



Natalie Nurkala, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

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Prairie du Sac, WI

June 2024

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Dear Friends of St. John's,

In last month's Visitor, I talked about my faith story and how it all started for me. When I think about how important my "home church" is to me to this day, I am incredibly thankful for its presence and how it has been a venue of a lifetime of memories. Bethany Lutheran Church is not just a church, but a place that is deeply connected to the formation of my calling, and life events that shaped, confirmed, and even challenged my faith.

*Affirmation of Baptism:* I was confirmed here. My pastors made sure we learned and memorized the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, as well as learning and memorizing Luther's explanation of it all. Confirmation day was a special day, wearing a white robe, flower pinned on it, and I of course, wearing a non-white collared shirt with a bow tie! To this very day, if you go down to the basement of the church where all our class pictures are, there you can see me smiling from ear to ear, big glasses, terribly feathered hair, standing beside my best friend, and the tune "one of these things is not like the other" echoing in my head noticing the attire blunder.

*Wedding:* My best friend Bram was married here. I stood as his best man in a small ceremony in the chapel. Everyone he loved was there, and true to form for the day, Bram was smiling from ear to ear, happy, as I had ever seen him. His bride-to-be was beautiful; his family were supportive and jovial. It was a beautiful day, and one that I cherish still.

*Ordination:* I was ordained here. Everyone whom I loved, gathered in the sanctuary on August 25, 2002. I had asked both my pastors (who had long since left this church for other adventures) to assist in the service: Pastor Arland and his wife Gerda presented me to the Bishop for ordination and Pastor Rick played us all a song capturing the spirit of the day. Both of these incredible pastors spoke into my life at age 14, affirming that I had gifts for ministry, and both encouraged me to think about attending seminary. My parents, grandparents, sister, spouse, friends, and pastors from around the synod all laid their hands on me offering their prayers, support, and blessings.

*Funerals:* I attended funerals for both Bram and my Mom, Linda, here. Bram died suddenly at age 33 of a heart attack. Everyone whom he loved, and who loved him were gathered in that sanctuary (where some 20 years before, he sat next to me on Confirmation Day) to celebrate his life. It was all painful, beautiful and faithful. My Mom, Linda died suddenly at age 61 of a hemorrhagic stroke at the base of her brain. Six years after Bram died, I found myself sitting in that sanctuary again, but with my family and my Mom's friends and coworkers. My Dad, my sister Jen, and I all held hands as we listened to the funeral service, sermon, and prayers. I felt numb, overwhelmed, and cried from my gut. My Mom was the rudder of our family ship, and her presence was our joy. We all gathered, gave thanks to God for her, and grieved our collective loss of such a wonderful and beautiful soul that my mother was.

During this month, there will be a written timeline in the fellowship hall where you and your family are invited to recall and share important life events related to St. John's. What important life events do you instantly remember? What happened in shaping your appreciation, your memories, and your thankfulness for being part of the St. John's congregation? Are there important moments or events that you recall with deep emotional connections to the church? We as a transition team would love to see the timeline full of your stories and memories. We know that we cannot move into the future, without knowing where we have come from, and where we are now without celebrating and learning from the past. We will gather as a church following worship on June 23 to talk about our history, process it, laugh and cry about it, and remember it. Please join me and the rest of the transition team as we connect your history into the present and future.

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](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org) 370-4501

Interim Pastor: Jason Hill [jason@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:jason@stjohnssaukprairie.org) 643-2439

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour

[ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

Youth Director: Penny Johnson [penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

Custodian: John Hines [john@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:john@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

Office and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines

[linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

Financial Secretary: Bruce Fritsch [bruce@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:bruce@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

Sunday School Superintendents:

[sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

St. John's Lutheran Church: (608) 643-2439

[www.stjohnssaukprairie.org](http://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.

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Christ,  
our strength  
and refuge,  
calling us  
to serve

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Wisconsin 53578



## **Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry**

Food, paper products and cleaning supplies may be brought to the table in the gathering area. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

Granola Bars  
Ketchup  
Mac 'N Cheese

Mayo/Salad Dressing  
Mustard  
Cookies

Keep this list handy as you do your grocery shopping during the next few weeks. We appreciate donations at any time.



## **Birthday Greetings**

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

Roger Maynard (6)  
7429 North Street  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Maureen Patterson (6)  
703 Phillips Street  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Jan Floeter (7)  
722 Risley Oak Court  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Ruth Tupper (16)  
1050 Prairie Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



Roger Clason (18)  
1050 Prairie Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Carol Ellingson (19)  
2012 Taylor Trail #2  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Bob Nelson (21)  
821 Hanksfield Place  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Caroline Morrow (24)  
8387 Rimmel Court  
Dane, WI 53529

Pam Pickens (25)  
345 – 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

|  | <b>Women of the Church News</b>  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <b>Lydia Circle</b> Thursday, June 13, at Carol Mallon's, N1617 Fjord Circle, Prairie du Sac                         | 1:00pm   |
|  | <b>Martha Circle</b> Thursday, June 6, at Maplewood Village, 1425 Hemlock St., Sauk City, Marge Erlandson is Hostess | 9:30am   |
|  | <b>Ruth Circle</b> Monday, June 10, at Jan Dobrynski's, 50 Hemlock St., Unit 1, Sauk City                            | 9:00am   |
|  | <b>Sarah/Mary Circle</b> Tuesday, June 4, at St. John's Library  | 9:30am   |

In May, 24 ladies attended Circle Meetings, with Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester leading the Bible Study. In June the study will be led by Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester. In June we will start a 3-part study on what it means to live in faith after certainty. For Christians who have been taught that having faith in Jesus means being certain, times of uncertainty can feel like a spiritual problem to solve. This should be an interesting series for us to study.

