



Addie Newman, 3rd grade

Prairie du Sac, WI

May 2024

Dear Friends of St. John's,

Each one of us has a faith story. We all have a story about how we came to faith, how we came to believe in Jesus, and how that belief has shaped our lives. Each one of us has a uniqueness to our story that is only ours. And for some of us, our story is maybe laid out as a smooth path. For others, maybe our story is rocky, unstable, full of twists and turns. Maybe our faith story has been deeply contemplative. Maybe our faith story has been as exciting as a roller coaster ride, or as serene as a calm beautiful day. Maybe our faith story contains moments that are full of asterisks, footnotes, and definitions. For each of us, our faith story is about us. We are not only the receivers of the story, but we are also the authors of how we write that story as a continuation for the sake of our lives, as we move through the intricacies of life's unknowns.

Part of my faith story is about that unknown space and what happened. I was 14, a freshman in high school, and really did not have too many close friends. It was not until I met a few other kids who joined high school theater with me, who were all attending the same church, that my life would never be the same again. Three particular friends spoke about how their youth group was awesome, and that I should come to a lock-in. I was skeptical, and yet because I liked hanging around these friends, I gave the lock-in a try. One of these friends became my best friend for 20 years. Next thing I know, I am involved with the youth group, going to summer

bible camp, attending synodical youth gatherings, going to the national youth gathering in Dallas, and serving on council as “the youth rep.” Both pastors serving this church became highly influential in my faith formation and growth. They are very influential as to how I preach a sermon to this day.

When I was 15, I attended bible camp again, but I was there as a CIT (counselor in training). I remember one night at our closing campfire, I began to cry, and couldn't stop. I stepped outside for a breath of fresh air, and at that moment, I sat down by a tree, closed my eyes, and felt the Holy Spirit's nudging. It was then that I realized what I was called to do in my life. I was being called to serve the church as a pastor. I told everyone about this revelation, and everyone who saw potential in me to serve the church affirmed it. My two pastors were elated, and both of those men were there the day I was ordained. In fact, the senior pastor who influenced me when I joined the youth group was the one to present me to the church for the ordination itself. I would go on to learn the necessary tools, skills, and education to become an ordained minister in the ELCA. And I could not have done any of that without the influence, support, and friendship of those who journeyed with me. And my faith story started because I was invited to go to a church lock-in.

Bethany Lutheran Church in Minot ND continues to be a very important venue of faith and reflection for me. Many important life events for me happened there: I was confirmed there, I was ordained there, my Mom's funeral was held there, weddings that I was in were held there, and my absolute best friend of 20 years, one of the three who influenced me to come to church and try the youth group, his funeral was held there too. Rest in peace my brother in faith, Bram.

My faith story includes many people and many places: many moments shaping and inspiring me to journey with Jesus and learn about the beauty of community and the gift of relationships. Each person along the way has been a gift. That very gift continues. You, St. John's, add to my story of faith. You contribute to my faith story with who you are, with your gifts, with your humanity, with your questions, and with your grace and forgiveness. Thank you so much. So, I ask you, what is your faith story? Who has been there to shape your faith story? How has your faith story shaped who you are? I would love to know. Send me an email, drop by the office, or let's go out for a coffee. I look forward to hearing your faith story. Blessings to you.

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

Financial Secretary: Bruce Fritsch bruce@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Sunday School Superintendents:

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:

Baked Beans
Cereal
Flour

Flavored Rice pouches
Boxed Potatoes
Sugar

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 May. The day is in parentheses.

Liz Groth (3)
S7849 State Hwy 78
Merrimac, WI 53561

Shirley Anding (4)
429 Pine St., #3
Sauk City, WI 53583

Harold Carlson (5)
400 Washington St., Apt. 222
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Doris Lohr (5)
S9591 Church Road
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marilyn Brecka (8)
N831 Barta Road
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Carol Mallon (9)
N1617 Fjord Circle
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marlene Wilson (10)
9411 Lakebend Preserve Ct
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Darlene Holl (15)
418 Lueders Rd., Apt. 9
Sauk City, WI 53583

Julie Allen (21)
8048 Lueth Road
Sauk City, WI 53583

Denise Baars (21)
400 Washington St. Apt. 115
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marilyn Straub (25)
N750 Golf Rd., Lot 22
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



