



Photo by Penny Johnson

Prairie du Sac, WI

September 2024



It is Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Time again here at St. John's!

We blessed our quilts and LWR kits during worship on August 25, 2024. They will soon be packed in boxes and ready for transport to Madison where they will be loaded in a boxcar to travel to Minneapolis, MN. From Minnesota they will be sent around the globe to destinations in East Africa, West Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, to the people and places in the most need of aid. We are reaching hundreds of people! Each quilt or kit helps change someone's daily life. Thank you for reaching out to others.

Below are some of our kits being assembled for shipment.



Fabric Kits



Baby Care Kits



Personal Care Kits





Parish Planning Council Members:

Executive Director	Nancy Kaufman	(608) 963-0151
Assistant Exec Director	Nancy Passehl	(608) 219-1936
Secretary	Cathy Yanke	(608) 434-4869
Treasurer	Donna Nelson	(608) 393-4660
Evangelism Board	Gwen Ringelstetter	(608) 643-6922
Fellowship Board	Cathy McAlexander	(402) 689-5196
Lay Ministry Board	Gina Varley	(608) 963-0325
Member-at-Large	Roger Seymour	(608) 588-3198
Parish Education Board	James Newman	(608) 512-7623
Properties Board	Lon Kaderavek	(608) 434-2928
PR and Social Concerns	Ellen Jorgensen	(262) 995-3248
Stewardship Board	Anne Klinkner	(608) 393-6453
Women of ELCA	Eunice Yanke	(608) 643-8289
Youth Board	Tracy Pape	(608) 574-0577
Youth Member-at-Large	Sean Jager	(608) 643-2439

The Staff:

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

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

Intern Elise Iverson Uphoff elise@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour

ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Youth Director: Penny Johnson penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Custodian: John Hines john@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Office Coordinator: Linda Hines linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Financial Secretary: Bruce Fritsch bruce@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Sunday School Superintendents:

sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org

St. John's Lutheran Church: 643-2439 www.stjohnssaukprairie.org

Like us on Facebook at St Johns Lutheran Sauk Prairie

Mission Statement: Christ, our strength and refuge, calling us to serve.

St. John's Lutheran Church
100 Oak Street
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christ,
our strength
and refuge,
calling us
to serve

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 23
Prairie du Sac,
Wisconsin 53578



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

Canned Corn
Canned Chili
Dish Soap

Hamburger Helper
Cornbread Mix
Paper Towels

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 September. The day is in parentheses.

Gene Mowitz (5)
S7499 Hwy. 23
Loganville, WI 53949

Fay Rentmeester (5)
930 Prairie St., Apt. 203
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Benny Stenner (10)
415 Brigham Lane
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Almay Nelson (13)
821 Hanksfield Place
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Mary Risgaard (17)
507 Lake Wisconsin Drive
Merrimac, WI 53561


Joyce Kinnamon (18)
1008 Elm St., Apt 204
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Ellen Hamlin (19)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Henry Elsing (21)
2020 Hanksfield Place
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Janet Anderson (22)
1020 Monroe Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Dick Yanke (26)
S9080 Meadowdale Rd.
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, September 12, at Darlene Holl's, 418 Lueders Rd., Apt. 9, Sauk City	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, September 5, in St. John's fellowship hall to assemble LWR School Kits	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, September 9, at Patty Barritt's, 314 Hickory St., Sauk City	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, September 3, in St. John's Library	9:30am

In September we will begin a Bible Study on "Receiving Grace: A Study of Ephesians" by Rev. Heidi Haverkamp. Diane Elsing, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester will be leading the Study. During August all the Circles met, but we didn't have our regular meetings and Bible Studies because most of us had our Lutheran World Relief kits to work on. The deadline is September 12th for having them all finished, packed up and ready for shipping. We still have lots to do.

We now have more information about the WELCA South Central Wisconsin Synodical Retreat on October 5th at Bethany Lutheran church in Wisconsin Dells. (620 Broadway Ave.)

