

*Molly Philo, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade*

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Prairie du Sac, WI

August 2024

Dear Friends of St. John's,

My Dad was fond of little sayings that he carried around and would at the appropriate or inappropriate moments, share them at will. I noticed during one of our cherished fishing trips that he was moving a little slower and had a tough time trying to walk and balance on the rocky shoreline we were fishing from. His struggles would only get worse every year as his knee joints and hips would become more painful. I always encouraged him to get those joints looked at and possibly replaced but my Dad, being a stubborn soul, just learned to live with it. It was around this time that he started offering one of my favorite sayings he uttered with such disdain: "This getting old thing stinks!" Now he would also add in for good measure, some advice for me saying "Jay, don't ever get old."

Well, I can honestly say that no matter how much I want to slow the aging process and attempt to stay 25, it's impossible. We know that. We are 18 one day, and the next day we are 50, or 65, or 99. We see in the mirror, an older version of ourselves that we thought at one time would take forever to become. Time has a nasty tendency to follow us regardless of our trying to outrun it, avoid it, or deny it. I have met people who gladly acquiesce to their own aging, and they age as people point out, "so gracefully." Yet I tend to be that man who is aging not so much gracefully as I am begrudgingly. My eyesight keeps getting worse, my joints play a Neil Peart drum fill every time I rise out of bed in the morning, my beard is peppered with gray hair, and I can't seem to get enough naps in. One of my biggest struggles has been with my weight. Weight has been a lifelong battle, and it has produced some issues.

Last month, I was hospitalized with a fairly good-sized cellulitis that needed immediate attention. Now this was not my first “rodeo.” I have had seven of these before. I cannot stress this enough: there is no pain equal to these nasty infections. And I have become familiar with how they behave. Cellulitis is angry, relentless, and intrusive. But they are my own fault. Not taking care of my blood sugars and not reducing my A1C is in direct correlation to these infections making their unwelcome appearances. And usually, the plan of care involves a surgical procedure, antibiotics, and pain medications. This particular hospital stay at “Chez-UW” was full of ups and downs: IV infiltrations due to the caustic nature of the antibiotic and the infection itself was taking its sweet time getting better. Admittedly, the saving grace in all this was the incredible compassionate care of the nurses. They were the ones who shared a connective humanity in their attention, time, and conversations. These lovely men and women showed me such an empathic warmth in their care. And I was/am grateful for their professionalism and their hearts.

I might not like the challenges, the questions, and the unforeseen issues related to my health and the juggernaut known as aging. But what choice do I have? Sorry Dad, I can't NOT get old. Aging and the issues that come along with it are part of the limits we have in our mortality. Our mortal coil is not meant to last forever. We are here for a limited time. I once read that when we look at a gravestone and we see the dash between the date of birth and the date of death, that dash is the life we lived. That dash is between the limitation of our beginning and our end. That dash is our life. Was my Dad right? Does aging stink? Depends on how we embrace it. Aging is part of the natural order of how God made us, ensuring that we don't live forever, at least here on earth. Aging doesn't mean that we will not face difficulties, or challenges, or issues of health. We will face these, but we don't age alone. We age together. We age gaining wisdom of life. We age gaining a greater sense of self. We age in the dash between our birth and our death. But the life we live is up to us. Age doesn't mean we stop living. It means we get better at it. What joy is in our faith to see the dash as a gift that continues to reveal who we have been, who we are, and who we will be once our lives have finished. My friends, I wish us all good health, vibrant faith, and a joyful embrace of life.

Peace,  
Ye Olde 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:** 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 anytime. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

Tuna

Dish Soap

Cereal

Cookies

Sugar

Mayo

Pork & Beans

Microwave Popcorn

Granola Bars

Salt

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 August. The day is in parentheses.