Women of the Church News

| | | |
|--|--|--------|
| | | |
| | <u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, May 9, at Dorothy Halverson's, 9456 County Road Y, Sauk City | 1:00pm |
| | <u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, May 2, in St. John's Library, Dianne Effinger, hostess | 9:30am |
| | <u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, May 13, at Cathy McAlexander's, 2104 Mustang Drive, Prairie du Sac | 9:00am |
| | <u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, May 7, in St. John's Library | 9:30am |

In April, 28 ladies attended Circle Meetings, with Diane Elsing, Barb Salvesson, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester leading the Bible Study. In May, the Study will be led by Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester. The Study for May will be on Mental Health and Wellness by Ellen Seyfried.

The Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering was held on Saturday, April 20th, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Baraboo. Seven ladies (Eunice Yanke, Marian DeGiovanni, Darlene Holl, Diane Elsing, Kathy Lester, Sandra Frey, and Ruth Dresser) attended. There were 35 ladies from churches all over the area attending this event. After registration, we were treated with coffee and treats. Then there were Devotions led by Pastor Karen. This was a very nice way to begin the day. First, we sang the hymn "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia", then she had prepared and asked 10 ladies to each read a verse about the resurrection and a prayer following the verse.

The speaker of the day, Keri Olson, from Baraboo, then gave a very inspirational talk about hope in the midst of adversity. She is a 3-time cancer survivor. She has had 14 surgeries; some were on the brain and also the spine. All at the same time that her mother passed away. Is there hope? Joy, gratitude and hope are still with us. She said that in the Bible there are approximately 430 verses about Joy and 157 about Gratitude. She kept a little journal acknowledging and listing 3 blessings each morning and again at night listing 3 blessings. She tried to focus on grateful living, doing something kind, expressing joy for small things. Some of the verses are Galatians 5:22, Philippians 4:4-9, 1 Thessalonians 5: 13-18, Psalm 95:2, Psalm 100. Keri has written 3 books, one is called "Find Your Heart, Follow your Heart; Get to the Heart of What Matters and Create your Abundant, Authentic, Joyful Life".

Kathy Lester had the lucky number and “won” this book at the Gathering, and she will share it with others after she has read it. You can also find it on Amazon and there is a little write-up about Keri Olson.

There was a short business meeting with Carolyn Meyer (Baraboo Conference Coordinator) asking what some of the churches are doing. Most are doing the same as we are, except some are seeing the local needs and are giving school kits, quilts and some of the other items to local charities rather than LWR. There was an offering taken which will be given to PPP, (Period Positivity Program) It is to help purchase feminine products for young girls who are in need. The amount collected: \$242, will be split between the PPP and our Synod. St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Loganville will be hosting the Spring Gathering in 2025 and St. John’s in Leland will be assisting them.

Then a very delicious Soup and Sandwich lunch was served. We could build our own sandwiches and there were 3 kinds of soup to choose from. BIG THANK YOUs to Marian DeGiovanni and Darlene Holl for driving us to Baraboo for this event. We are so grateful to them for always getting us where we need to go and back home again safely.

We are planning an All-Circle Picnic which will be held on July 18 at 10:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. The picnic will take the place of our regular Circle Meetings in July. The Bible Study will be led by Pastor Jason. Lydia Circle will be in charge of the brunch and will be furnishing the food and doing the serving. We’ll have more information in the June Visitor. We urge you to mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

We need to be thinking about our Lutheran World Relief kits very soon. The deadline this year is September 14. Last year, Ginny Nimmow gave us important information about requesting \$250 grants from Thrivent. Each group (health, sewing, baby, personal care and school kits) was able to receive a grant to help with the expense of each kit. The quilting group was also delighted to be able to receive the grant. We were able to send more boxes of kits and quilts last year than ever before. The sales for the school kit items usually begin the last part of July or the first part of August. Garage sales are good places to shop for some of the other kits. We have a lot of shopping and work to do between now and September. The quilters work very hard all year. We all work hard but it is a nice feeling to be able to provide all these items for the people who need them. We are thankful that Linda always puts the lists for each kit in bulletins and Visitors.