TURNING THE WORLD RIGHT SIDE UP is the theme.

2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is all you need, for my power is the greatest when you are weak".

Registration: Early Bird registration from now to September 10: \$30. September 11 through October 5: \$50! . (FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE GATHER MAGAZINE. We use this magazine for our Bible Study at our Circle Meetings.)

Schedule: 8:30-9:00 Registration/Refreshments

9:45 Worship w/communion, offering, Blessing on in-kind gifts (See list below)

10-11 a.m. Keynote speaker – Rev. Madeline Burbank

11:15 12:30 lunch and conversation

12:30-2:20 Workshops (See list below)

1:35-3:00 pm. Closure

Offering Allocations: 50% to South-Central Synod of Wisconsin WELCA; and 50%; to Lutheran Campus Ministry (at Madison, Platteville, Whitewater.)

IN-KIND DONATIONS: (We hope to take to the meeting some of the following “In-Kind” Donations): for the River Haven Homeless Shelter: paper towels, toilet paper, garbage bags, quart & gallon zip bags, dish soap, laundry soap, toilet bowl cleaner, kitchen sponges, Lysol spray, deep pocket mattress protectors (twin & full size), shower curtain liners and hooks, Walmart gift cards, Aldi gift cards, Kwik Trip gift cards, postage stamps, copy paper, mops, buckets, brooms, dustpans, plastic food storage containers, AA and AAA batteries. **We would love help from the congregation.**

WORKSHOPS: Chair Yoga, Card Making, Prayers and Prayer Shawls, Heart to Home—A Guide to Local Resources, Nurturing our Waterways in the Age of Plastics, Loving Lutherans: Nurturing Mental Health in an Election Year & Beyond.

We hope to have a good representation from St. John’s attending this meeting. We will carpool and you should let Linda know if you would like to attend by September 8th. Early bird registration is \$20 cheaper!

The Pennies for Poverty Jar is in connection with this meeting. We have chosen to give our Pennies Jar money to 6:8 here... in our own community... instead of the one they chose in Madison. Please remember to give to 6:8 in the Pennies Jar on the name tag table! We are hoping for the same as we gave last year (\$300!). We all know that 6:8 does A LOT for those in need here in this community.

Martha Circle is visiting Special Friends in August and September.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for September will be on Tuesday, August 27th at 9:00 a.m. The Leaders Meeting for October will be on Tuesday, September 24th at 9:00 a.m.

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



Trails and Tastings at Bethel Horizons, Dodgeville, WI Saturday October 5th, 1-5pm. Gather your crew and spend a beautiful day of hiking, biking, music, and food at Bethel Horizons for Trails & Tasting on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 1-5pm.

Push yourself to complete the 3 Cliff Challenge! This is a free, family-friendly hiking and biking event with varying difficulty levels and distance. Following your hike/bike, stick around for live music and food. Register [here](#) or at BethelHorizons.org

Adult Education

This fall Pastor Jason will lead a Book Study during the Adult Education hour beginning September 29 through October 27. The book to read is “Messy Spirituality” by Mike Yaconelli. The book is available for purchase online. Pastor Jason can assist in ordering also. If you are interested in signing up, please email Pastor Jason or call the church office.



Must See Movie Opportunity

Concerned Citizens Against Christian Nationalism invites you to watch **BAD FAITH**. This movie will be shown Oct. 7, 5:30pm, at the Carnegie-Schadde Memorial Public Library, 230 4th Ave., Baraboo. Discussion will follow. To some extent, each of us participates in Christian Nationalism. Bad Faith explores the strong political forces which have led to a dangerous rise of Christian Nationalism as a fear-filled ideology causing division in the United States. For more information contact Peter Heide, 608-356-8219.