Jackie Howery (2)  
200 Webster Ave. Apt. 16  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Susan Scherer (11)  
1527 Broadway  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jan Dobrzynski (14)  
50 Hemlock St., Unit 1  
Sauk City, WI 53583



Don Bohler (17)  
N750 Golf Road #3  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Ruth Dresser (22)  
1110 Eagle View Court  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Betty Sauer (22)  
N750 Golf Road #66  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marla Jean Lokken (23)  
1253 S. Forest Lane  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Gloria Moles (31)  
1605 Locust Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

	<b>Women of the Church News</b>	
	<b>Lydia Circle</b> Thursday, August 15, going out to eat and shop for LWR Sewing Kits	
	<b>Martha Circle</b> Thursday, August 1, Meeting at Maplewood Village for fellowship	9:30am
	<b>Ruth Circle</b> Monday, August 12, to work on LWR Baby Care Kits at St. John's	9:00am
	<b>Sarah/Mary Circle</b> Thursday, August 29 – will pack LWR Personal Care Kits at St. John's	9:30am

We were very pleased that there were 26 ladies in attendance at our All-Circles Picnic meeting on July 18th. We started with an exceptionally delicious brunch which was prepared and served by the Lydia Circle. This consisted of a cheese/sausage plate, a very nice fruit bowl, lots of coffee cake, muffins and delicious goodies, and of course coffee, tea and juice. Pastor Jason presented the Bible Study very interestingly.

After that Vicky Dresser entertained us with songs she had written herself.....Songs she said God had given her. She was a member of St. John's several years ago and we very much appreciate that she drove all the way from Wisconsin Rapids to sing for us. The songs she sang were absolutely wonderful! The offering for the day was \$200.

As noted in the last Visitor, in August we will take a little time off from our usual Bible Study meetings, but all Circles are diligently working on our Lutheran World Relief Kits. Lydia Circle plans to go out to eat and also shop for material for their sewing kits, Martha Circle plans to get together for some fellowship at Maplewood Village, play games and have some snacks. They are looking for sales and shopping for their many items for School Kits. Ruth and Sarah/Mary Circles are very busy working on their Baby and Personal Care Kits. We have a deadline of September 12th to have all kits packed in boxes and ready for shipping. We are so grateful to Thrivent for the \$250 grants to help with the expense of the various kits. On top of this, we are also grateful for help from congregational members shopping for various items. Thanks to Linda for always having lists of items needed in the Visitor and bulletins. We very much appreciate everybody's assistance in this huge endeavor.

We hope to have a good representation of ladies from St. John's go to the Synodical WELCA Retreat on October 5th at Bethany Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Dells. There will be worship, a keynote speaker, lunch and workshops. The "Pennies for Poverty"

Jar is in connection with this meeting, and they have chosen a charity in the Madison area for this year's donation. 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" Jar donations to 6:8. Last year we were happy to be able to give 6:8 \$300! Can we do the same this year? 6:8 does SO MUCH for our community! Pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars..... all count up and we hope to give 6:8 a nice amount again this year!

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

We will resume our regular Circle Meetings in September.  
The Bible Study Leaders meeting for September will be on  
Tuesday, August 27th at 9:00 a.m.

On August 20th, please read the Special Prayer in this  
Visitor.

## **Adult Education**

The schedule for adult education opportunities this Fall is currently under construction. Please keep an eye out in bulletins and Friday Notes emails for more information coming soon!



## **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 congregational 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. Welcome cards and Gift Cards may be brought to the church office before Tuesday, August 6th.

# SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray this prayer on August 20.

Gracious Lord, in times of uncertainty and fear, I seek your peace that transcends circumstances. Help me trust in your plan and find security in your promises. Quiet my anxious thoughts and fill my heart with your peace that guards my mind and soul. I surrender my worries to you, knowing that you are in control. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.



Thank you to the St John's bakers who provided bar cookies for the youth brat event fund raiser. The remaining bars have been frozen and will be used for Vacation Bible School treats. I appreciate your help with this event.

We will be honoring Intern Elise Iverson Uphoff at our coffee fellowship on August 11. Please come to welcome her to St John's!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve coffee during fellowship time. Your fellow coffee drinkers/treat eaters appreciate you. Please continue to sign up to help in the coming months.

Cathy McAlexander, Fellowship Board Chair

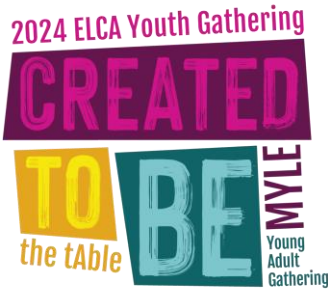
## SCHOOL STAFF



### Parish Education Staff Installation

We will install our 2024-2025 Educational staff on September 29 at both our 8:00 and 10:30am services. Included in this group are our Sunday School teachers and aides, librarians, Adult Education teachers, Confirmation teachers, Director of Music and Education Board members. Please join us as we rejoice in God's gifts made manifest in these individuals.