SAVE THE DATE: Mark your calendars now for October 5th. There will be a Women's Ministries RETREAT at Bethany Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Dells. More details will come later. This is the occasion when we have the "Pennies for Poverty" Jar... and the last couple of years we have used this money for a place of our own choice. Two years ago, we were able to give \$200 to Hope House and last year we gave \$300 to 6:8. **WE CALL YOUR ATTENTION AGAIN** to the Pennies for Poverty Jar on the name tag table. Please toss your coins, bills or whatever you can in the jar! It all counts up and it will go to a worthy cause!!

Lydia Circle is visiting Special Friends in April and May. Ruth Circle will visit them in June and July.

On May 20th, you should read the Special Prayer found in this Visitor.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for June will be on Tuesday. May 28th at 9:00 a.m.

Adult Education

Pastor Sally will do a series of adult education based off her November Holy Land Presentation. She will share her experiences from her visit to the Holy Land as well as talk about some of the present issues facing those living in the Middle East. We will meet Sundays, May 5, 12, and 19 at 9:15am in Room 3.

Summer Worship Schedule Chang

This summer we are going to experiment with having only one summer worship service at 9am. This will begin on Sunday, May 26 and will go through Sunday, September 1. Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends are included in the 9am schedule. Sunday, September 8 we will resume our 8am and 10:30am service. We encourage you to enter into this experiment with open minds and continued commitment to this faith community through your attendance and weekly offerings.

Geraniums for Pentecost

Jennifer Sawle will be in the gathering area between services on May 5th to sell Red Geraniums to decorate our church on Pentecost. Afterwards, the geraniums will be planted on the church grounds. Flowers/donations may be given in celebration of a special occasion, or in honor or memory of a loved one and the details will be printed in the bulletin on Pentecost. The cost is \$8 each.



Sauk Prairie School A/P Testing

The Sauk Prairie High School will be using our fellowship hall for Advanced Placement (A/P) Testing during the hours of 7:30am to 4:00pm on May 6 – May 10 and May 13 – May 17. We ask that you avoid entering the building through the gray doors of the fellowship hall and be quiet when conducting business in the front gathering area of the church. Thank you for your help!



JUST BAKERY
A JustDane Initiative

Just Bakery

Just Bakery items will be available for purchase between worship services on May 19. Stop by the table and pick up your favorite goodies!



American Red Cross Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive in St. John's fellowship hall on Monday, May 20 beginning at 11am. Go to redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.



St. John's is scheduled to deliver Mobile Meals June 10-14 and June 17-21. These are meals delivered from the Sauk Prairie Healthcare Center and go to help many in the Sauk Prairie community. If you are interested in delivering, simply sign up on the kiosk. Email Ellen Jorgensen at domine.ellen@gmail.com for details on how delivery works or if you have other questions. Thank you for helping!

New Staff Member

St. John's has hired Bruce Fritsch to be our Financial Secretary. Bruce will be here part-time and will be working with our current Treasurer, Donna Nelson, learning how to do the bill paying, tax filings, paperwork and checkbook balancing to keep St. John's running smoothly. Our Treasurer position will no longer be a paid position but will continue to be a voting member of the Parish Planning Council. Here is a little bit more about Bruce:

My name is Bruce Fritsch.

I had lived in Cobb WI. until 7 years ago when I moved to Prairie Du Sac. I now live with my partner, Peggy Exterovich at 10 5th Street, Prairie Du Sac. I lost my wife to breast cancer in 2015. Together we have 3 sons who live in Baraboo, Cottage Grove and Wisconsin Rapids. I have 11 grandchildren with the 12th expected late summer.

I graduated from Iowa-Grant and then went to work for my parents in a small cheese factory for the next 20 years. I then took a position for 30 years as a dairy field representative for Dairy Farmers of American. I was in charge of working with dairy farmers with milk quality issues and member relations. I also was involved in scheduling milk haulers and their milk routes. I retired in 2019.

I am a lifelong member of Peace Lutheran Church in Cobb. I have been treasurer of Peace Lutheran Church for the last 25 years and now am also president of the council. I am a past member of the Cobb Volunteer Fire Department, retiring after 45 years of service. I was treasurer of the fire department for 25 of those years. I also had been treasurer for 15 years for the annual Cobb Corn Roast.

