



**Della Kaderavek, Kindergarten**

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Prairie du Sac, WI

July 2024

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Dear Friends of St. John's,

As many of you who are or have been parents, you know that part of your parental responsibility is to serve as a kid/teen taxi service. This is the preplanned or extremely last-minute request to drive your child from point A to point B safely and timely. Many of these trips often include multiple stops along the way, eventually reaching the destination with some sense of accomplishment to celebrate that said child is "there." Many miles, many tanks of gas, many stops at Culver's, many stops at Target, and many stops in general are all part of the fun and adventure experienced in driving as a chauffeur for our kids. I recently chauffeured my middle son Andrew to Eau Claire to drop him off for the Wisconsin School Music Association High School Honors Summer Camp. Andrew went for the Mixed Choir as a first tenor.

Now to say that I am proud of him and his appreciation for all types of music is an understatement! He has the drive, the passion, and the talent to take his musical gifts far. This Dad often remembers when music was my passion and my drive while I was in high school during the Mesozoic Era; I discovered I could sing in a large ensemble to a quartet, hold a tune and find my pitches easily. I had an ear for it. Andrew has an ear that gifts him with perfect pitch. His musical gifts are pretty amazing, and so standing in the Haas Fine Arts Center waiting to register him, I couldn't help but be proud of him as we stood among the other students with their own vocal gifts waiting to be heard. As a side note: during our road trip to Eau Claire, he shared his many playlists of music that he loves, and many of the songs he played for me, were songs I

was listening to some 30 plus years ago, that are now considered “classic” or “retro.”

We checked in, found his dorm room on the third floor of the residence hall he was assigned to, and instantly I was taken back to when I was a freshman at Concordia College and assigned to a dorm room on the top floor of my residence hall. Wouldn't you know it: the smells and sauna-like stuffiness of Andrew's dorm room were strangely similar! He asked me if we could go find some Febreze and a large fan. We bought both at a local Walgreen's, and then we took a drive around campus. We found the student center and the bookstore, and while he had every opportunity to score some fine UW-Eau Claire swag, he asked me if I could buy him a pencil. While we were walking back to the car, he said something to me that made me smile, “Dad, I cannot wait to go to college!”

I dropped him off at the music hall and watched him walk into it smiling from ear to ear. I found myself not wanting to leave him there, and I began to cry a bit. I remembered his words, and I instantly found myself aware that within a few years' time, he will be in college, and the little boy that loved dragons, big dump trucks, and Legos is growing into the young man who carries his hopes and dreams for an education that can take him into the world to serve him well. I left him there, and as I drove south on that lonely Interstate, I was incredibly thankful to have that time with Andrew, and immediately my tears came again.

I thought back to all the years he has grown up, all the adventures he is having, all the moments that he shares his excitement, confusion, or happiness. I was thankful to see how happy and excited he was going to this camp. I thought about how the next few years are going to go as fast as a finger snap. How he will grow and continue to evolve into a very gifted man. It made me truly thankful for the day, the precious hours with my son, and the drive back to reflect on being a Dad to him, Collin, and Emma. All three are my endless sources of joy, happiness, self-discovery, and gratitude.

I simply offer this reflection as reminder to be thankful for the precious moments in your life that catch you off guard allowing you to reminisce, giving you permission to smile and cry at the same time, closing your eyes and praying to God, a thanksgiving for the blessings in your heart that make your life a beautiful gift. Keep your eyes open to the surprises around you and the little moments meant to be carried in your soul. What a joyful ride this one life is.

Peace and Blessings to You,  
Pastor Jason



## Parish Planning Council Members:

Executive Director	Nancy Kaufman	(608) 963-0151
Assistant Exec Director	Nancy Passehl	(608) 219-1936
Secretary	Cathy Yanke	(608) 434-4869
Treasurer	Donna Nelson	(608) 393-4660
Evangelism Board	Gwen Ringelstetter	(608) 643-6922
Fellowship Board	Cathy McAlexander	(402) 689-5196
Lay Ministry Board	Gina Varley	(608) 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.

**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:

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Peanut Butter    | Crackers              |
| Canned Spaghetti | Individual Applesauce |
| Kid's Snacks     | Paper Towels          |
| Mac & Cheese     | Toilet Paper          |

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 July. The day is in parentheses.