## **ELCA Youth Gathering: Summer 2024**

A group of Youth and chaperones from St. John's traveled to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. We will be eternally grateful to the St. John's community for making this experience possible.

The youth travelers and adult leaders talked about the trip and their experiences during the July 21<sup>st</sup> sermon. They shared, "The purpose of this trip was to meet like-minded youth, and to expand our relationships with God. We were challenged before we left to find Jesus each day...Jesus was extremely present in the energy of the nightly gatherings where all 16,000 of us gathered for the same purpose. But that energy extended beyond; out into the streets for the miles and miles we walked, and into the nightlife and dances that the Gathering sponsored for the youth late into each night.

I liked learning about "the work". I was reminded that struggling schools aren't the work, the education system is. Homeless people aren't the work, housing issues are the work. African Americans aren't the work, racism is the work. And so on, and so on. I found Jesus in the many uplifting stories and messages we took part in. We heard about being our true selves, accepting others as they are, and learned about being loud and disruptive to make change in the church, the community, and the world."

You can find the entire sermon and all of the photos at <https://tinyurl.com/YG2024Sermon>, use the QR code below or pick-up printed copies at the church office.





Dear Friends in Christ,

We have been gathering as a whole community for 9am worship for almost two full months now. That's so hard to believe. Thank you for being flexible and willing to engage in this holy experiment this summer!

This is an opportunity for another experiment – getting to know each other. I know just the suggestion of interacting with people can cause palms to sweat and hearts to race. That is not a judgment or put down. That is just a fact that we're all wired differently.

But I'd like to encourage us to take some risks when we're feeling bolder for the sake of growing in relationship as a faith community.

I'd like to offer a few suggestions for how we might get to know each other. A special thanks to Jackie Frosch for doing some research for me. 😊

1. Go beyond saying Hello. Welcome back, good to see you, glad you are here, etc. (If you don't know if they're a longtime member, lean toward comments like "good to see you.")

2. Seek out people that are looking for something and offer to help them find it, whether it's the restroom or a person they need to speak with.

3. Smile (obvious one, but still needs to be said).

4. Include children - say hello, notice their toy, compliment them in some way, etc. It might make it easier to connect with the parent(s).

5 It's OK to ask for names... "I'm sorry, I don't recall your name! I'm so-n-so..."

6. If not comfortable with #5., ask someone else if they know a name, then approach the person. (Sometimes the pastors do this!)

7. Volunteer for projects. Great way to meet people you may never have a chance to meet.

8. Be a greeter or an usher. Another great way to meet people, or to simply reconnect with old acquaintances.

We all have different areas of comfort and that is OKAY! Find what works best for you and allows you to build relationships with those around you.

Hebrews 13:2 states, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

You never know what impact you might have on someone's day or even their faith when you simply say hello and get to know one another.

I invite you to try and see what happens!

Blessings,



### **Baby Congratulations**

We celebrate with Sabrina and Kolton Carpenter on the birth of their daughter Amelia Kay. She was born July 9 and joins her big sister Lily at home. Amelia is the granddaughter of Steve Yanke and the great-granddaughter of Eunice Yanke.

We also rejoice with Jacob and Tabatha Jones on the birth of their daughter Morgan Rose. She was born on July 7 and her grandparents are Joanna and Andy Jones. Morgan's great-grandparents are April and Larry Sawyer.



### **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Barb Salveson on the death of her sister, Mary Kay Rothschild. We also extend sympathy to Mary Kay's nieces, Sarah Warmke and Dana Haroldson and brother-in-law, Dale Haroldson.

Lynn and Sergiy Artemchuk and family on the death of Lynn's mother, Sandy Frey. We also include condolences for Sandy's sister-in-law, Maragaret Diehl and cousins Ginny Nimmow, Donna Hosking, Gretchin Cutler and John Laughnan.

Jamie, Chad and Cole Haug on the death of Jamie's aunt, Mary Ann Leiser.

## Organ Repair Fundraising

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 plate 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.



## WELCA Pennies for Poverty Jar

We remind you to look for the Penny Jar on the name tag table each Sunday and donate! Little coins can add up to big amounts!



American  
Red Cross

## Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive in St. John's fellowship hall on Monday, September 16 beginning at 11am. Go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment. Appointments do tend to fill up quickly, so check it out today!