For the last 5 years I have been working part-time for Zimmerman Transfer of Dodgeville, WI. I drive a semi-truck delivering milk and cream and help with route schedules and I am on call some weekends for drivers to contact if needed.



Reception to Welcome Bruce Fritsch

St. John's Fellowship Board will host a reception to welcome Bruce to St. John's Staff on Sunday, May 5 between worship services. Join us and greet Bruce over a cup of fellowship coffee. Let's give him a warm St. John's welcome!



Dear Siblings in Christ,

"Isaiah 43:19a proclaims, "See, I am doing a new thing!" Are there any words that could be truer for St. John's these days? I am grateful for this faith community's willingness to engage in the conversations about our past, our present, and where the Spirit is moving us into the future.

As we continue to live into this in-between time, I am excited to announce two new things the Spirit has been up to.

First, once again we are going to be an internship site! We are partnering with Luther Seminary this time for a student who lives in Madison. Because of this transition time between Lead Pastors, I will serve as the internship supervisor. I will share more details about our future intern in the near future. The starting date is currently set for August 2024.

Second, I have been accepted to the Master of Arts in Counseling program at Lakeland University. I will be a part time student taking 1-2 classes at a time so that I can keep my responsibilities at St. John's as a priority. I am looking forward to learning more and growing in my skills as a pastoral counselor and pastor, especially at this time when the need for mental health resources is so great. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about this.

The Spirit is alive and well in this place of transition and discernment. What is the Spirit stirring up in you? Are you feeling the push to try something new? Or perhaps return to something once sacred and beloved? I invite you to give space for the Spirit to work and dwell within you and I'd love to hear about what the Spirit is up to in your life!

Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thank you
SO MUCH!

Dear St. John's Friends,

Thank you for all the wonderful birthday cards for my 90th birthday. You are all so kind! God bless you all. Eldoris Lovell

SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to repeat the following prayer on May 20th.

Dear God,

Give us peace.

For an end to the violence perpetrated by harsh words, deadly weapons, or cold indifference. May our homes, our nation, and countries around the world become havens of peace, let us pray to the Lord. *Give us peace.*

For the grace to see every human being as a child of God, regardless of race, language or culture, let us pray to the Lord. *Give us peace.*

For healing and justice for all those who have experienced violence and racism, let us pray to the Lord. *Give us peace.*

For the protection of all police and first responders who risk their lives daily to ensure our safety; for fair and just policing that will promote peace and wellbeing in all our neighborhoods, let us pray to the Lord. *Give us peace.*

For our public officials, that they will strive to work for fair education, adequate housing, and equal opportunities for employment for all, let us pray to the Lord. *Give us peace.*

For our church, that we may cultivate welcome, extend hospitality, and encourage the participation of people of all cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds, let us pray to the Lord. *Give us peace.*

For the courage to have difficult conversations about racism, and for a better appreciation of how our words and actions – or even our silence – can impact our communities, let us pray to the Lord. *Give us peace.*

For solidarity in our global human family, that we may work together to protect those who are most vulnerable and most in need, let us pray to the Lord. *Give us peace.*

Amen.



Fireproof File Cabinets

St. John's Lutheran Church is looking for 1 to 2 locking fireproof file cabinets we can use to store some of our church records. If you have fireproof file cabinets you no longer need, would you kindly consider donating them to us? St. John's would be very appreciative of the donated cabinets. Please contact Linda Hines at the church office (643-2439) if you are interested. Thank you very much.



New Great-Grandbaby

We celebrate with Eunice Yanke on the birth of her step-great-grandson, Wesley Ron. His grandparents are Keith and Karen Yanke.



Baptism Celebration

Skye Mary Margaret Paque was baptized on April 7. She is the daughter of Sam and Bianca (Fiene) Paque. Skye's sponsors are Phil and Joy Paque, and her congregational sponsors are Alecia and Jordan Robertson.

Pop-A-Shot for 6:8

Sauk Prairie NHS students are organizing this event for the 6:8 Sycamore Street Project. Pop-A-Shot is a Gravity Wagon Basketball Tournament to take place on St. Al's grounds on Sunday, May 19th from 11am to 3pm. Look for the poster on the kiosk for full details.

Some of the student organizers are members of St. John's who went on the Mission Trip with 6:8 last summer.