*The function of prayer is not to influence God,
but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.*

— **Soren Kierkegaard**



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 on Sunday, September 22 at both services. We invite students of all ages, teachers, aides, principals, administrators, school office personnel, cooks and kitchen workers, librarians, custodians, bus drivers...anyone that plays a role in our school systems...to come on September 22 to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work. Join us for this special blessing!

Parish Education Staff Installation

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

SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray for peace on the 20th day of each month. On September 20, please repeat the following prayer:

Dear Lord, there is so much going on in the world... So much that is upsetting and beyond my control. Please help me to cast my cares on you. Help me to turn my worry time into prayer time. Please help all who are dealing with tragedies, illness, adversity and losses. Please put your angels about those who are in harm's way. Pour out your blessings on all who are in need and help us all to find your peace that passes understanding. Thank you for being with me each moment of this day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



JUST BAKERY
A JustDane Initiative

Just Bakery will be back on Sunday, September 15 between our worship services. Stop in the fellowship hall to check them out!



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. **Items needed for September are: Shampoo/Conditioner, Body Wash/Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Tampons, Feminine Pads and Pantyliners.** Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations. Thank you.

Thank You

Dear St. John's,

With your gift of \$214 we were able to respond to the Bluffview families through the coalition. Thank you for your ongoing support of Bluffview. Your support is amazing!

6:8's Community Outreach



Dear Friends in Christ,

I've been chewing on the following quote from George Addair, "Everything you've ever wanted is sitting on the other side of fear." I can't stop thinking about this; probably because there have been several times that fear has stopped me.

Viewing snake exhibits, driving go-carts, and riding Ferris wheels are some fears that I avoid, but I can argue keep me safe and alive (that might be a tad dramatic). Then there are the more complicated fears of speaking up in the heat of conflict, risking saying something that might make someone mad, or sharing my faith when someone on the airplane asks me what I do for a living. Does the avoidance of those fears keep me safe and alive? Or do they keep me safe in my mind, but keep me from living? Living fully, that is.

Faith and church are often described as a safe haven for people. A place and existence where they can feel buoyed up with comfort and strength and love. Yes, our faith and our church communities are beautiful sources of safety.

And. But. Yet....insert your favorite conjunction...alongside the comforting and healing Jesus did a lot of poking, prodding, and provoking as he challenged the powers that be, challenged the religious traditions, and challenged the hearts and minds of the people.

I wonder how we might make room for both of these things as we begin a new school year together? How do we make room for both being a place of refuge AND being a place of challenge for the sake of the Gospel?

I invite you to think about that this month and ask yourself where do you need some comfort and where do you need to be challenged? Habits and mindset? The way you think and/or judge others? Do you need to be kinder to yourself? More open to change?

The promise of refuge in Christ will always be there. As will the fear, most likely. But what will you do with it? Will you let it stop you? Or will you let it compel you to move through it and see what's on the other side?

There was darkness and fear and suffering on the cross, but on the other side was and is life, hope and peace. I can't help but wonder what might be on the other side of our fear when we really put ourselves out there and live as Jesus calls us to live.

Wonder with me, my friends. "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6.

In God's Grip,



Hello
My name is

Intern

Hello! I am your new Pastoral Intern here at St. John's and would like to express my deepest gratitude for the welcome I have received from those I've met thus far!

I am a Luther Seminary Student in Word and Sacrament, which prepares me to become a Pastor of a Church, if I am called. This is a culminating internship, meaning I am done with classes, and internship is the final step for graduation.

I was born and raised in Southern California. I didn't attend church regularly, but from a young age, I felt consistent faith in God. Our family was active and spent most weekends sailing in San Diego. Then and now, I experience the glory of God in the natural world, and relish when I can feel small compared to the wonder and majesty of God's creation.

I moved from California after high school, looking for a richer cultural experience, and landed in New Mexico for an undergraduate in Civil Engineering. Throughout my time in college, I sought a faith community that might help me feel grounded and connected. I attended my local Catholic parishes before finding the ELCA through another Mom in the school pick up line. The ELCA was open and welcoming.