## 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

# Sunday School News

## **Rally Day**

Mark your calendars for Rally Day (Sunday School registration) on Sunday, September 22 at 9:15-10:30am. Get your students registered for Sunday School, receive important handouts and have some fun! Begin the adventure in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Back-to-School Blessing**

With another school year just beginning, we want to celebrate and bless the beginning of the school year with a special Back-to-School Blessing also on Sunday, September 22 at both services. We invite students of all ages, teachers, principals, administrators, school office personnel, cooks, librarians, custodians, bus drivers...anyone that plays a role in our school systems...to come, be blessed, and affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work. Join us for this Milestone Ministry event!

## **Sunday School Superintendent Search**

We haven't received any interest in our Sunday School Superintendent position. Pastor Sally is working on coordinating this year's program and would love some extra help, even if it doesn't come in the form of a formal superintendent. Are you interested in gathering attendance and offering? Helping with a one-time project? Like to organize closets? Please contact her at [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org) or through the front office.

## **Sunday School Teachers Needed**

We are looking to fill our open teaching spots for the 2024-2025 Sunday School year.

3-year-olds

Kindergarten

4th grade

Are you willing to teach or co-teach one of these classes? Please contact Pastor Sally at [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org) or through the front office asap!

We are also always looking to add subs to our list.

# Middle and High School News

## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes start next month! On Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> we invite all confirmation students and guardians to attend Welcome Back night. We'll have a fellowship meal at 5:30pm, and the Welcome Back program begins at 6:00pm. Each student must be accompanied by an adult. Come meet our confirmation teachers, pick up your students' workbooks and get to know the other confirmation families that make this a great program.

## Worship Jobs in Summer

The "Summer" season for Worship Jobs goes through September. We are asking each student to participate in 4 Worship Jobs during this period. If your student is struggling to complete their worship jobs, as a requisite part of the Confirmation Program, please contact Penny (penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org) for help.

You can sign-up for the available spots at <https://signup.com/go/zUSmdZw>.



## Stock the Schools

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. Items for August are: **School Supplies: pencils, pens, colored pencils, washable markers, sharpies, folders, 3-inch binders, divider tabs for binders and washable glue sticks.** Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations. Thank you.

## Serving in August

### Greeters

Aug. 4 (Front Doors)  
(Sanctuary)

Aug. 11 (Front Doors)  
(Sanctuary)

Aug. 18 (Front Doors)  
(Sanctuary)

Aug. 25 (Front Doors)  
(Sanctuary)

### 9:00 a.m.

Jackie Frosch  
Gerry and Deb Westphal

Rich and Kris Frey  
John and Ellen Mast

Liam Hart  
Reid Hart

Todd and Gina Wytttenbach

### Ushers

August 4

Bill Burton  
Gerry Westphal  
Brock Esser

Lon Kaderavek  
Deb Westphal  
Lilly Weittenhiller

August 11

Bill Burton  
Aubree Deuman

Lon Kaderavek  
Kendra Frey

August 18

Lon Kaderavek  
Paityn Hauge

Cooper Rennie  
Todd Wytttenbach

August 25

Gina Wytttenbach  
Lon Kaderavek  
Cooper Rennie

Madyn Ludowitz

### 9:00 a.m.

### Acolytes

August 4

Claire Hansen

Charlie Lueck

August 11

Kate Endres

Carly Jorgenson

August 18

Willy Pickett

Violet Richard

August 25

Clay Hutchins

Kiptyn Suchla

### 9:00 a.m.

### Assisting Ministers

August 4

Patty Barritt

August 11

Clay Hutchins

August 18

Donna Knickmeyer

August 25

Jordan Small

### 9:00 a.m.

### Readers

August 4

Marilyn Herschleb

August 11

Dale Haroldson

August 18

Nancy Kaufman

August 25

Kathy Lovell

### 9:00 a.m.

### Cantors

August 4

Becky Weittenhiller

August 11

Jeff and Kathy Ochsankel

August 18

Doug Slater

August 25

Doris Lohr

### 9:00 a.m.

**Communion**

August 4  
August 11  
August 18  
  
August 25

**Set-Up**

Marilyn Herschleb  
Gwen Ringelstetter  
Carson Lohr  
Myla Steinmetz  
Holly Kindschi

**Clean-Up**

Marcia/Roger Howard  
Gwen Ringelstetter  
Violet Richard  
Braylin Breunig  
Holly Kindschi