Thank you to our wonderful church family! I so appreciated your prayers, cards, flowers, candy and especially the visits from Pastor Sally. I am recovering nicely.

Our church is such a blessing!

Love, Diane Elsing

T-N-T

The St. John's Transition Team (TNT) wants to give out a huge THANK-YOU to the entire congregation for your participation and input up to this point. Your thoughts and ideas will be invaluable as we continue our work. You are the heartbeat of the congregation, and your input is so much appreciated. Our work is not done, and we will continue to ask for further thoughts from all of you.

We continue to get questions as exactly what the Transition Team is all about. To quickly review----the Transition Team communicates with the members of the congregation to look back at a bit of history of St. John's and see what we did best and what we can do better. Then, talk about the future---what should we keep doing and what might we consider altering or looking at new ideas. This is why it is so important to get input from all of you. When we are done with our work (and we do not yet have an exact timeline) we will pass our information on to the call committee that will do the search for a new lead pastor.

During the month of May we are asking for feedback on two questions: (1.) How do you feel St. Johns is viewed by the Sauk Prairie community? (2.) What are some of our firm core values as a congregation? We will again have paper copies of the questions on a table by the TNT suggestion box or you can email your thoughts to tnt@stjohnssaukprairie.org. We have been amazed at the volume of input we have received in the TNT box and ask that you keep it coming. THANK YOU!



Affirmation of Baptism

On April 28 St. John's held our Affirmation of Baptism service for the following young people. Please keep these celebrants in your prayers.

Evelyn Bahe
Parker Frosch
Ryan Jorgenson
Carter Kruchten
Lillyann Nurkala
Dylan Walker

Cannon Esser
Sophia Hanson
Tyler Jorgenson
Malcolm Leith
Lillian Ott

Serving in May

Greeters:

May 5 (Front door)
(Sanctuary)
May 12 (Front door)
(Sanctuary)
May 19 (Front door)
(Sanctuary)

8:00am

Don/Vi Bohler
C/C Thompson
Rich/Kris Frey
T/G Wytttenbach
Cannon Esser
Joslyn Schultz

9:00am

May 26 (Front door)
(Sanctuary)

Audrey Luetscher
Don/Vi Bohler

10:30am

Roger/Marcia Howard
Tom/Gina Varley

Brooke Braund
Chesney Braund

Ushers:

May 5

8:00am

Lon Kaderavek
Kim Larson
Duane Larson
Kendra Frey
Todd Wytttenbach
Gina Wytttenbach
Lon Kaderavek
Sophia Hanson
Lon Kaderavek
Kim Larson
Duane Larson
Joslyn Schultz

9:00am

May 26

Lon Kaderavek
Caden Argall
Madyn Ludowitz

10:30am

Tom Varley
Wolfgang Reich
Diane Reich

Gerry Westphal
Deb Westphal
Aubree Deuman

Laura Hutchins
Paityn Hauge

Acolytes:

May 5
May 12
May 19

8:00am

Willy Pickett
Brooke Braund
Violet Richard

9:00am

May 26

Willy Pickett
Braylin Breunig

10:30am

Clay Hutchins
Ryan Jorgenson

Assisting Ministers: 8:00am

May 5
May 12
May 19

Jordan Small
Connie Burton
Jordan Small

9:00am

May 26

Connie Burton

10:30am

Jordan Small
Donna Knickmeyer
Clay Hutchins

Readers:

May 5
May 12
May 19

8:00am

Nancy Kaufman
Cathy Yanke
John Hines

9:00am

Denny Dederich

10:30am

Kathy Lovell
Donna Knickmeyer
Dale Clason

Cantors:

May 5
May 12
May 19

8:00am

Lisa Davis
Bill Burton
Katie LaVigne

9:00am

Becky Weittenhiller

10:30am

Ruellene Seymour
Bill Burton
Katie LaVigne

May 26

Communion Set/Clean: Set-Up

May 5
May 12
May 19

A/J Chenoweth
Lisa VanLanduyt

9:00am

Jayne Carlson

Clean-Up

Dale Clason

Braylin Breunig

Communion Assistants: 8:00am

May 5
May 12
May 19

Kris Frey
Patty Barritt
Violet Richard

9:00am

Jayne Carlson

10:30am

Gina Varley
Audrey Luetscher
Chesney Braund

May 26

Sunday Stewards:

May 5
May 12
May 19

8:00am

Lon Kaderavek
Nancy Passehl
Cathy Yanke

9:00am

Tracy Pape

10:30am

Gina Varley
Sean Jager
Gina Varley

May 26

Technology Team:

May 5
May 12

8:00am

Himebauch family
Jeff/Nicole/Audrey
Sandberg

10:30am

Bryce Ballweg
Bryce Ballweg
Liam Hart

May 19

Jeff/Audrey Sandberg
Liam Hart

May 26

9:00am

Sean Jager

Coffee Servers:

May 5

May 12

May 19

May 26

Doug and Tracy Pape

Cathy and Larry McAlexander

Cathy and Larry McAlexander

John and Linda Hines

VOLUNTEER



Worship Volunteers

As you can see, it takes a few people to have our church services run smoothly. During the past year, we have added an online sign up for the jobs of communion assistant, ushers and greeters. You can find the links on our webpage at stjohnssaukprairie.org.

If you are interested in assisting at any of our worship services, here are the people to contact:

Ushers – Gina Varley glv1205@gmail.com 608-963-0325

Communion Assistants – Mary Weeks meweeks0727@gmail.com
(608)643-0656

Communion Set up/Clean up – Marilyn Herschleb
mherschleb2@yahoo.com 608-943-6181 (Please sign up on the kiosk.)

Greeters – Cheryl Sprecher sprechercheryl@gmail.com 608-220-5494

Readers – Kathy Lovell lovellkat@yahoo.com 608-643-2075

Kathy schedules the Readers at this time, but please contact her if you would like to be a Reader. She is looking for volunteers for the late service especially.

Assisting Ministers – Pastor Sally Williams 608-643-2439
sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Technology Team – Pastor Sally Williams 608-643-2439
sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Coffee Servers – Cathy McAlexander ljcmc@aol.com (402)689-5196 (Please sign up on the kiosk.)

Sunday School News

Vacation Bible School is back!

We are so excited to welcome our students back to Vacation Bible School this summer Monday, August 5 – Thursday, August 8 at 9am-2pm with counselors from Lutherdale Bible Camp (held at St. John's). This will include games and music and learning about Jesus!

This is completely FREE! We ask that families send a cold lunch with their students. Students who have completed Kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome to attend. If you'd like to sign up contact Pastor Sally at sally@stjohnsaukprairie.org or call the church office at 608-643-2439.

We will need volunteers to help with signing in/out students, helping with snack time, and other various tasks. Please see Pastor Sally if you're able to help!

Parish Education Volunteers Thank You!

It takes many dedicated minds, hearts, and hands to make the Sunday School and Confirmation programs run. Thank you always feels like it falls short compared to the many hours our volunteers put into their classes and service to these programs. On Sunday, May 5th the Sunday School students and staff will gather in the sanctuary at 9:15am for Singspiration as a whole Sunday School group as well as a presentation of gratitude for our volunteers. We invite anyone interested to join us at that time! Please help us thank our volunteers!

Sunday School Superintendent Search

We have been blessed by the ministry of Joanna Jones and Miranda Jager as our Sunday School Superintendents. They have created a calm, loving, and welcoming space for our teachers and students. Their hard work and dedication to this faith community has been excellent. So it is with some sadness and a ton of gratitude that we announce they are stepping down from this position. Thank you, Joanna and Miranda, faithful servants of God.

We are looking for someone (or a team of someones!) to take over this position. The Superintendent(s) work with the Parish Education board and pastors to plan and implement all aspects of the Sunday School program. For a more detailed description of this volunteer position, please contact Pastor Sally at sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org. Thank you for considering!

Summer Camps

If you are interested in registering for a Lutheran Summer Camp, here is some information that may be of interest to you. The two most popular spots for our congregation are Lutherdale and Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Both have excellent facilities and wonderful programs.

Summer Camps are not just for youth! There is a Family Camp at Lutherdale (lutherdale.org) where families will participate in campfire, Bible study, arts & crafts, waterfront activities, the challenge course, and more! Families explore camp together and strengthen relationships with one another as they play in God's creation. Sugar Creek (sugarcreekbiblecamp.org) has several Family Camps to choose from. Sugar Creek welcomes all family shapes & sizes – including of course grandparent/grandchild family units. Experience games, crafts, nature walks, swimming, evening programs, interactive campfires, horseback rides, all of your choice!

