:

- We celebrated Marilyn Larson's 99th birthday along with Connie Burton and Lon Kaderavek's birthdays.
- The Palm Sunday breakfast sign-up sheet has been posted in the front gathering area. Please indicate how you will help.
- Please continue to volunteer to serve coffee on Sunday mornings. Our board members are happy to help!

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Discussed combining online sign-up emails for ushers, greeters, communion assistants, etc
- Organ is in need of extensive repairs
- Easter flower sales will be between services on 18th and 25th
- Discussed Christmas candles

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

- Sunday School
 - Christmas program recap. Song Dave Sweeney wrote was a hit. We will be doing it again.
 - The bake sale went well.
 - Last day of Sunday school = May 5th
 - Check in on curriculum before the end of the year.
 - Thank you cards to teachers and volunteers to be divided up next month.
 - Gift cards would be a good idea to include. Someplace local, Chamber of Commerce gift cards were a good idea.
 - Remember to include Dave and Dale
 - Cookies.
- Confirmation volunteering workload discussion.
 - April 28th is the affirmation of baptism.
 - 9th grade living curriculum discussion to happen before next year.
 - During Lenten services confirmation students will lead every lent service.
- VBS
 - James signed Lutherdale contract getting check mailed.
 - Contacted Lutherdale and we are officially on their calendar for August 4th -8th
 - April 21st tentative signup date. Table during and between services and a sign on the side door.
 - Information table for the following Sundays.
 - Get number of volunteers.
 - Information on signup, mostly just an adult contact.

- Need to identify a Congregational Coordinator that will be present during VBS and to be Lutherdale's point of contact.
- Library
 - May for library discussion
 - Dale is doing an amazing Job.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Painting is going well

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

- No report provided.

Stewardship Board:

Anne Klinkner reported:

- Welcome Nicole Sandberg officially and in-person. Thank you for joining the Stewardship Board.
- The Gift Acceptance Policy and Gift Acceptance Form were reviewed. Anne will make the additional edits and send the documents out for approval/additional changes and we will approve via email. We would like to take The Gift Acceptance Policy and the Gift Acceptance Form to the Parish Planning Council meeting on March 5, 2024, for council approval.
- Anne will work with Linda Hines on the Depository Trust and Clearing Form.
- Research continues for new methods of electronic giving.
- The financial review was performed on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Library. The auditors were Jon Caflich, Gina Wyttenbach and Brian Weeks. Anne was there to observe, and Donna answered any questions the auditors had. The results of the financial review will be discussed at our March, 2024 Stewardship Board meeting.
- The 2023 Stewardship Campaign only resulted in 50 responses. During April and May 2024, we will review electronic giving as well as other thoughts for year-round stewardship or a revised campaign for 2024. One suggestion was a Temple Talk to educate the congregation on the option of using Vanco for donations.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- 27 ladies attended Circle meetings in February - an open invitation to all women of St. John's to come and join us for Bible Study.
- We were able to send \$200 to our local chapter of the Special Olympics of Wisconsin for Christmas Cheer. We received a thank you note saying they will use the money for bowling and other favorite activities.

- On April 20, the Baraboo Conference will hold its Spring Gathering at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Baraboo. We will carpool to this event. Let us know if you will be attending.
- The Sarah/Mary Circle will be visiting Special Friends in March.

Youth Committee: Tracy Pape reported:

- Activity for Teens: The Committee would like to find some time to talk with our high schoolers to find out what type of events they would like from the committee. The goal would be to piggyback on a confirmation night for a casual discussion during class.
- Special Invitation: The Committee would like to invite Sean Jager to join us a few times a year to provide an update on what is happening on a high school level and if he knows of ways to increase participation and how we can support youth.
- Support our Youth: The Committee discussed ways to support our youth via email or text message. We would need approval from parents, we are still discussing how this would work and who would do what.
- Float for Cow Chip Parade: Saturday, August 31! Will invite church members to help. We will need a float theme.
- Summer Tubing Trip: The Committee would like to explore safe waterway options for a summer tubing trip. Stay tuned.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report provided.