**Communion Assistants**

August 4  
August 11  
August 18  
August 25

**9:00 a.m.**

Patty Barritt  
Kris Frey  
Violet Richard  
Dale Clason

**Technical Support**

August 4  
August 11  
August 18  
August 25

**9:00 a.m.**

Alyssa Himebauch, Bryce Argall  
Ellen Jorgensen, Liam Hart, Reid Hart  
Jeff, Nicole, Audrey, Will Sandberg  
Alyssa Himebauch, Ellen Jorgensen

**Sunday Stewards**

August 4  
August 11  
August 18  
August 25

**9:00 a.m.**

Sean Jager  
Cathy Yanke  
Lon Kaderavek  
Nancy Passehl

**Coffee Servers**

August 4  
August 11  
August 18  
August 25

Linda Michaels  
Dottie Maly  
John and Linda Hines  
Ziehlsdorf Family



**Worship Time Change**

Beginning Sunday, **September 8** (the Sunday after Labor Day), we will transition to **8:00am and 10:30am worship services** with the ZOOM option available at both services.

Sunday School and Adult Education will begin classes on September 29 at 9:15am. Rally Day is September 22.



## Lutheran World Relief Kits

Please help us complete kits before September 12<sup>th</sup>.



### 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 24 crayons
- One** 2 ½ inch eraser

\*\*pencil sharpeners and notebooks are especially needed



### Personal care kit supplies

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

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



### **Baby care kit supplies**

- Two cotton/cotton-blend t-shirts
- Two gowns or sleepers without feet
- Two receiving blankets
- Four cloth diapers
- One hand towel
- One sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket with a hood, (or include a baby cap)
- Two pairs of baby socks
- Two bath-size bars of Ivory soap
- 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!*

## **Meet the Boards of the Parish Planning Council**

This month we feature the Lay Ministry Board.

Have you ever been to worship and noticed the altar or sanctuary has been decorated? Or wondered who takes care of getting all those volunteers to help the church service run smoothly? Have you enjoyed the music and thought about how it all comes together? The answer to all those questions (and many more!) is the LAY MINISTRY BOARD! We are the part of the Parish Planning Council that handles anything to do with WORSHIP! The Lay Ministry Board is responsible for the many financial and volunteer segments of the church service including:

- Church certificates and candles for baptism, sponsors, first communion, and affirmation.
- Communion supplies (both individual packets and traditional communion) communion set up, clean up and communion assistants.
- Christmas Eve candle purchasing, set up and take down of Christmas Eve Candlelight services.
- Maintaining oil in church candles and cleaning the brass candle stands.
- All areas of music including Sunday worship, adult choir, children's choir and handbell choir as well as purchasing music and necessary supplies.
- Responsible for flowers including palms, Easter flowers and geraniums for Pentecost along with altar flowers every Sunday.
- Decorating church for special occasions including Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Funding Portals of Prayer.
- Cleaning of altar supplies (linens and robes).
- Funding the tuning of pianos and organ.
- Funding of special technical equipment for streaming church services online.
- Scheduling volunteers for readers, greeters, ushers, communion assistants and communion set-up and clean-up volunteers. We also maintain informative instructions for these volunteer duties.

### Lay Ministry Board

Gina Varley- Director

Members: Connie Burton- Altar Candles and Paraments

Marilyn Herschleb- Communion Setup/Cleanup

Cheryl Sprecher- Greeters

Ruellene Seymour- Music/Choir

Kathy Lovell- Readers

Jennifer Sawle- Special Occasions/Flowers

Mary Weeks- Communion Assistants  
Gina Wyttenbach- Ushers  
Donna Knickmeyer- Member at Large  
Pastor Sally Williams  
Interim Pastor Jason Hill

If you are looking for an easy way to get involved at St. John's please feel free to reach out to me or any of the other members! We'd love to have you!

## **PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES July 2, 2024**

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

**Absent:** Sally Williams, Eunice Yanke, Sean Jager

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Lon and seconded by Nancy P. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by James.

### **Secretary Minutes:**

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

### **Treasurer report:**

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

The income for June exceeded the expenses by \$1000, which helps catch us up a little. The remainder of the funds set aside for the youth trip were moved to checking for the bills coming up. The proceeds from the stock sale were put into three certificates of deposit at Bank of Prairie du Sac. \$50K each in a 6-month, one year, and two-year certificates.