We are planning an All-Circle Picnic on July 18 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This picnic will take the place of our regular Circle meetings, and Pastor Jason will be leading the Bible Study. Lydia Circle will be in charge of the brunch and will be furnishing the food and doing the serving. If you haven't already done so..... please circle the date on your calendars and plan to attend. We will have musical entertainment a well, and we hope to have good attendance. All women of St. John's are most cordially invited to this event. There will be good food, a good Bible Study and good entertainment!

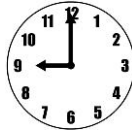
The deadline for having our Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts ready for shipment is September 14th. Be looking for the lists of items we need for each kit in the Visitors and bulletins. We have lots of shopping and work to do to get ready for making our kits. Garage sales are good places to shop for some of the kits and the sales for school kits usually start in July. Because of getting \$250 grants from Thrivent, we were able to send more boxes than ever last year. We hope to do the same this year.

TURNING THE WORLD RIGHT SIDE UP! That is the theme for the WELCA Women's Ministries Retreat on Saturday, October 5, 2024. This Synodical event will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Dells. The Bible Verse for the day: 2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is all you need, for my power is the greatest when you

are weak.” There will be worship, a keynote speaker, lunch and workshops. We will get more information in the July Trumpeter and share that with you. The “Pennies for Poverty” jar is in connection with this meeting. They usually choose a charity in the Madison area at the meeting, but we are allowed to choose a charity from our own area. The last couple of years, we have donated to Hope House and 6:8 and we have been pleased to have given each of them a nice donation. Please notice the Pennies for Poverty jar on the name tag table and donate and donate....!!!!

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

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



### **Worship Time Change**

We have changed to our summer worship schedule. Services will be at **9:00am only** from Memorial Day (May 26) weekend through Labor Day (September 1) weekend.

Our worship services are held in St. John’s sanctuary and all services are available on Zoom. An easy way to connect to Zoom is to go to our website, [stjohnssaukprairie.org](http://stjohnssaukprairie.org) and click on the “Join Us Live for Worship” button in the upper right corner of the opening page.



### **Fellowship Coffee Time**

We will continue to offer our coffee time after worship during the summer months. We are happy to have this opportunity to gather together in fellowship.

We need some servers to help us. Are you willing to learn the art of making coffee in the large machine (it is VERY easy), pick up the pre-ordered donut holes from the Piggly Wiggly and serve one Sunday this summer? Sign up on the kiosk today!

## **Adult Education**

Book Study with Pastor Jason

Sundays July 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10:15AM

The Thing Beneath The Thing: What's Hidden Inside (and What God Helps Us Do About It) by Steve Carter

Please come and join me as we read and work through one of the best books I have ever read on truly learning how to live into our authentic selves God made us to be, knowing and realizing that we all have “potholes” that need to be filled. From the description on Amazon, “In The Thing Beneath the Thing, Pastor Steve Carter asks the simple question, “How is life working for you?” He knows that potholes exist and that the longer we live disconnected from answering this question, the more we will fill those holes with harmful choices. The solution? Allow God to fill them with His grace and love so that we can discover the beauty of peace and wholeness God has for us.

The process lies in discovering our:

- Triggers: the setup that sets us off
- Hideouts: where we go to escape the pain of our story
- Insecurities: the false stories we create about ourselves
- Narratives: the false stories we create about others
- Grace: the place where we discover how to become whole,

holy, and spiritually healthy.”

If you are interested in joining me, please catch me after worship, call the church, or email me just so I can get a count of people. If interested, please order the book and start working your way through it. You can order the book off of Amazon or Barnes and Noble for around \$16 minus shipping. You might be able to find it in Madison at “Half Price Books” and they might be able to locate a used copy if you prefer (608-273-1140). Or check our local library for a copy. If you would like me to order you a copy (as you may not have access to online shopping) or if you are unable to afford a copy, please let me know and I will make sure we can get you one. I look forward to our time together.



## **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Scott, Cindy, Ryan and Sawyer Ladd on the death of Scott's father, Vernus Ladd.

George II, Jennifer, Wyatt, Chase and Austin Urban on the death of George II's father, George Urban.

Please keep these families in your prayers.





Dear Friends in Christ,

Below is the bio and photo of our new intern, Elise Iverson Uphoff, who will begin her year with us in early August. I celebrate our Internship Committee who have committed to walk alongside Elise throughout her internship experience.