Before you register for camp, please contact Penny at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org to learn about available financial assistance, in support of your youth's faith experiences.

Sunday School Offering

Thank you for supporting Porchlight of Madison this year. We are pleased to announce that we have collected several wished-for items for Porchlight and we will be sending them more than \$1750.00 from your generous donations. Thank you!



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

Middle and High School News

6th Grade Confirmation Orientation – Mark your calendars!

Is your student currently enrolled as a sixth grader, and ready to begin the confirmation program at St. John's next Fall? Then, you should plan to attend the Confirmation Orientation on Wed, May 1 at 6pm. Both you and your 6th Grade student should attend to learn about program expectations, register for the program, and get a jump start on the opportunities that will begin in summer. If you are unable to attend on May 1, but need to register your sixth-grade student for the confirmation program, please contact Penny Johnson at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org today.

Worship Jobs and More!

Confirmation classes have concluded, but that doesn't mean our confirmation students are sitting still! June through September, confirmation students will need to complete a minimum of three Worship Jobs. Look for the online sign-up information to come via email approximately May 15. Additionally, students can get a jump start on next year's confirmation program by completing Sermon Notes and Service Projects during the summer. If you have any questions, please contact Penny Johnson at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org.

High School Senior Recognition

Let's celebrate with our graduating High School seniors! On Sunday May 19 at 9:30am we will celebrate with students in the Fellowship Hall to offer our congratulations, and at the 10:30 Service we will honor and pray with our young adults as they prepare to step into the next phase of life. If you are the parent of a high school senior, please plan to arrive with your student, in their graduation cap and gown, at 9:30am for a reception with members of the congregation. We are proud to celebrate this milestone in the lives of our St. John's young adults.



Post High School Graduates

Are you graduating from a trade school, a university, a higher education program, etc. this May or June? We would like to celebrate with you! We ask you to send us your name, school or program that you are graduating from and the degree or certificate that you have received. We will print them in our newsletter (the *Visitor*) for others to see so that we may celebrate this milestone with you by lifting you up in prayer and joy. Congratulations!

thank you

We give a huge “Thank You” to Rene Oetzman for a donation to be used to purchase a new refrigerator for the church kitchen. John 21:15-17 tells us that Christ instructed Peter and the other disciples to “feed my sheep” (with God’s Word). We extend the instruction to “feed my sheep” to feeding our church family in times of celebration and in times of sorrow. The addition of this refrigerator will give us much needed help as we “feed our flock”.

Again, we at St John’s thank you very much.
Fellowship Committee

Notes from Fellowship Board

Please continue to sign-up to volunteer to serve coffee on Sunday morning. The Fellowship Board is available to help you get things started. Sign up by yourself, with friends or family. It is a great way to meet fellow members of St. John’s!

A reception will be held April 28, to honor the confirmands as they celebrate their Affirmation of Baptism.

We will honor our new Financial Secretary, Bruce Fritsch, at a reception at 9:00am on May 5. Please stop by to give Bruce a word of welcome to our church family,

Join us for lunch on May 5, at 11:45am. as we celebrate YOU!! Yes, YOU!! who have volunteered in some (or many) capacities at St John’s. Please share in a time of fellowship with our church family as we celebrate each other’s role in making St John’s a vital, active and welcoming face in the community.

Our St John’s graduates will be honored at a reception on May 19. St John’s recognizes and celebrates these young people as they enter the next stage of their lives.



Lawn Mowing Position

St. John’s is looking for someone to mow the church lawn this summer. This is a paid position. Call the church office at 608-643-2439 for details.

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 St. John's Youth Board.

St. John's Youth Board

The objectives of the Youth Board shall be to involve the youth of the Congregation and provide for their spiritual growth.

The Youth Board promotes attendance and involvement in St. John's youth activities and provides opportunities for youth involvement as servants in the community, school, cultural, humanitarian, recreational, and social groups. Plus, we get to schedule some fun events for the youth! All the while building strong support and friendships.