Garry Bahe (1)  
190 Pacific Road  
Merrimac, WI 53561

Bruce Pickens (15)  
345 – 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Brian Williams (17)  
530 – 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



Deb Westphal (18)  
E8715 State Hwy 60  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Carol Ohlsen (22)  
E12550 Inspiration Drive  
Merrimac, WI 53561

Milt Risgaard (25)  
507 Lake Wisconsin Drive  
Merrimac, WI 53561

Janice Carlson (29)  
104 First Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Gerry Westphal (30)  
E8715 State Hwy 60  
Sauk City, WI 53583

	<b>Women of the Church News</b>	
	<b>Lydia Circle</b> Thursday, July 18 in fellowship hall for All Circle Brunch Picnic	10:00am
	<b>Martha Circle</b> Thursday, July 18 in fellowship hall for All Circle Brunch Picnic	10:00am
	<b>Ruth Circle</b> Thursday, July 18 in fellowship hall for All Circle Brunch Picnic	10:00am
	<b>Sarah/Mary Circle</b> Thursday, July 18 in fellowship hall for All Circle Brunch Picnic	10:00am

In June there were 32 members plus one guest who attended Circle Meetings. Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester led the Bible Study, which was the first of a 3-part series on what it means to live in faith after certainty. We live in a time of uncertainty, but looking back in history that has always been the case. We always know that we have the love of Jesus which sustains us.

In July we will not have our individual Circle meetings. Instead, all Circles will meet together for a “picnic” on Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be a brunch at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Lydia Circle will be in charge of the brunch and will be furnishing and serving the food. ALL ladies of St. John’s are most cordially invited! Just bring yourselves and you can also invite a guest. You don’t have to bring food! Pastor Jason has graciously agreed to lead the Bible Study AND we know he always makes everything interesting ...AND we will have musical entertainment as well...SO this will definitely be a fun time and we hope to have good attendance at this very special event!

We have been making plans for our Lutheran World Relief kits and we should be watching for garage sales and special sales for collecting all the items needed for the School, Baby, Sewing and Personal Care kits. Thanks to Linda for listing the items in the *Visitor* and bulletins. We really need EVERYBODY’S help in shopping for these items. The Quilters are striving to make 400 quilts this year and they need lots of material and could use gently used sheets to help accomplish their goal. Last year all of us applied for and received \$250 grants from Thrivent and this was a tremendous help. We will do this again this year.

In August, each Circle usually does something special together, such as going out to eat, or getting together to work on kits, or just doing something social. Whatever the choice, we will not really be taking a “break” because we always will be diligently

working on the very important kits. The deadline for having the kits all assembled and boxed for shipping is September 12<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a Synodical WELCA Women's Retreat on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Dells. There will be worship, a keynote speaker, lunch and workshops. TURNING THE WORD RIGHT SIDE UP will be the theme. The "Pennies for Poverty" Jar is in connection with this meeting, and they have a charity in the Madison area for this year's donations. We are allowed to use our money for a charity in our own area and this year we have decided to give the "Pennies for Poverty" money to 6:8, who does local charity work. Look for the jar on the name tag table and give! We hope to be able to donate a nice amount to this worthwhile project! Any amount you can give counts and helps.

Ruth Circle is visiting Special Friends in June and July. Martha Circle will visit them in August and September.

There will be no Bible Study Leaders' Meeting for August. We will resume our regular Circle Meetings in September.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, please read the Special Prayer in this *Visitor*.

## **Fellowship Board News**

Roger Maynard's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated with a cake provided by his family for coffee fellowship time on June 9.

We continue to ask for help with serving coffee during our coffee fellowship following our summer services. There is a detailed procedure list for "how-to" serve at fellowship time posted in the kitchen along with the coffee making instructions.

Sign up on the kiosk today!



## **Adult Education – Book Study**

Pastor Jason will be leading a book study on Sunday mornings during July, gathering at 10:15am. The book to read is "The Thing Beneath The Thing: What's Hidden Inside (and What God Helps Us Do About It)" by Steve Carter.

Join Pastor Jason as the group reads and works through one of the best books he has ever read, learning how to live into our authentic selves that God has made us to be.

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Jason at [jason@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:jason@stjohnssaukprairie.org).



Dear Friends in Christ,

I had the privilege of preaching with my daughter, Molly, a couple of weeks ago about God's light. She wrote a short story and several of you have asked for a copy of it. With her permission, I share it here. May you find yourselves surrounded by the light of Christ and let your light so shine!

### Light

By Molly Williams

Lydia sat in the back seat of her parents' car and looked out the window. She had on a new blue dress that she had bought with her mom. Lydia was so excited to show all her friends at church that day. When their car pulled into the church parking lot, Lydia hopped out of the car and walked hand in hand with her parents to the main entrance.

Church was one of Lydia's favorite places. She loved the stained-glass windows that made the room brighter. She loved the lights hanging from the ceiling. Lydia found her best friend Taylor and sat down next to her. "Hello Taylor," Lydia said with delight. "Do you like my dress?" Taylor smiled and nodded. During church service, Lydia and Taylor used their best singing voices and kept their voices quiet during the readings.