Cliff and Cindy Thompson, co-chairs  
Derek Rosenstiel, Gary and Connie Tomter,  
John and Ellen Mast, Nancy Passehl, advisor



“Elise is a Luther Seminary student seeking ordination in the ELCA in Word and Sacrament following a call to ministry in 2019. Since then, her Masters of Divinity journey has highlighted a knack for hospital chaplaincy, exploring the ways God speaks to us in Creation, and the importance of youth and community development. Elise graduated in Civil Engineering from the University

of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, with a focus on hydrogeologic studies and environmental science.

In addition to her theological studies, she serves on the Board of Directors for Bethel Horizons camp and retreat center in Dodgeville. Elise founded a female BSA Scout Troop on the near west side of Madison in 2023. She is an avid mountain biker, and mountain bike coach with the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA). She is engaged in her community, and occasionally finds herself being a disability advocate and speaker.

She loves to adventure with her spouse and three children all around the Midwest. Originally from California, Wisconsin is her heaven on earth.”

I have already begun my supervisor training through Luther Seminary. It consists of online work with videos, articles, and discussion board posts with other supervisors. In mid-June I will also attend a virtual day-long training with the other supervisors.

I am looking forward to this experience and welcoming Elise to this faith community!

Peace,



St. Johns is scheduled to deliver mobile Meals June 10-14 and June 17-21. Meals to be delivered are picked up at the Sauk Prairie Healthcare Center and help many in our community. For more details and to volunteer, please see the kiosk in the front gathering area of the church. We thank all of our wonderful volunteers for helping with this program!



### **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@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.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!

*Thank  
You*

Dear St. John's family,

Thank you for all of the wonderful birthday cards and telephone calls with wishes for a great day. They warmed my heart. It was a good birthday. Thank you.

Denise Baars

# SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to repeat the following prayer on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust; lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe. Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace to make this world better for all.

In your holy name we pray. Amen.



## BAPTISM

We welcomed 3 new brothers into the family of Christ following their baptisms during the month of May.

Harvey Alden Pickett, son of Billy and Miranda (Wilson) Pickett was baptized on May 5. His sponsors are Jesse Johnson and Ashley Walsch.

Lennon James and Tate Daniel Stuetgen, children of Brody and Jenna (Lovell) Stuetgen were baptized on May 19. Lennon's sponsors are Maegan Miller and Mike Lovell. Tate's sponsors are Mike and Kate Gorsuch. Kim and Duane Larson are the congregational sponsors for both Lennon and James.

Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their journey in faith.



## New Baby Congratulations

Alecia and Jordan Robertson welcomed a son, Samuel Kade Robertson to their family on April 26. Samuel joins his brothers Owen and Bennett at home.



## Wedding Congratulations

We celebrate with Brendan and Mikayla Coy on the occasion of their wedding on May 18, 2024. Please keep them in prayer as they begin this new life journey.

# Sunday School News

## **Sunday School Offering**

Our Sunday School children collected \$2,055.11 toward their offering project through their regular offerings and the Bake Sale! The money will be donated to Porchlight, Inc. of Madison to help in their work with the homeless. Thank you for your generosity to our Sunday School students, families and friends!!

## **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 608-643-2439 or [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org). Thank you for considering!

## **Sunday School Teachers Needed**

Are you interested in working with children? Encouraging them in their faith through stories, lessons, arts and crafts, and music? We have many teachers returning next year, but we are looking for some more people to join our Sunday School team! Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be a teacher, co-teacher, or helper. Contact James Newman, Parish Education Chair [jamesolivernewman@gmail.com](mailto:jamesolivernewman@gmail.com) or Pastor Sally.

*Thank You*

## **Sunday School Teachers!**

We thank all of our Sunday School teachers, aides and substitutes for their dedication to the students this past year. You are greatly appreciated and a wonderful blessing to St. John's!

# Middle and High School News

## Summer Worship Jobs

Confirmation students should sign-up for at least three Worship Jobs during the “summer” season which is June through September. Online registration is available, register at <https://signup.com/go/zUSmdZw>. Each Sunday we ask a student to serve as:

- Acolyte
- Usher
- Tech Team Helper

On the third Sunday of each month, at each service, we have the above spots **and**:

- Communion Set-Up
- Greeter Front Doors
- Greeter Sanctuary Doors
- Communion Assistant
- Communion Clean-Up

Additionally, students can get a jump start on next year’s confirmation program by completing Sermon Notes and Service Projects during the summer.



## ELCA Youth Gathering

St. John’s youth are preparing for the ELCA Youth Gathering, held in New Orleans, LA, July 16-20, 2024. St. John's is sending a group of youth (Grades 8-9) to attend this important event. The Gathering gives young people the opportunities for faith formation through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service, and fellowship. It is an amazing event to see our youth from Lutheran congregations across the country gathered together in one place!



## High School Graduates

The following students were recognized on May 19 for graduating from high school. Keep them in your prayers as they move forward into the new stages of their lives.