My family and I live in Madison. I serve on the Executive Board for Bethel Horizons in Dodgeville, and occasionally work as a Night Chaplain for Meriter Hospital.

I am thrilled to be on a journey with all of you for the next year, as I learn and grow in faith. I pray that we grow together. As Jesus commissioned in John 20:17, may we be present with each other to witness Christ as the Son of God, and God as our loving Father. Thanks be to God!

In peace,
Elise



New Baby

Rosalind Fay Nelson, daughter of Kevin and Dr. Kia Nelson was born July 26, 2024. She is welcomed home by brother Eldin, grandparents Doug and Donna Nelson and great-grandparents Bob and Almay Nelson.



Baptisms

St. John's welcomed these new brothers in Christ through their baptisms in August:

Waylon Alan Sweeney, the son of David and Jennifer Sweeney was baptized on August 4, 2024. His sponsors are Josh Shaffer and Stephanie Welke.

Weston James LaBerge, the son of Bobby and Brienne LaBerge was baptized on August 25, 2024. His sponsors are Tanner and Kristin Oehlke and Steve and Melanie Falsetti. His congregational sponsor is Tayler Goodwin.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Butch and Nancy Passehl and their family on the death of Butch's brother-in-law, Gary Christiansen.

John and Aletha Ballweg on the death of John's uncle, Roland Mack.

Miranda and Billy Pickett and their family on the death of Miranda's father, Steve Petersen.

Please keep these families in your prayers.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your recent donation of \$25 for the support of our medical services.

The Good Neighbor Clinic

TNT SEPTEMBER UPDATE

The TNT Committee has compiled your data, and we are hoping to proceed to the next stage of our transition. We will be meeting with Bishop Joy, her assistant, Marie, and the PPC to discuss our goals and the next steps. Because of the questions you answered, we are able to fill out parts of the Ministry Site Profile to help the Call Committee. We want to thank all of you for your input which is making our job easier. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jason, Kristin Ryan, Marv Hupp, Derek Rosenstiel, Jordan Small, Megan Tarnutzer, or Donna Knickmeyer.



St. John's is scheduled to deliver Mobile Meals from the Sauk Prairie Hospital two weeks of October. The dates are October 14 – 18 and October 21 – 25. Delivery time is usually one hour beginning about 11:30am. More details are on the sign-up sheet on the kiosk. If you are interested and have questions, please contact Ellen Jorgensen at domine.ellen@gmail.com.



KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

St. John's Children's Choir

Are you in 2nd grade and above? Do you like to sing? Kids of the Kingdom might be just what you are looking for!! We meet on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:45pm, and usually sing in church at least twice a month.

If you are not sure about joining the choir, come try us out for a few weeks and then make your decision about singing with us. Rehearsals will start Wednesday, Sept 11. Please let me know if you will be joining us, so I can be sure to have a folder ready for you. If you have questions, email me at ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org.

Ruellene

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.



3-Year-Old & 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

On Sunday, October 6, at the 8am & 10:30am worship services we will present Bibles to our 3-year-olds and third grade youth. In our Baptismal liturgy we promise to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of our candidates. A letter was sent home at the end of August with more details. If you did not receive a letter, please contact Pastor Sally at 608-643-2439 or email sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, Sept. 25! All confirmation students and at least one guardian should plan to attend the Welcome Back night on September 25, 2024. Our fellowship meal starts at 5:30pm, and the Welcome Back program begins at 6pm. Meet our confirmation teachers, complete the required paperwork, pick up your students' workbooks and get to know the other confirmation families that make this a great program. You can find the full confirmation calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/ConfirmCal>

ELCA Youth Bible Study

Did you know that the ELCA Youth Ministry offers a weekly bible study, specifically for our youth? You can follow the "Faith Lens" bible study for youth at <https://blogs.elca.org/faithlens/> These Weekly Bible studies engage youth and young adults in connecting world events with the Bible, faith, and everyday life.