When Pastor Luke asked everyone to be seated, Lydia knew he was going to preach his sermon. Most of the time, Lydia understood the sermons and they were her favorite part of the service. But today, Lydia found herself confused. Pastor Luke was saying lots of big words she didn't understand. Lydia slouched back in the pew, waiting for it to be over. Not long after, Lydia had communion and shook hands with the pastors on her way out.

Lydia's parents gave her a hug before she went to Sunday School. Lydia smiled and walked to class with her friends Jack and Taylor. Jack looked at Lydia. "Are you okay?" Jack asked. "Yeah," Lydia said. "I was just really confused during Pastor Luke's sermon." Jack nodded. "Don't worry," he said. "I was too." Taylor nodded as well.

Mrs. Johnson welcomed the three of them into her classroom. "Good morning!" she said cheerfully. Taylor gave a small wave. "Put on a nametag if you don't have one already," Mrs. Johnson said. Lydia opened a purple marker and signed her name with her best penmanship.



“Now,” Mrs. Johnson said. “Raise your hand if you were confused during the sermon or the reading.” Everyone raised their hands except the teaching assistant Lilah and Mrs. Johnson herself. “Today, we will be talking about the meaning of letting the light shine out of the darkness,” Mrs. Johnson said.

“When I think let light shine out of darkness I think of God. And God, being that light. If you were having a bad day and things weren’t going the way you hoped or wanted, think of that goodness that happened. The light outshines the evil in the world and that light is God. The goodness and the light can overpower the badness and dark. God is the candle in the bad day that keeps it light enough you can see. Embrace that light in the darkest of times. May you be filled with the light that makes you, you.”

Lydia left class that day feeling better about not understanding. She made the happiness she had with her dress the light alongside God. The light overpowers the sadness. When Lydia’s parents asked her about Sunday School and what they learned and all she said was “Light.

With gratitude,



**Intern Elise Iverson Uphoff**

The Intern Committee is preparing to welcome Elise in August. We will present a welcome basket at a reception following her first church service with us on August 11th. We invite the congregation members to consider donating gift cards for the basket which can be from any business you feel would be beneficial for her time of service at St. John's. She will be driving from Madison daily and not residing at the parsonage. Thank you for keeping this in mind when purchasing a gift card. Cards may be brought to the church office until Tuesday, August 6th.

# SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray with us on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

God, when I am overwhelmed by what is going on around me, please remind me that You are with me. Give me the strength to not fear evil, but instead, allow me to remember that You overcome it. Show me Your comfort and protection and keep me rooted and grounded in Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Many  
Thanks!*

Dear St. John's Members,

We wanted to take the time to thank you all for the generous use of your spaces during our recent AP Testing. Over 150 of our students took tests during that two-week span and using your spaces allows our school to both provide a quality testing environment and display the courtesy of the great Sauk Prairie community.

Thank you for helping our students in their pursuit in fulfilling their educational goals and supporting the Sauk Prairie School District.

Sincerely,

Mr. Aaron Athas, Sauk Prairie School District



Thank you for allowing our Girl Scout Troop to use your space for our meetings!

Troop #8210

Addy, Harper, Emma, Aliza and Addy

## **Sauk Prairie Literacy Council (SPALC) is Seeking Volunteers**

Are you passionate about helping others? Do you have an hour a week to help? SPALC is seeking volunteers to teach English to adults in our community who are eager to learn. There is no need to speak another language; a full curriculum is provided. For more information, please contact Traci Schutt at [traci.schutt@saukprairiearealiteracy.org](mailto:traci.schutt@saukprairiearealiteracy.org) or fill out an application at <https://forms.gle/HLYLiyNVAb8uxpJT7>.

Traci Schutt  
Sauk Prairie Area Literacy Council

**(SPALC Mission:** To empower adult learners of all backgrounds in the Sauk Prairie area to successfully navigate the English language at home, on the job, and in their community.)



### **TNT Transition Team Update**

Our TNT committee has been busy reviewing your responses to our questionnaires. Research shows that there is interest in finding more ways to reach out to our community. We will be meeting with some leaders to seek out needs in our community, and what part we can do as a congregation.

We have compiled your responses, gathered our church history, will be meeting with community leaders, and will begin collating what we, as a congregation, are looking for in a lead pastor.

Feel free to reach out to any of our committee members: Gary Tomter, Megan Tarnutzer, Jordan Small, Kristin Ryan, Derek Rosenstiel, Marv Hupp, Donna Knickmeyer or Pastor Jason Hill.