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ellery Apel     | Erelyn Apel     |
| BrookLynn Baier | Michael Blau    |
| Jozie Braund    | Anna Bruckert   |
| Austin Bruckert | Eliot Carlson   |
| Addison Douglas | Lily Fauerbach  |
| Ryan Jager      | Matthew Johnson |
| Andrew King     | Dylan Quayle    |
| Ava Shimpach    | Randy Trudell   |
| Colin Wernsing  |                 |

## Young Adult Updates

We love sharing the news of our young adults! Meghan Pierce is one such young adult and she continues to offer her talents to improve the Sauk Prairie area. Meghan has been a member of Sauk Prairie Solar Schools since its initiation (this work started initially under Sauk Area Climate Awareness and Action - SACAA) and continues to help raise funds and plan for the installation of solar energy to save costs to the school district. May God continue to bless the hard work of Meghan and SPSS.

Did you recently earn a degree from college or a tech school? Are you starting a new internship or job? Celebrations or prayer requests? Contact the pastors at [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org) or [jason@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:jason@stjohnssaukprairie.org) or the church office at [linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org) and we will include it in our next Visitor!

## DEADLINE FOR KITS IS SEPTEMBER 12, 2024



### **School Kit Supplies**

We are asking for your help in gathering supplies for our School Kits again this year. The kits are sent to Lutheran World Relief each fall. LWR asks that we do not use items with a U.S. flag, military symbols, camouflage, or religious symbols on them. Each kit needs:

- Four** 70-sheet notebooks
- One** 30 cm. ruler (or one with inches and cms.)
- One** pencil sharpener
- One** blunt scissors
- Five** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Five** black **or** blue ballpoint pens
- One** box of 16 **or** 24 crayons
- One** 2 ½ inch eraser

Bring your donated items to the table in the fellowship hall.  
Watch for sales and have fun shopping!

\*\*pencil sharpeners and blunt scissors are especially needed



### **Personal care kit supplies**

- One bath-size towel (not longer than 48" preferred)
- Two bath-size bars of wrapped soap
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original wrapping  
or sealed in a business size envelope
- One sturdy comb
- One metal nail clipper

\*\*\*bath towels, soap and toothbrushes are especially needed



### **Baby care kit supplies**

- Two cotton/cotton-blend t-shirts
- Two gowns or sleepers without feeties
- Two receiving blankets
- Four cloth diapers
- One hand towel, dark color
- One sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket with a hood, or include a baby cap
- Two pairs of baby socks
- Two bath-size bars of gentle soap in its original wrapping
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins

*Sizes up to 24 months may be used. Consider varying the sizes of the clothing items so the care kit will continue to be useful as the baby grows. Gently used, clean items may be substituted for new ones.*

**\*cloth diapers are especially needed**



### **Fabric kit supplies**

- Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric, cut into pieces measuring:
  - 2 ¼ yards of 60" wide, **OR**
  - 3 yards of 44" wide, **OR**
  - 4 yards of 36" wide fabric
- Two spools of matching **OR** neutral-colored general-purpose thread, 250-300 yards each

*“Ordinary items become extraordinary gifts when you send LWR Quilts and Kits around the world!”*



## Serving in June

### Greeters:

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| June 2 (Front Door)  | Cheryl and Steve Sprecher    |
| (Sanctuary)          | Doris Lohr                   |
| June 9 (Front Door)  | Rich and Kris Frey           |
| (Sanctuary)          | Tara, Bryce and Caden Argall |
| June 16 (Front Door) | Khloe Walker                 |
| (Sanctuary)          | Josie Kinney                 |
| June 23 (Front Door) | Jackie Frosch                |
| (Sanctuary)          |                              |
| June 30 (Front Door) | Don and Vi Bohler            |
| (Sanctuary)          | Gina and Tom Varley          |

### Ushers:

|         |                    |                    |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| June 2  | Lon Kaderavek      | Gerry/Deb Westphal |
|         | Dale Haroldson     | Cooper Rennie      |
| June 9  | Lon Kaderavek      | Bill Burton        |
|         | Dale Haroldson     | Mason Ramirez      |
|         | Bryce Argall       |                    |
| June 16 | Gina Wyttenbach    | Dale Haroldson     |
|         | Todd Wyttenbach    | Cooper Rennie      |
| June 23 | Dale Haroldson     | Donna Knickmeyer   |
|         | Lon Kaderavek      | Mason Ramirez      |
|         | Isabelle Jolicoeur |                    |
| June 30 | Bill Burton        | Tom Varley         |
|         | Caden Argall       | Bryce Argall       |

### Acolytes:

|         |                |                 |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| June 2  | Clay Hutchins  |                 |
| June 9  | John Brennan   | Kate Endres     |
| June 16 | Willy Pickett  | Carly Jorgenson |
| June 23 | Joslyn Schultz | Kiptyn Suchla   |
| June 30 | Charlie Lueck  |                 |

### Assisting Ministers: 9:00 a.m.

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| June 2  | Patty Barritt    |
| June 9  | Donna Knickmeyer |
| June 16 | Jordan Small     |
| June 23 | Clay Hutchins    |
| June 30 | Jude Hanna       |

### Readers:

|         |                    |
|---------|--------------------|
| June 2  | Marilyn Herschleb  |
| June 9  | Patty Barritt      |
| June 16 | Doris Lohr         |
| June 23 | Crystal Lautenbach |
| June 30 | Jude Hanna         |

**Cantors:**

June 2  
 June 9  
 June 16  
 June 23  
 June 30

**9:00 a.m.**

Doug Slater  
 Doris Lohr  
 Marv and Janelle Hupp  
 Connie Burton  
 Melani Wheeler