Serving in September

Greeters:

	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	
Sept 1 (Front Door)	Cheryl and Steve Sprecher	
(Sanctuary)	Cindy and Cliff Thompson	
(Side Door)	Dale Clason	
	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Sept 8 (Front Door)	Rich and Kris Frey	Doris Lohr
(Sanctuary)	Linda Lintl	Gina and Tom Varley
(Side Door)	John/Linda Hines	Dale Clason
Sept 15 (Front Door)	Khloe Walker	Isabelle Jolicoeur
Sept 22 (Front Door)	Don and Vi Bohler	
(Sanctuary)	Roger Maynard	Ginny Nimmow
Sept 29 (Front Door)	Steve/Cheryl Sprecher	Roger/Marcia Howard

Ushers:

	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	
September 1	Butch and Nancy Passehl, Lon Kaderavek, Isabelle Jolicoeur, Landon Pape	
	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
September 8	Lon Kaderavek	Tom Varley
	Dale Haroldson	Gina Varley
	Josie Kinney	Michael Jolicoeur
		Isabelle Jolicoeur
September 15	Steve Kindschi	Kathy Lovell
	Holly Kindschi	Joel Liedtke
	Myla Steinmetz	Claire Hansen
		Isabelle Jolicoeur
September 22	Butch Passehl	Gerry Westphal
	Nancy Passehl	Deb Westphal
	Carly Jorgenson	Brock Esser
		Josie Kinney
		Laura Hutchins
September 29	Todd Wyttenbach	Joel Liedtke
	Gina Wyttenbach	Claire Hansen
	Paityn Hauge	Alyssa Himebauch

Acolytes:

	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	
September 1	Parker Pape, Michael Jolicoeur	
	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
September 8	Madyn Ludowitz	Myla Steinmetz
September 15	Alyssa Himebauch	Michael Jolicoeur
September 22	Joslyn Schultz	Clay Hutchins
September 29	Willy Pickett	Michael Jolicoeur

Assisting Ministers: 9:00 a.m.

September 1 Patty Barritt

September 8

8:00 a.m.

Marv Hupp

September 15

Jordan Small

September 22

Jordan Small

September 29

Jordan Small

10:30 a.m.

Marv Hupp

Jordan Small

Donna Knickmeyer

Jordan Small

Readers:

September 1

9:00 a.m.

Nancy Passehl

September 8

8:00 a.m.

Janelle Hupp

10:30 a.m.

Bob Nelson

September 15

Patty Barritt

Kathy Lovell

September 22

Carrie Richard

Doris Lohr

September 29

Cathy Yanke

Denny Dederich

Cantors:

September 1

9:00 a.m.

Marv and Janelle Hupp

September 8

8:00 a.m.

Connie Burton

10:30 a.m.

Connie Burton

September 15

Melani Wheeler

Melani Wheeler

September 22

Chris Stephan

Chris Stephan

September 29

Communion

September 1

Set-Up

Marilyn Herschleb

Clean-Up

Marilyn Herschleb

September 8

Allan/Lisa VanLanduyt

Ginny Nimmow

September 15

Lilly Weittenhiller

Henry Dean

September 22

Jayne Carlson

Barb Salveson

September 29

Alice/Joe Chenoweth

Marcia/Roger Howard

Communion Assistants 9:00 a.m.

September 1

Patty Barritt

September 8

8:00 a.m.

Kris Frey

10:30 a.m.

Audrey Luetscher

September 15

Alyssa Himebauch

Aubree Deuman

September 22

Jayne Carlson

Dale Clason

September 29

Mary Weeks

Gerry Westphal

Sunday Stewards

September 1

9:00 a.m.

Nancy Passehl

September 8

8:00 a.m.

Gwen Ringelstetter

10:30 a.m.