### **Wedding Congratulations**

We celebrate with Evan Kippley and Cameron Batchelor who were married on May 25, 2024. Evan is the son of Linda (Graham) Brearley.



## **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

To the family and many friends of Rev. Eldor Fruehling, Jon and Jennifer Sawle and their family on the death of Jon's mother, Donna Lee Chesemore.

Brad and Michelle Kraemer, Lauren Kraemer, Keith Kraemer and their families on the death of Brad's mother, Dianne Kraemer.

Roger and Ellie Maynard and their family on the death of Roger's sister, Donna Gorman.

Holly and Steve Kindschi and their family on the death of Holly's father, William "Bill" McCumber.

Jeff and Diane Gorsuch, William Gorsuch, Michael and Katelynn Gorsuch and their families on the death of Jeff's mother, Evelyn Gorsuch.

Eunice Yanke and Karen Ballweg on the death of their brother-in-law, Marvin Breunig. Marvin was an uncle of Jeff and Patti Ballweg, Shawn and Melissa Ballweg, Ryan and Stephanie Ballweg, Keith and Karen Yanke and Steve Yanke.

Lee and Abbey Nolden and their family on the death of Lee's aunt, Mary Nolden.

Dean and Joanne Walsh, Tiffany and Andrew Haffemann and their families on the death of Dean and Joanne's son and Tiffany's brother, Sterling Walsh.

Karen and Keith Yanke and their family on the death of Karen's mother, Sheila Kostroski.



## **BAPTISM**

We welcome this new sister into the family of Christ following her baptism during the month of June.

Presley Lynn Katzman was baptized on June 2, 2024. Presley is the daughter of Tiffany and Matthew Katzman. Her sponsors are Alyssa Kovash and Dexter Breunig, and her congregational sponsors are Paul and Ann Kippley.

# 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@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!

## **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](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.

# Middle and High School News

## Cow Chip Parade!

St. John's is participating in the Cow Chip Parade! We have two opportunities for you and your youth to help.

- On Friday August 30th, 10am to Noon, we will build the float
  - On Sat Aug 31st, we'll be in the parade, 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Sign-Up at <https://signup.com/go/bkVNjio> or email Penny.

Tell your friends and family to cheer for us along the parade route!

## Worship Jobs – REMINDER!

Hello Confirmation families,

It's time to sign-up for "May Thru Sept Worship

Jobs" **register at** <https://signup.com/go/zUSmdZw>; register for 3 Worship Jobs.

As a friendly reminder, we have three cycles per year: Summer, Fall and Spring. Church Services in Summer are at 9:00am. All other months, services are at 8:00am and 10:30am.

Adults have their own registration links for ushers, greeters, communion and readers. If you register using one of the Adult links, that's fine, it still counts toward a Worship Job but it is our group's responsibility to fill all youth-spots, first. Thanks for all of the many ways in which you and your youth contribute to the loving community that is St. John's. **Tech** uses a different link, and that is found at: <https://signup.com/go/CpcMdqT> (for Tech only).

Each Sunday we ask a student to serve as:

- Acolyte
- Usher
- Tech

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



### Mobile Meals Volunteers

We thank the following volunteers from St. John's for their help and support of the Mobile Meals program here in Sauk Prairie. They delivered meals during June.

Mike Langer  
Kim Langer  
Holly Kindschi  
Deb Treinen  
Mary Halweg  
Rita Amundson

Steve Barritt  
Patty Barritt  
Dan Lovell  
Kathy Lovell  
Dorothy Halverson



### Stock the Schools

In cooperation with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's is collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. Each month we will have different items to collect that will help our local students. July's items are **Athletic Shoes**, all sizes, Children's, Men's and Women's. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations. Thank you.



### Website Hosting Provider Needed

St. John's is looking for a new Website Hosting Provider for our St. John's website. Our current provider is closing their business as of August 1, 2024. Are you able to take on this task? Do you know someone who can manage our domain? If so, please contact one of the Pastors or the church office at 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 \_\_\_\_\_



## Serving in July

### Greeters:

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

### 9:00 a.m.

Jackie Frosch  
Don and Vi Bohler  
Rich and Kris Frey  
Linda Lintl  
YOUTH  
YOUTH  
Steve and Cheryl Sprecher  
Todd and Gina Wyttenbach

### Ushers:

July 7  
  
July 14  
  
July 21  
  
July 28

### 9:00 a.m.

Bill Burton	Gerry Westphal
Charlie Lueck	Deb Westphal
Lilly Weittenhiller	
Lon Kaderavek	Mason Ramirez
Bryce Argall	
Lon Kaderavek	Bill Burton
Carly Jorgenson	Brock Esser
Gina Wyttenbach	Kendra Frey
Todd Wyttenbach	Charlie Lueck
Lon Kaderavek	