Youth member at Large: Sean Jager reported:

- No report provided.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Interim Jason's Report:

- MASSIVE thank you to all who were involved with the LEAD event. Lots of planning and preparation went into it, and I am so grateful and thankful for your time, your gifts, and your presence in being able to host this important synodical event as a congregation.
- I continue to become more involved with our youth and Sunday school kids visiting them and facilitating conversation with them especially with our confirmation youth. It has been rewarding and educational for me to listen to them, hear them, and validate their own issues around faith and life. This has been a great gift for me.
- Lent continues to lead us into Easter. I am incredibly thankful for Penny and our very own SJLC youth as they help lead mid-week worship services. I appreciate their gifts of presence, humor, and authenticity. And I want to lift up Donna Nelson and her crew for

offering the mid-week meals before confirmation. It is such a beautiful time of fellowship and conversation.

- I am going to be offering a First Communion Class in between services on March 10th using "A Place For You" by Daniel Erlander as a resource for both parents and children. Looking forward to this.
- The SJLC Transition Team (TNT) is off and running. We have met a few times to talk about first steps, direction, and process. I am extremely happy with how the team is excited and faithful to this work, and certainly how this work is shared with the congregation in offering it a voice to share their concerns, their hopes, and their dreams. We have started with the initial step of taking a pulse of the congregation in asking two specific questions about needs and concerns that should be addressed by SJLC, and what are the things done well and not so well as a congregation. We have launched this using multiple means and media to get the word out, including a new email address (tnt@stjohnssaukprairie.org), bulletins, mailings, and hard copies in the gathering space of the church. Additional questions will be asked every month but the goal is to see how people respond right now, what kind of numbers of response we will get, feedback, etc. We are meeting once a month in this initial phase (due to everyone's schedule). Implementing the congregational timeline exercise is on the horizon and will be talked about at our next TNT meeting, March 21 @ 6PM.

Sally's Report:

- Our confirmation students have been doing a great job leading the 6:30pm Lenten worship services. It takes a lot of courage to be a leader in front of your peers and we're very proud of them. Some of the 7th graders will be preaching on March 6..
- Lent is in full swing. Many thanks to Donna and Nicole Nelson and volunteers for making lunch and dinner each week. This year's schedule will be the same as last year - Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services at 1pm & 6:30pm. Easter 7am, 8am, and 10:30am. We have many areas that need volunteers so please check the sign ups or contact Gina Varley to see where you can help.
- Superintendent Jeff Wright's visits to Adult Ed were very well received and we have continued the conversation on the Letter from Birmingham Jail and the church's call to taking action against racism. While the conversation will never be over, we will specifically focus on this topic through March 17, then in April begin a different unit of study. Topic TBD.
- Thank you all for attending, organizing, and cleaning up after the LEAD event. I heard from many people that it was a great day!

- I did some preliminary research on the cost of a church cellphone to be used as the on-call number. US Cellular seems to have some good deals going. I will work on getting some quotes on phones and plans and get that to the PPC in the next week or two.
- I will be out of the office Monday, April 1-Friday, April 5 for continuing education.

Old Business:

- Sunday Steward sign up for at least April
- PPC Retreat Follow-up—nothing new to report
- Exhibit between services/Lead service. Not as effective as we hoped. Will consider this again in the future.
- Transition team update—calling themselves TNT. There is a stack of papers with questions in the foyer with a box to accept input as well as an email for the group. The goal is to gather information gradually without overwhelming the team or the congregation. There have been and will continue to be opportunities for input. We will be rebuilding the historical timeline from the mid-60s to present.
- Treasurer position. The job description has been prepared and it will be placed in the Visitor. Cathy will check with the Chamber if we can post it there. (we cannot—it's only for chamber members). The position will be posted with the synod, on facebook and our webpage as well as included in the Friday notes email and posted on the kiosk.
- Congregational meeting—plan for this meeting on Sunday, 3/10 following the 8 am service. Purpose is to approve organ repair expenses of \$25,000.

New Business:

- UW Extension Yoga Class—this is no longer an option/concern. Camp 4K uses the room for napping during the proposed time.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 pm. with The Lord's Prayer led by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



Happy April Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Bennett Robertson (18)

Our Sunday School Students:

Henry Ganser (1)	Elianna Greene (4)
Sofia Stephan (4)	Emery Trager (4)
Zeke Kaul (5)	Tatum Sorg (5)
Jack Schulenburg (10)	Ethan Ballweg (15)
Hank Lochner (15)	Reid Hart (16)
Henry Hart (17)	Emily Ramirez (17)
Lyla Ballweg (19)	Lauren Schulenburg (21)
Isabelle Jolicoeur (23)	

Our Youth:

Carter Kruchten (3)	Andrew Deuman (23)
Wyatt Frey (28)	Graysen Dunn (29)
Cora Miller (29)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Meadow Liedtke (15)	Charlie Homp (22)
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