## June report numbers

Current Month Income	YTD Income	Current Month Expenses	YTD Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$43,402	\$241,181	\$42,099	\$293,065	\$306,632

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

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Evangelism:** Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- Photos were taken of new members
- A stash of previous pet blessing photos was found and will be put into a collage
- The Evangelism Committee will sign up to serve coffee after church

**Fellowship:** Cathy McAlexander reported:

- We honored Roger Maynard with a birthday cake provided by his family.
- The St John's Bakers provided bar cookies for the Youth Brat event/ New Member welcome.
- Thank you to all who have volunteered to serve coffee during fellowship.

**Lay Ministry:** Gina Varley reported:

- No report provided.

**Parish Education:** James Newman reported:

- Discussed 2025 budget
- Sunday School Rally Day set for Sept 22
- VBS at the beginning of August
- Sally and Penny to discuss how to integrate our Intern into confirmation structure
- Adult Ed: Pastor Jason leading a book study
- Adult Library / Children's Library discussion

**Properties:** Lon Kaderavek reported:

- Parsonage needs some cleaning after the teacher moved out.
- Window repair in the parsonage was quoted at \$2000. Will get a second bid.

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

- Huge shout out to the Mobile Meal volunteers!

Thank you for sharing your time and kindness with our neighbors. Without you, this program would not be possible.

- PR & Social Concerns has a few projects in development. More to report this Fall.

**Stewardship Board:** Anne Klinkner reported:

- All supporting forms for the recently adopted Gift Acceptance Policy have been approved. Linda Hines and Anne Klinkner will meet to review the use of the forms.
- As part of the approved Gift Acceptance Policy the current stocks were converted to cash. There were three Certificate of Deposits purchased for \$50,000 each and invested as follows:
  - 1/3 of the proceeds in a 6-month CD
  - 1/3 of the proceeds in a 1-year CD
  - 1/3 of the proceeds in a 2-year CD
- Research continues additional or enhanced methods of electronic giving for donations. There will be a Vanco presentation later this fall as part of Adult Education.
- Stewardship Sunday will be October 20, 2024.
- The Stewardship Board prepared the preliminary budget for 2025 for the Stewardship Board and Special Benevolence budgets.

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

- July 18th ALL Circles Brunch Picnic in the fellowship hall at 10am. Pastor Jason will lead the Bible Study. ALL women of St. John's are invited.
- Let's start gathering items for our Lutheran World Relief kits! Kits need to be boxed and ready to go by September 12.
- Quilters are looking for new or gently used sheets to complete their goal of 400 quilts this year.
- No Bible Study in August.
- Synodical WELCA Women's' Retreat October 5 at Bethany Lutheran in Wisconsin Dells.
- Remember to give to the "Pennies for Poverty" Jar!

**Youth Committee:** Tracy Pape reported:

- Event planning has been underway for our fundraising event - Brats and Jesus. The timeline of the event was shared, reviewed, and discussed.
- Updates regarding the Youth trip to New Orleans were shared, reviewed, and discussed.

- A vision board was created to provide a year-at-a-glance, month-by-month reference tool for the Youth Board, highlighting events throughout the calendar year.
- Cow Chip Parade discussion was had.
- What's Next: In September we will welcome our confirmation students to St. John's

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

- No report provided.

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

- No report provided

## **Pastors/Intern Reports**

**Interim Jason's Report:**

- June was a busy month as I experienced officiating three very different funerals. I co-officiated the funeral for Rev. Eldor Fruehling along with Pastor Sally on June 7<sup>th</sup>. I was then honored to officiate the funeral for Sterling Walsh on June 24<sup>th</sup>. That same week I officiated a funeral for a non-church member at Hooverson's on June 8<sup>th</sup> for Marilyn Gilding. A HUGE thank you to all our staff and volunteers who helped with arrangements, luncheons, facilities, and music. These were large funerals, and many hands were involved with making sure families and friends were welcomed, with the most generous of hospitality shared graciously. Thank you to all who made it all happen.
- I also led a memorial service for Rev. Fruehling at Maplewood Village on June 12 for the residents who live there. Eldor was a resident at Maplewood Village for a few years and was very well loved and respected. Around 25 residents attended, where I led a small prayer time, and opened up the time for residents to share stories and memories of Eldor. Many people recalled how Eldor was such a kind and gentle soul who always took the time to listen and care.
- New Member Sunday was held on June 30<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the "Brats for Jesus" (National Youth Gathering Fundraiser) event after worship. 21 mailings and emails were sent out to perspective members who have attended worship at SJLC. Out of those mailings and emails, one person indicated that she wanted to officially join as a new member, and we welcomed her warmly on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- After advertising I will be offering a book study for the month of July, I was pleased to see such an interest. I have ten people who

will be reading the book (The Thing Beneath the Thing by Steve Carter) and joining me throughout the month of July following worship for conversation and discovery. There is always room to add more people as welcomed.