Tracy Pape, Chair



Message from the Treasurer

With congregational approval I have signed the contract to have our organ fixed this year. The Memorial committee has made funds available to pay for about a quarter of the anticipated \$25,000. cost and it is greatly appreciated. I would like to invite anyone who is interested in making a donation to the organ fund in memory or in honor of someone to do so. When the organ repairs are completed, we will celebrate with a rededication and a list of all of the loved ones in the bulletin. Any amount will help, and every bit will be appreciated. Watch for more information next month from the Stewardship committee. Thanks, Donna Nelson

THANK YOU

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your mission support of \$33,000 to the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin during 2023. We are grateful for you, and the way you are engaging in God's mission in your community and neighborhood. Your generosity sustains us as a synod, empowering us in supporting and encouraging one another, as together we follow the Risen Christ. We are grateful for your generosity and partnership in the Gospel. Thank you again.

In Christ's peace, The Rev. Peter Beeson

(This is sent from our budgeted Benevolence money.)

Agrace Offers Options for Grief Support in May

In May, 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, May 8, 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) 327-7110 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.



TNT Information Corner

Thank you so much to all of you who have taken the time to offer your thoughts, concerns, and questions so far. We very much appreciate your input during this process of transition. We know this is a time of uncertainty and yet, we also trust that the Holy Spirit is alive and well in our engagement with each other, leading us and strengthening us in our mutual care and concern for the future of St. John’s.

One of the questions that we continue to receive is around the main difference between the transition team and the call committee. They are two separate teams. The **transition team** is formed with two goals:

- 1) To discover a new and deepened sense of identity and purpose for the congregation.
- 2) To establish a healthy relationship with the next rostered minister.

The transition team does this by engaging in the self-study process – intentionally looking at who the congregation has been, who the community is now, and who God is calling the community to be in the future. The self-study creates a roadmap for the congregation and the call committee, acknowledging all aspects of

the congregation's identity for the sake of the future. The transition team gathers information through conversation with you in various ways and means, offering you the dedicated time and opportunities to offer your questions, concerns, observations, hopes, dreams, etc.

This information is collected, organized, and compiled into a document that will help inform the call committee in being able to complete a churchwide document known as the Ministry Site Profile. This document is important as it helps inform possible pastoral candidates as to the type of church you are, contextual considerations, specifics for pastoral gifts and ministry needs, cultural considerations, congregational history, etc.

Whereas, the **call committee** builds on the work of the transition team, striving to identify the candidate who is best suited to lead the congregation into God's future and recommend that candidate to the congregation for call. The call committee does not look for the best candidate of those given, but the right candidate for this congregation at this point in its life. The work of the committee is done prayerfully, and the people on the committee open themselves to the call and movement of the Holy Spirit. Because of the Spirit's activity, serving in this manner is transformational. Forming the call committee as the transition team nears the end of their period of self-study and discernment, the council begins work on forming the call committee. The call committee's work, however, will not start until the transition team's report is completed and submitted.

Please note: work within both of these teams takes time. It takes considerable time to gather information, compile it, and then generate the paperwork necessary for the call process. This work is then sent to the Synod where it undergoes its own process into the pool of available pastoral candidates open for a called pastoral vacancy. Please be patient and understanding as this process happens. Please keep the transition team in your thoughts and prayers, asking God to lead and guide the process through the Holy Spirit's navigating, so that the best fit for your next lead pastor is made known.



**NO PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL
DUE TO THE APRIL 2nd MEETING BEING CANCELLED
FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER.**



Happy May Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis.

Our Youngest:

Lily Carpenter (17)

Our Sunday School Students:

Ethan Lohr (1)

Lyle Opie (7)

Bryce Argall (16)

Maddox Burke (21)

Hallie Ballweg (24)

Ava Rilling (29)

Nadia LaVigne (31)

Eli Emerson (5)

Cooper Rennie (9)

Eloise Nelson (16)

Amelia Trager (21)

Oliver Newman (24)

Riley Jorgensen (30)

Our Youth:

Colby Frey (3)

Mason Burke (7)

Jozie Braund (12)

Evelyn Bahe (17)

Ian Quayle (25)

Leah Kruchten (28)

Malcolm Leith (5)

Clay Hutchins (11)

Austin Bruckert (15)

McKenzie Lautenbach (18)

Liam Leith (25)

College and Career-age Young People:

(no names for this category this month)

Pentecost May 19, 2024

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