**Communion**

June 2  
 June 9  
 June 16  
 June 23  
 June 30

**Set-Up****Clean-Up**

Lisa and Allan VanLanduyt  
 Rich and Jane Calenzo  
 Carson Lohr                      Josie Kinney  
 Donna Knickmeyer  
 Darlene Holl and Diane Williams

**Communion Assistants: 9:00 a.m.**

June 2  
 June 9  
 June 16  
 June 23  
 June 30

Patty Barritt  
 Kris Frey  
  
 Dale Clason  
 Audrey Luetscher

**Technical Support: 9:00 a.m.**

June 2  
 June 9  
 June 16  
 June 23  
 June 30

Lisa Davis  
 Ellen Jorgensen  
 Charlie Kruchten, Liam and Reid Hart  
 Jeff and Nicole Sandberg family  
 Ellen Jorgensen

**Sunday Stewards: 9:00 a.m.**

June 2  
 June 9  
 June 16  
 June 23  
 June 30

James Newman  
 Cathy McAlexander  
 Cathy Yanke  
 Lon Kaderavek  
 Roger Seymour

**Coffee Servers:****9:00 a.m.**

June 2  
 June 9  
 June 16  
 June 23  
 June 30

Nancy Kaufman  
 Dorothy Halverson, Karen Bader  
 Donna Nelson  
 Lynell Pettibone, Karen Bader  
 John and Linda Hines

Contact the church office if you would like to volunteer to help with our worship services, [linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org) or phone 608-643-2439.



## Organ Repair Fundraising

The Stewardship Board would like to extend a thank you to our wonderful congregation for the approval to have our organ repaired to church playing standards. The Memorial Committee has made funds available to pay for about a quarter of the anticipated \$25,000 cost and it is greatly appreciated. The Stewardship Board would like to invite anyone who is interested in making a donation to the Organ Fund in memory of or in honor of someone to contribute to the repair costs if you are interested.

You can contribute in person at the church office, place an envelope in the collection basket with your donation and the name of the persons you would like to memorialize or honor, or make a notation on your electronic donation of the same.

Organ repairs will take place later this summer. When the organ repairs are completed, we will celebrate with a rededication and a list of all the loved ones memorialized or honored in the bulletin.

You are welcome to use the form below.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Anne Klinkner, Stewardship Board Chair

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Organ Repair Donation 2024

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

My donation is  
\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

## **Transition Team (TNT) News**

“Gratitude makes sense of our past, Brings peace for today, and Creates a vision for tomorrow.” (Melody Beattie)

St John’s Transition Team (TNT) gives thanks for all who have participated in this past month’s small group conversation times and for all who have responded to the questions we have put out to the congregation in this time of transition. We are grateful for letting your voices and perspectives heard, for sharing your wisdom and insights, and for imagining and discerning together with us what God in the Spirit has in store for St. John’s in this time and the years ahead. This work that we are doing now as a community of faith is so important and makes it possible for us to prayerfully consider who we are as a community of faith and what God is calling us to in our lives of faith shared together for the time to come. The Call Committee, the synod staff, and the candidates who the Spirit is preparing for us to meet and interview when that time comes will be better prepared and have a better understanding of who God is calling as one of our pastors for the time to come because of what we do in this time.

Here’s an update on what this next month will look like – We will take an in-depth look and have conversations about the history of St. John’s Lutheran Church, thinking about who we are today because of where we’ve come from and all the people that came before us in forming and shaping our community of faith that exists today. A giant timeline sheet will be placed in the Fellowship Hall for all to participate and add to on the first Sunday in June. We invite you all to add your stories and memories of the history and experiences that have made St. John’s who we are today. Please add both community and big history events as well as personal memories that you have to fill out and bring to life the history and story of St. John’s. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will have a gathering in the Fellowship Hall for a time to have a conversation as a whole community about our history and the story of St. John’s. As is common to any gathering like this, I am sure there will be treats and refreshments to jog our memories, help us to share our stories, and create some new memories to boot! Times and final details of this event will be shared soon, so keep a lookout for this!

We hope you will all come to add to the timeline throughout the month adding your stories and memories to the beautiful tapestry of St. John’s we hope to create, and that you will join in the gathering on June 23<sup>rd</sup> as well! We have so much to give thanks to God for here at St. John’s, so may our grateful hearts lead us and

guide us as we take the time to prepare for what God has in store for us in the time to come! THANK YOU, St. John's community, for all you have done and continue to do in this work!

## **PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES**

**DATE: May 7, 2024**

**Present:** Donna Nelson, Nancy Passehl, Cathy Yanke, Sally Williams, Jason Hill, Lon Kaderavek, Ellen Jorgensen, Tracy Pape, Roger Seymour, Gina Varley, James Newman, Anne Klinkner, Cathy McAlexander, Sean Jager

**Absent:** Gwen Ringelstetter, Eunice Yanke, Nancy Kaufman

### **Call to Order/Opening Remarks:**

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Nancy Passehl in Nancy Kaufman's absence. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Gina and seconded by Donna. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Ellen.