### Acolytes:

July 7  
July 14  
July 21  
July 28

### 9:00 a.m.

Clay Hutchins	Evelynn Brennan
John Brennan	Claire Hansen
Elio Piccinelli	Claire Hansen
Willy Pickett	Kiptyn Suchla

### Assisting Ministers:

July 7  
July 14  
July 21  
July 28

### 9:00 a.m.

Patty Barritt  
Donna Knickmeyer  
Clay Hutchins  
Jordan Small

### Readers:

July 7  
July 14  
July 21  
July 28

### 9:00 a.m.

Dale Clason  
Mary Halweg  
Doris Lohr  
John Hines

**Cantors:**

July 7  
July 14  
July 21  
July 28

**9:00 a.m.**

Chris Stephan  
Lisa Davis  
Bill Burton  
Katie LaVigne

**Communion**

July 7  
July 14  
July 21  
July 28

**Set-Up/Clean-Up**

Marilyn Herschleb  
Deb Corrao  
YOUTH  
Marilyn Hershleb

**Communion Assistants:**

July 7  
July 14  
July 21  
July 28

**9:00 a.m.**

Patty Barritt  
Kris Frey  
YOUTH  
Dale Clason

**Technical Support:**

July 7  
July 14  
July 21  
July 28

**9:00 a.m.**

Roger Seymour, Alyssa Himebauch  
Ellen Jorgensen, Evelynn Brennan, Henry Dean  
Jeff and Nicole Sandberg family  
Ellen Jorgensen, Lee LaVigne

**Coffee Servers**

July 7  
July 14  
July 23  
July 28

Larry and Cathy McAlexander  
Mary and Brian Weeks  
Derek, Rebecca, Teddy Rosenstiel  
James and Heather Newman family

**Sunday Stewards:**

July 7  
July 14  
July 21  
July 28

**9:00 a.m.**

James Newman  
Lon Kaderavek  
James Newman  
Roger Seymour

*thank you*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of newborn kits and hospice kits. Your gifts make it possible to aid so many in the rural villages of Liberia, Madagascar and more. Thank you for the gifts you share!

Pastor Mary Brown of Global Health Ministries

## 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 items to the church office. 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 w/o feet

Two receiving blankets

Four cloth diapers

One hand towel, dark color preferred

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 layette 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!”*

# PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: June 4, 2024

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

**Absent:** Nancy Passehl, Ellen Jorgensen, Sean Jager

## Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by Nancy K. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Anne and seconded by James. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Gina.

## Secretary Minutes:

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

## Treasurer report:

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

A six-month CD was opened at Bank of Prairie du Sac for \$60K per instructions of the PPC following the creation of the Gift Acceptance Policy. Stocks that were donated over the last 20 years were sold and the funds were placed into our savings account until the council decides how they will be invested. There was a net gain of \$9,597.51 for the month of May which is realized with the sale of the stock.

## May report numbers

Current Month Income	YTD Income	Current Month Expenses	YTD Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$36,860	\$197,779	\$47,037	\$250,966	\$255,526

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

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Evangelism:** Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- Budget has been prepared for submission to Stewardship Board
- We are thankful for Linda and the new visitor cards in the pews
- New Member folders will be prepared for June 30. Sheila will photograph

**Fellowship:** Cathy McAlexander reported:

- I have written a step-by-step tutorial on preparing for and serving coffee and food at fellowship. It is laminated and hanging with the coffee instructions.
- High school graduates were honored at a reception.
- We are serving coffee/ fellowship time after the 9:00 church service this summer.
- New Members reception will be combined with the Brats for Jesus event. New Members will be provided with their meal as a welcome. We will not be serving "coffee-time goodies" on June 30 but encourage members to support the Brats for Jesus event. The Fellowship Committee will be providing bar cookies to be served with the meal.

**Lay Ministry:** Gina Varley reported:

- All hymns and musicians are lined up for summer
- Geraniums have been purchased and will be set up May 17 for Pentecost
- Donna and Sally are getting the home communion list together
- Pastor Sally very appreciative of assisting ministers volunteering
- A few folks are not happy with 9am start time for summer worship
- Online sign-up under one link in discussion

**Parish Education:** James Newman reported:

- 20 students are signed up for VBS
- Pastor Sally will be the congregation Coordinator for VBS (main point of contact for Lutherdale)
- Confirmation orientation for new students was in May, and we are welcoming 29 new confirmation students this upcoming school year.
- Library to be split between children's library and adult library.
- Children's library to move to the Sunday School hall, room 3
- Tabling discussion to improve adult library until after children's library moved and setup
- Pastor Jason is doing adult ed this summer. He is leading a book study that will meet for discussion in July.