### **TNT PPC report:**

- I know that TNT team member Donna Knickmeyer sent out a TNT update for this month's Visitor that contains the bulk of what I wanted to report on. But I wanted to add an addendum to her update. We had a successful turnout for the "celebrating the timeline" following worship on June 23. I was pleased to hear from so many people who shared memories, stories, and events regarding St. John's history. I learned that Arthur Ness has a "steel-trap" for a memory and he recalled many details around timeline with pastors, traditions, and people. At the end of this time, I asked the participants what they hope for the future for St. John's. People are optimistic and hopeful during this time of change and transition.
- TNT continues its important work of gathering information in this next phase of work in studying the demographics and context around St. John's, interviewing community leaders in their own professions to inquire what they see are the greatest needs in the community, and to assess collegiality among the area churches by interviewing those individual clergy leaders.

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

- The intern office was painted by Vi and Don Bohler this week. It looks great. Thank you, Bohlers! Cliff and Cindy Thompson, co-chairs, and I have been meeting to talk through the logistics and big picture philosophy on communication, leadership development, congregational engagement, etc.
- There has not been any interest shown in the position of Sunday School Superintendent. Please share any prospective names with me so I can reach out personally to invite them to consider this position. We are open to co-supers and/or a group of people to do this work together.
- Penny and I are working on a new format for 9th grade confirmation that has a special focus on our relationship with scripture and service (a more hands on approach).
- Please support our youth's fundraising efforts at Brats for Jesus on June 30! Proceeds will go to disaster relief kits and world hunger funds.
- VBS planning is going well. Please be sure to invite any students who have completed kindergarten through 6th grade. We have plenty of room!



**Old Business:**

- PPC Retreat Follow-up—suggest using the ‘Council’ title on name tags instead of title with name tag, be here early to meet people. Greet if needed.
- Parsonage use for next year, New Teacher use—not needed. SPSPD will not have another foreign exchange teacher next year
- Transition team update—Jason wants to schedule check-in meetings with Bishop Joy and Marie and combine the PPC and TNT groups to meet at the same time. Will propose July 31 as first choice of a meeting date.

**New Business:**

- Budget—all committee budgets have been turned in except two. Great job!
- Nominating committee—Those already on the committee are Janelle Hupp, Josie Fentress, Kathy Lovell, Donna Knickmeyer and Pastor Sally Williams. We need three from the PPC to volunteer. Nancy P, Roger, and Anne volunteered. Cathy M made a motion to accept the volunteers, and the motion was seconded by James. Motion carried.
- Transition team forms—members of the PPC are among a very small group being asked to complete the form. Return to Jason’s mailbox.
- Brats for Jesus—Shout out from Jason to Tracy for a successful event. Tracy was complimentary of the kids and others who helped make the day a success. Profit at this time is \$709. Expect it may change a bit before the books are final. Made 170 brats!

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm. with The Lord’s Prayer led by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



## **Happy August Birthday!**

*The date is in parenthesis*

### **Our Youngest:**

Briar Wytttenbach (14)

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

Ellen Krueger (1)	Natalia Kelley (4)
Rayne Kruchten (4)	Marli Fisher (7)
Eldin Nelson (9)	Elsie Orris (11)
Quinn Goetsch (13)	Odessa Wolfe (13)
Rhett Kruchten (14)	Graham Goodwin (15)
Grayson Sailor (15)	Cameron Ayers (16)
Natalie Schulenburg (17)	Laila Steinmetz (17)
Elliot Herbrand (18)	Khloe Perry (18)
Isaac Sailor (22)	Grace Hanson (24)
Olivia Steinmetz (24)	Andrew Kraus (25)
Janie Kinney (26)	Rosemary Nolden (27)
Giselle Plescia (28)	

### **Our Youth:**

Ella Stephan (1)	Chesney Braund (4)
Hana Smith (8)	Cashton Suchla (9)
Addison Douglas (10)	Brayton Bahe (14)
Josie Frey (18)	Chase Urban (22)
Dylan Walker (24)	Violet Richard (25)
Olivia Thorne (30)	Natalie Nurkala (31)

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

None this month