### **Secretary Minutes:**

The March minutes were submitted online by Cathy Yanke. There was no April meeting due to weather. A motion to approve minutes was made by Donna and seconded by Sean. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer report:**

The committee reviewed and discussed the March/April 2024, Treasurer Report submitted by Donna Nelson.

March--\$15K was moved from savings to checking. Memorial Committee has committed over \$6K toward the organ repair.

April-A donation of \$1K was made for the purchase of a new refrigerator and it has been purchased and installed in the kitchen. The recommendation for stocks to be sold was followed and of the \$44,8K received, \$10K was put into checking and \$34,893.03 was put into savings.

A motion was made to approve investing \$60K from our savings into a 183-day CD at Bank of Prairie du Sac. Motion to approve was made by Lon and seconded by Donna.

## March & April report numbers

| Current Month Income | YTD Income | Current Month Expense | YTD Expense | YTD Budget |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|
| March<br>\$35,514    | \$116,839  | \$46,238              | \$151,114   | \$51,105   |
| April \$44,079       | \$160,919  | \$52,814              | \$203,929   | \$204,421  |

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

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Evangelism:** Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- Will have meeting on 5/19 instead of normal 5/12 which is Mother's Day.
- Guest book is not being used much.
- Received 2023-2024 class list. 22 individuals.

**Fellowship:** Cathy McAlexander reported:

- A new refrigerator was purchased, made possible by a donation directed to this purpose.
- Affirmation of Baptism reception was held to honor our Confirmands.
- A reception was held to welcome our new Financial Secretary to St John's.
- The Volunteer Appreciation Lunch was served to honor and thank all of the faithful church family who volunteer in numerous capacities to make St John's a welcoming place to worship.

**Lay Ministry:** Gina Varley reported:

- Via email we approved trying a single service at 9 am for summer schedule
- Geranium orders for Pentecost were taken between services on 4/28 and 5/5

**Parish Education:** James Newman reported:

### Sunday School

- Email will get sent out for who on the parish ed board is writing thank-you cards to which teacher and helper. They will get divided evenly. Each teacher will receive a \$10 gift certificate from the Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce.
- Last day of Sunday school = May 5th. This is also the Volunteer Appreciation lunch.

- Rally Day for the 24-25 school year set for Sept 22nd.
- June is slated for discussion on how to improve Sunday School for 6th grade students.

### Confirmation

- April 10th last classroom date. Affirmation of baptism April 28th.
- Next year to try an alternative 9th grade curriculum. "Living Lutheran" - Volunteer at food pantry --- Visiting Maplewood and the Pines. --- Small group discussion.
- All confirmation teachers returning for next year.
- Orientation for 6th graders for next year. Wednesday May 1st.
- This summer we need to figure out how to get some feedback from our 9th grade confirmands. To make sure our confirmation program is where it needs to be and serving our students well. Or if any small changes are needed to best serve its purpose. How? Interview? Group discussion? We will need to provide food.
- Do something similar for 6th grade Sunday school students as well.

### Adult Education

- In addition to the normal adult ed classes, we are looking for alternative options for those that don't fit the adult ed class model.

### VBS

- Identify congregational coordinator. James got sign-up sheet from Lutherdale. Table between services on April 21st and April 28<sup>th</sup>

### Library

- Library (from last month) discuss via email this month. Dale is doing an amazing job. Is mostly concerned with children's material. Move Sunday School age books into 6th grade room?
- A Library subcommittee or taskforce is needed to assess how to improve the usefulness and widen the purpose of the adult library. What resources should we be providing through the library? In addition to just the Parish Ed Board we should include those in the congregation that are passionate about the library.

### **Properties:** Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Nothing to report

### **PR & Social Concerns:** Ellen Jorgensen reported:

- St. John's will deliver Mobile Meals during the weeks of June 10 and 17. Look for a sign up on the Kiosk
- Just Bakery will pick back up in September.

**Stewardship Board:** Anne Klinkner reported:

- INVESTMENT POLICY AND RELATED DOCUMENTS The Stewardship Board invited the Memorials Committee chair, Nick Lester, to attend. There will be a couple of minor tweaks made to the documents.
- CONTINUED RESEARCH ON NEW METHODS OF ELECTRONIC GIVING-UPDATE Anne Klinkner and Linda Hines will be meeting to move adding Venmo as a payment option forward.
- Vanco will continue to be an option for donations.

**Women of ELCA:** Eunice Yanke reported:

- Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering was April 20 and was well attended. The speaker was very inspirational. Next year's Spring Gathering will be at St. Peter's of Loganville.
- St. John's All-Circle Picnic will be held July 18 at 10am in the fellowship hall. Pastor Jason will lead the Bible Study.
- Start thinking about Lutheran World Relief kit packing. The shipping date is September 14. Remember to apply for \$250 grants from Thrivent soon. This will help with the cost of supplies for each kit.
- There is a Women's Ministries Retreat at Bethany Lutheran in Wisconsin Dells coming on October 5. Watch for more information to come.
- Feed the Pennies for Poverty Jar!

**Youth Committee:** Tracy Pape reported:

- No update to report

**Member at Large:** Roger Seymour reported:

- No report provided.