**Properties:** Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Roof issues have been resolved; ceiling tiles have been replaced around leaks.
- Looking into getting basement windows fixed in parsonage.
- Bills for fixing the furnace will not be submitted by the furnace manufacturer based on age of unit.

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

- St. John's will deliver Mobile Meals during the weeks of June 10 and 17. Huge thank you to everyone who took meals to our neighbors!
- Working with Fellowship on "how to" training video.

**Stewardship Board:** Anne Klinkner reported:

- GIFT ACCEPTANCE POLICY Work continues on the additional required documents that are part of the Gift Acceptance Policy. The re-investment recommendation for the existing stocks being converted to cash was discussed and will be presented to the Parish Planning Council at the June 4, 2024, meeting.
- CONTINUED RESEARCH ON NEW METHODS OF ELECTRONIC GIVING-UPDATE Research continues on adding Venmo as a donation option. Vanco will still continue to be an option for donations. There will be a Vanco information presentation as part of Adult Education in Fall of 2024.
- 2025 BUDGET Each committee is working on their 2025 budget.
- ORGAN REPAIR CAMPAIGN There is an organ repair campaign for those who wish to donate funds for the organ repair costs in memory of or in honor of someone. More information will be in the June Visitor.
- STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Stewardship Sunday will be October 20, 2024.

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

- The All-Circle Picnic is scheduled for July 18 at 10am in the fellowship hall. Pastor Jason will lead the Bible Study. ALL women of St. John's are invited.
- Begin shopping for Lutheran World Relief Kits. Sign up for your Thrivent grants to put towards purchasing donations for the kits. Kits and quilts are shipped Sept. 14, 2024.
- WELCA Women's Ministries Retreat is Saturday, October 5 at Bethany Lutheran in Wisconsin Dells. Look for more information coming soon.
- Remember to feed the Pennies for Poverty Jar.

**Youth Board:** Tracy Pape reported:

- May 19, High School Graduates In honor of our high school graduates, members of the Youth Board participated in the graduation litany by reading script and as a cantor.
- June 30, Brats and Jesus Join us in supporting our youth to raise funds for disaster relief kits for New Orleans. We invite you to join us on Sunday, June 30, 10 a.m. to noon. For \$5 you will get a brat (or hot dog), chips, dessert, and drink. As our group from St. Johns travels to the ELCA Youth Gathering, we will send them with our gift from the Congregation! Want to help? Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/XsKBzyQ> and we would love to have you at Brats and Jesus and enjoy a wonderful time together.
- August 31, Cow Chip Parade St. John's is participating in the Cow Chip Parade! We have two opportunities for our youth or anyone willing to help. Friday, August 30, 10 a.m. to Noon, we will build the float. Saturday, Aug 31, we'll be in the parade, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sign up for either or both days at <https://signup.com/go/bkVNjio> and be sure to cheer for us when you see us on the parade route!
- September 25, New Confirmation Members On September 25, members of the Youth Board will welcome our new confirmation students to St. John's.

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

- No report provided.

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

- The youths are finishing up their last week of school and starting fall sports that practice over the summer.
- The government class's "Full Session" (A simulation of what it's like to try and get a law passed in the U.S. government) is taking place this week as well and will conclude before the school year ends.

**Pastor/Intern Reports**

**Interim Jason's Report:**

- Was thankful to attend this year's SCSW Synod Assembly at First Lutheran in Janesville. Along with tending to the business of being a national and local church body, voting on resolutions, voting new folks into various roles and functions, and participating in worship together, listening to the main plenary speaker was the highlight for me. He spoke about the current trajectory trends in the church and how it is declining. He stressed however, that the church is not



without hope; opportunities are present and available for the church to rewrite the narrative about how it presents itself to show its light and life into the world, being mindful to be inclusive, welcoming, and transparent in its convictions and faithfulness. Thank you to Linda Lintl and Jordan Small for being able to serve as congregational voting members representing St. John's.

- New Member Sunday is set for June 30. Mailings went out to prospective members who have shown some interest in joining or who have consistently worshiped with us for some time. One person is confirmed to join. By the time you read this report, I will have called some 21 individuals/families to confirm, offer information, and gauge their interest. I am offering a single two-hour session on Thursday, June 20 at 6PM as an informal gathering where we can get to know each other, offer some information about St. John's and the opportunities there are for congregational participation. If folks cannot make that specific time, I will just meet with them individually.