**Youth member at Large:** Sean Jager reported:

- School ends in a month which means that all spring sports are wrapping up as well

**Pastor/Intern Reports**

**Interim Jason's Report:**

- One of my favorite parts about being a pastor is being able to participate in the Affirmation of Baptism with students. I was honored and grateful for the opportunity to be part of our confirmation students' affirmation on April 28th. Such a beautiful celebration! I hope and pray that our students continue in their faith walk and grow in their faith and trust in the beautiful triune God.



- I continue to make dedicated home visits with our elderly and shut in members. I cannot tell you how much these visits mean to me in being able to connect with them, listen to their life stories, and offer caring conversation, holy communion, and prayer.
- MASSIVE thank you to Donna Nelson and her wonderful team of volunteers in offering the Volunteer Brunch as a thank you for all their time, talents, and treasure throughout the year. We could not achieve and accomplish the important tasks of ministry without our wonderful volunteers. You are so appreciated, loved, and cherished. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
- I was invited to be part of Confirmation Orientation night, welcoming a large class of incoming 7th graders for the fall. I was happy to explain the purpose and reasoning for kids attending confirmation to the parents, as well as teaching the kids about being an acolyte. Pastor Sally and I will help with shadowing these students this summer as they dip their toes into the waters of worship assisting and the various opportunities that are offered.
- I am extremely thankful for Linda Hines in “taking hold” with the small conversation I had with her about changing up how St. John’s can help identify guests and visitors going forward. The system she put into place is easier, less cumbersome, and more identifiable for visitors. Linda not only designed the visitor cards, but printed them out, cut them, and ordered card holders for the pews. I am so grateful for her and her ingenuity in making this idea happen.  
THANK YOU, LINDA!
- As mandated by the Synod, both Pastor Sally and I along with the entire rostered clergy within the Synod, have been participating in Anti-Racism workshops. These have been helpful and highly educational in terms of being able to think about and struggle with our sense of identity, privilege, and the race we live every day. One of the major areas that we have been studying, is how do people of color, race, nationalities, fit within the Imago Dei (Image of God)? How do we see ourselves in that image, and how do we see others in that image?

### **Sally’s Report:**

- We’ve been/will be celebrating baptism with a number of our families this spring. We also celebrated Affirmation of Baptism and our teaching staff during the last day of Sunday School. Being around and engaging with our students from birth on up is a great reminder that the Spirit is active among us. I encourage our council and congregation to reach out to these folks to celebrate these milestones as well as to thank our teaching staff for a very big

commitment to the ministry in this place. We are very blessed!  
(Graduation Sunday is coming up too!)

- In April we also celebrated Administrative Professional Day. Talk about feeling like words fail - thank you is a very small way to reflect the deep gratitude I, and we as a congregation, have for Linda Hines. It is very obvious that this is not a job for her, but a ministry of presence, encouragement, comfort, organization (and many other things) that continues to enrich our faith community. Thank you, Linda!

- The celebration just continues these days with the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. We are fortunate to have so many willing volunteers. I want to especially lift up Donna, Doug, and Nicole Nelson and Cathy and Larry McAlexander for all of their hard work preparing, serving, and cleaning up for the luncheon. Thank YOU for the difference you make in this place.

- The anti-racism training required by the synod will be complete tomorrow (5/7/24).

- I have also completed a boundaries training in order to be in 'good standing' as an internship supervisor and have begun the supervisor training online. I met with the internship committee in April to share more about our future intern and the responsibilities of the internship committee. We have a fantastic team formed and Nancy Passehl will continue to be a valuable resource for this committee with her past experience with former interns. A biography of our future intern will be published in the next visitor.

- I am teaching a three-week series on the Holy Land for the first three weeks of May. That will end the Sunday sessions for the academic year. Pastor Jason and I are in conversation about some potential education opportunities for this summer.

### **TNT PPC Report – May 2024 submitted by Interim Pastor Jason**

- April was a busy month for the St. John's TNT. We took the entire month to try and gauge people's opinions, experience, concerns, and questions through small groups held in-between church services. This gave us the opportunity to visit with people in-person by asking some new questions.

- The small groups were met with great enthusiasm, warmth, and openness. People who participated offered great insight, experience, and observations. The two new questions that were offered are as follows: 1) What brought you to St. John's and what keeps you connected and excited about St. Johns? 2) What are the priorities for our congregation for the development of our ministry?

- The TNT team members heard similar responses to the first question, using words like "welcoming, community, spirit, friendly,

open.” Many people shared that they were invited to initially come to St John’s. People very much appreciate the liturgy and the music. People also feel a sense of being connected and engaged. Many people also shared that they appreciate the traditional church, centering on the liturgical flow and structure. One response shared, “Felt a sense of connectedness to others and felt welcomed. Love the liturgy, the use of the common lectionary that ties us to others of the Christian faith around the world, there were so many friendly people embracing me from the start, a sense of community “Here we are, just as we are, and we belong together.” It does not feel like a social club but rather felt like a place where we could join others in the work of the Church for the sake of the world and God’s work among us all.”