- Looking ahead, I am offering a Book Study for the July education time after worship. We will be reading "The Thing Beneath The Thing" by Steve Carter. As I mentioned in the Visitor, it is one of the absolute best books I have ever read in being able to become aware and mindful of the "potholes" we might have in our lives that are issues we have neglected to address and fill them in with care, nurture, and love. I am looking forward to working our way through this book over three Sundays beginning July 7<sup>th</sup>.

- TNT will now have its own separate report from mine. Please be looking for that this month as it will consist of road mapping the goals and how to get there. Super excited about our TNT "Celebrating the Timeline" gathering following worship on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will gather, remember, and give thanks for history together, as well as give thanks for a future yet to be seen.

### **Sally's Report:**

- Business at Synod Assembly included the passing of the budget, election to fill vacant seats on a variety of committees and passing a resolution for Bishop Joy to write a letter to ask state and federal government leaders to publicly support a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

- It's been an exciting season of baptisms - 7 baptisms from April-September!

- Please see the Parish Ed and Youth Board reports for ways to support our youth this summer (VBS, Brats for Jesus fundraiser, Youth Gathering trip sending and sharing, and the Cow Chip Parade float!)

- I will attend a day-long virtual internship supervisor training on June 18. I am working with Cindy and Cliff Thompson, co-chairs of the internship committee, to prepare for Elise's arrival in August.

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

- I created roadmap goals I shared with TNT a few weeks ago. This roadmap will help us not only stay within the guiderails for the goals but keep us on task for the foreseeable future until at least the end of October. For this to be accomplished, we are going to work within the goals in a delegated process. TNT is also using the ELCA Ministry Site Profile in its work as well, as this is the main document to be filled out in order to indicate to the ELCA that St John's is seeking a lead pastor. This document is your "want ad" so to speak.
- It is an intricate document covering quite a bit of landscape, including the specific type of leader St John's is seeking, strengths that are most important, congregational needs and priorities, demographic trends and considerations, contextual makeup of the congregation, etc. My hope is that once you are able to read through the map here, and understand the direction, you can see a greater awareness for this important and vital work essential for the calling of the next lead pastor for St. John's.

#### St. John's TNT Goal Setting: Roadmap Until End of October

This Summer into the Fall, to work towards our collective goal of identifying who we are, why we are here and what kind of pastoral leadership we desire for the future of our mission together in this community. We are committed to:

- Coming to terms with our history/Discovering a new identity: The congregation is asked a variety of questions: Who and what are they becoming as a congregation, and how has our context changed over the years? What gifts (assets) define us, not simply our building or staff, but our changing participants and neighbors? We need to watch and listen, not only for what to conserve, but for what might be emerging amid this new identity. These questions also form the basis for the MSP pastoral needs description.

We will accomplish this goal by: Distribution of a series of questions, hard copy mailings to those who have no access to technology, or mobility, small groups at church for in person conversation opportunities, compile and collect data noting trends and needs that are prevalent. We also give the congregation the opportunity to create a wall of history – To help visualize the history of the congregation, cover a large wall in paper and create a timeline from the beginning of the congregation to today with space for dreams for the future. Have people write important events and people in the life of the congregation or society at large on the wall.

Explore your congregation's history by gathering in small groups to analyze what appeared on the timeline. "What do you see? What is missing?" Have each group describe the congregation based on these insights. This process is an internal exercise within the congregation.

· Strengthening our sense of being the church together: We are not only a local congregation, but part of a regional, national, and global church. How closely do we identify with our South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and the national church body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America? What has been our connection with our ecumenical brothers and sisters? What can we ask of them and offer to them? Other questions to consider are: Context: Where are we demographically ([elca.org/research](http://elca.org/research)) ([census.gov](http://census.gov))? What are the assets and needs of our community? • Who are the invisible people? (poor, lonely, homeless, hungry, angry, etc.) • What services are needed and what services are available? • What is God up to in our community? • What is our outreach? • What opportunities for partnership are available to our congregation: locally, synod-wide, nationally and globally? What does the community see when they see St. John's Lutheran Church?

We will accomplish this goal by: Community Interviews – Interview community leaders on what they see are some needs, people such as school social workers, assistant principals, school nurses, local police, business owners, social service agencies, local politicians.

· Community Development Reports - Read and summarize key points from community development reports from county or city or regional government agencies, which often indicate trends and the government's plans for addressing them, such as housing policies and economic policies. Outreach List – List current outreach efforts and intentions of the congregation. Evaluate the church budget as a way of assessing the congregation's commitment to outreach. Pastor Jason will contact other churches within the area to determine their experiences, impressions, concerns, questions regarding St John's Lutheran; purpose is to gauge a sense of partnership and collegiality amongst area churches. This process is an external exercise within the congregation.