- For question two, many responses involved looking beyond the walls of the church and offering support and ministry into the greater communities of PDS, and Sauk. People suggested, “being seen” by the community and the community knowing that the church is an advocate for them using words like, “involvement, outreach, seen, giving, helping.”

- Many responses also offered their concern for a continuation of the Reconciled in Christ consideration, “becoming more open and affirming of the LGBTQIA+ community and people who identify as such. Be bold and true to our idea that “All are Welcome.” Lots of concern in being able to hold on to the Intern Program as people feel it enlivens a sense of change and opportunity to hear new voices and allows the congregation to grow in a sense of purpose as a teaching parish for students. Other direct responses offered were, “Is there a way to relearn how to be a community again since so many people have lost a sense of what community is over time? What does our faith teach us about community building? Can we teach and learn community-building skills/practices? “Are we willing and ready to be comfortable with the uncomfortable for the sake of growing in our living out the gospel of Christ? Change is uncomfortable always.” “Think deeper about what our core values are the hold us firm and grounded even in the midst of change.” “Think about the difference between our “hopes” and “where we are right now” and if we are willing to put in the effort to get to “where we hope to be”. [What is our identity now? Who do we hope to be in the future?]

- Information we learn from the small group conversations is important in being able to understand the main concerns, trends, and questions people are wrestling with during this time of transition. Ultimately, the information will be used in formulating the content in a summary document of the transition phases to be

forwarded onto the call committee (TNT and call committee are two separate teams). The call committee will use that information in writing the main document (called the Mission Site Profile) which is then sent into the Synod indicating the congregation is ready to begin the call process for available rostered individuals who are open for call.

- While the small groups were engaging and fruitful, the work continues. We will continue to gauge the congregation with more questions, but the next phase of the transition process is on the horizon. This will involve gauging the wider communities of PDS and Sauk, asking community members what their experience is of SJLC, how the congregation has made itself known, are we visible in the communities, what might be helpful suggestions from community people to meet their needs outside the walls of the church? We want to have conversations with community leaders to grocery store clerks to teachers, to area clergy from other denominations, to assisted living caregivers.
- We ask that you continue to pray for the congregation in its questions, its concerns, its hope, and its faithfulness as we look to the Holy Spirit's leading and guiding, continuing the important work of transition so that the best and most qualified leader is led to be called as the next lead pastor for St. John's.

### **Old Business:**

- Sunday Steward sign up—completed through early Sept
- Coffee --More help is needed with making coffee. We will have coffee during the summer after the 9 am service. Ellen has offered to create a short video to show how to make coffee.
- PPC Retreat Follow-up—new member pictures have been updated on the board. Try to find them and welcome them in person.
- Transition team update—Jason and Marie (Synod) are meeting tomorrow on update. See Jason's notes earlier in this document.
- Treasurer position—Bruce has started as Financial Secretary and is working with Donna to learn the duties. She will be responsible for the books through June and then he will officially take over. They continue to work toward a division of duties between the financial secretary and the PPC Treasurer.
- Congregational meeting—Ruellene has reported that the organ repair timeframe is currently set for July/August.
- Volunteer thank you lunch—wonderful attendance (about 90) and thanks to the Nelson's and McAlexanders!

## **New Business:**

- Gift Acceptance Policy and Form—Stewardship Board presented a new Gift Acceptance Policy and form. The policy includes the conversion of existing stock that has been gifted to the church to cash and reinvested into money markets or certificates of deposit at a FDIC financial or at Mission Investment Funds. A motion was made to approve the policy and form and then to liquidate the stock currently being held. Motion to approve was made by James and seconded by Gina.
- Interim contract with Pastor Jason has been extended an additional six months
- Intern update. Nancy P is stepping down from intern chair because of upcoming PPC Exec Director duties to begin in October. Cliff and Cindy Thompson have agreed to accept the chair of this committee.
- Parsonage usage for school year 2024-2025. Decision was delayed pending additional conversations with the school district.
- Budget information will be sent to board chairs by Anne (Stewardship) in June to be due in July.

Next meeting is Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Gina. Ellen made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by James. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy P.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.

*St. John's Mission Statement: Christ, our strength and refuge, calling us to serve.*



## **Happy June Birthday!**

*The day is in parenthesis*

### **Our Youngest:**

Briley Schwarz (7)

Brinley Myhro (13)

Collins Neubacher (21)

Bowen Rilling (29)

### **Our Sunday School Students:**

Eleanor Muehrer (3)

Emma Kraus (4)

Samuel Krueger (8)

Allie Lochner (8)

Jesse Paque (13)

Roman Koenig (16)

Kolt Steinmetz (16)

Reese Bletsch (21)

### **Our Youth:**

Gavin Goetsch (4)

Jacob Lins (6)

Collin Lins (8)

Liam Hart (9)

Jenna Shimpach (9)

Natalie Ballweg (12)

Mason Ramirez (15)

Alyssa Himebauch (16)

Michael Jolicoeur (16)

Carson Lohr (24)

Charlie Lueck (24)

Lee LaVigne (30)

Olivia Wiese (30)

### **College and Career-age Young People:**

Austin Keyser (7)

Dylan Quayle (16)

Ava Shimpach (19)

Brody Ballweg (22)

Wesley Himebauch (29)