· Committing to our new future and a new leadership: As the work of the preceding three developmental tasks (coming to terms with our history/ discovering a new identity, strengthening our sense of being the church together, and committing to our new future and a new leadership) comes to maturity, the congregation becomes clear about their future so they can invite an appropriate new pastoral leader to lead them into that new future. Other new staffing should

be considered on conditional basis, so that the called pastor can determine future staffing. The goal of this step is to take what is learned through listening to God, one another and the community, to identify the characteristics and gifts for ministry sought in the next pastoral leader. Keep in mind that most people will think primarily in terms of worship and their own personal relationship with the pastor. Think of a leader not only ministering to the needs of the existing congregation; consider where God is calling you and what kind of a leader can help you get there. Such a candidate may not look or behave like previous pastors but may look or behave more like the people you are trying to reach. Ideas for carrying out this work may include:

We will accomplish this goal by: Job Description - Using the congregation council and/or personnel committee, create a job description for the pastor position, with specifics unique to the congregation (i.e., expectations, responsibilities and relationships beyond what is found in the congregation's constitution and standard form letter of call). Survey - Survey the congregation to identify the characteristics of the pastor they seek using the "Ministry Tasks and Gifts for Ministry" section of the MSP form. Be sure to identify the congregation's calling/ direction for the next years before identifying pastoral qualities to lead there.

Other Important Tasks: We will establish and affirm our values, our mission statement, affirm our vision statement, review staffing needs/concerns and update job descriptions with the help of PPC. We will also help review policies and procedures with the help of PPC. We will look at our financial reality and assess the congregation's stewardship of resources with the help of PPC. We will accomplish this goal by: Pastor Jason will work closely with the PPC to help the transition team understand where each and every one of these tasks are.

Once we feel that we have collected the data, the information, and had the conversations we have needed to have, we will then create our report to PPC of our findings. Two people from TNT will transition alongside to the call committee to complete the Ministry Site Profile. The MSP will be submitted to the ELCA portal.

- The PPC will look through the constitution on how many members can be on a call committee.
- The Office of Bishop will come and do a call committee orientation.
- The Spirit continues to work through every step of this process.

**Old Business:**

- PPC Retreat Follow-up—some feel that we are not a welcoming congregation. Redouble our efforts. Pastors will announce this during worship to encourage all to participate. Sally will ask Linda to investigate nametags for PPC members that say, 'ask me'. Sunday Steward will be asked to be in the lobby area before and after services.
- Transition team update—timeline expected by Jason is to finish section 1 on June 23, move on to filling out the form and complete by end of August. Then the third section will be completed by October.
- Parsonage use for next year. New teacher use — A motion to approve allowing the new international teacher to use the parsonage was made by Lon and seconded by James. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

- Approval of stock proceeds reinvestment. The Gift Acceptance Policy instructs that stocks are to be cashed out upon receipt. Current money equals \$148K and the balance to reach \$150K will be from savings to open three CDs for \$50K each. One at 6 months, one at 1 year and one at 2 years. A motion to approve the investment amounts described was made by Eunice and seconded by James. Motion carried.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:18 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy K.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



## **Happy July Birthday!**

*The day is in parenthesis*

### **Our Youngest:**

Lennon Stuetzgen (27)

Cole Haffemann (30)

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

Claire Ryan (1)

Kenley Burke (2)

Jaelyn Sorg (2)

Briggs Ludowitz (4)

Vivian Coy (6)

Gibson Sweeney (6)

Amelia Ziehlsdorf (7)

Haylee Williams (11)

Paige Williams (11)

Beau Keller (14)

Bennett Steinmetz (15)

Marla Robarge (17)

Pria Steinmetz (17)

Amy Weittenhiller (21)

Cameron Johnson (22)

Addison Breunig (23)

Will Sandberg (24)

Gabbi Argall (27)

Jace Schultz (30)

Mylee Schultz (30)

Avery Jorgenson (31)

### **Our Youth:**

Jaret Buckles (1)

Beckett Stoffels (3)

Ethan Anderson (4)

Isabelle Kolnik (6)

Madyn Ludowitz (6)

Emelynn Miller (9)

Brock Esser (14)

Kennedy Colby (18)

Lillyann Nurkala (18)

Aubree Deuman (28)

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

Jaxson Dunn (1)

Emma Kinnamon (7)

Chloe Wernsing (12)

Anna Bruckert (19)

Dylan Sawyer (25)