Gina Varley

September 15

Cathy Yanke

James Newman

September 22

Tracy Pape

Sean Jager

September 29

Nancy Kaufman

James Newman

Technical Support

September 1

9:00 a.m.

Lisa Davis

September 8

8:00 a.m.

Kendra Frey

10:30 a.m.

Ellen Jorgensen

September 15

Charlie Kruchten

Reid Hart

Sandberg Family

September 22

Brayton Bahe

Sandberg Family

September 29

Brayton Bahe

Madyn Ludowitz

Sean Jager

Brayton Bahe

Ellen Jorgensen

Coffee Servers:

September 1

Doug Nelson Family

September 8

Steve and Patty Barritt

September 15

Cliff and Cindy Thompson

September 22

Josie Fentress, Cora and Sylvie Miller

September 29

Congregational Meeting

On November 17, after the first service, we will have a congregational meeting to approve our 2025 budget, elect members to our Parish Planning Council, elect 3 representatives to attend the Synod Assembly in 2025 and to elect three congregational members to serve on our Nomination Committee for 2025.

We will be voting to fill the open positions on our PPC. Our nominees are: Executive Director – Nancy Passehl, Assistant Executive Director – Marv Hupp, Properties Board – John Ballweg, PR and Social Concerns Board – **Open**, Stewardship Board – **Open**, and Treasurer – **Open**. We will also vote on congregational members to attend our Synod Assembly next spring/summer. We need 3 adults minimum, plus we may have 1 adult under age 30 and 1 youth member. Nominees for the Nomination Committee for 2025 will be taken from the floor on the day of the meeting.

If you are interested in filling any of our open positions or would like to attend the Synod Assembly as a voting member representing St. John's, please see Pastor Sally, Nancy Kaufman or Janelle Hupp.

Mark your calendars to join us for this important meeting.

St. John's Budget for 2025 We will be voting on the 2025 Budget at our Congregational meeting on November 17.

PROGRAM	APPROVED 2024	BUDGETED 2025	% CHANGE
Administration	\$448,444.00	\$481,750.00	7.43%
Lay Ministry	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
Evangelism	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
Stewardship	\$2,100.00	\$2,700.00	28.57%
PR & Social Concerns	\$3,250.00	\$3,350.00	3.08%
Parish Education	\$11,770.00	\$13,710.00	16.48%
Youth Board	\$30,300.00	\$5,900.00	-80.53%
Fellowship	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0.00%
Properties	\$51,850.00	\$49,450.00	-4.63%
Lutheran Church Women	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	0.00%
Benevolence	\$49,450.00	\$52,250.00	5.66%
TOTAL	\$613,264.00	\$625,210.00	1.95%

A more itemized listing of the various board budgets is available in the church office. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Meet the Parish Planning Council

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the Boards at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church? We will be featuring a Board each month in the Visitor. September we will meet the Evangelism Board.

The Evangelism Board meets every 2nd Sunday of the month at 9:15am in the church fellowship hall for about half an hour.

The committee organizes many activities such as the New Members Reception to welcome them to St. John's, sends post cards to those visiting our church services, gifting quilts to those baptized at St John's, assisting those that need rides to church services, organizing the church directory and pictures, sends cards to members for various events (birthdays, sympathy, anniversaries, retirement, etc.). Evangelism also sponsors the blessings for Back-to-School and New Drivers milestones, Pet Blessings and sends congratulation packages to new graduates. We also order promotional items used in the above activities and participate with other St. John's boards that need assistance.

We welcome and encourage all that wish to join this board.

Thank you. Gwen Ringelstetter and Sheila Peak Dittberner

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: August 6, 2024

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

Absent: Sean Jager, Lon Kaderavek

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Eunice and seconded by Gina. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Tracy.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer report:

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

July report numbers

Current Month Income	Year-to-Date Income	Current Month Expenses	Year-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date Budget Expenses
\$43,802	\$284,984	\$52,320	\$345,385	\$357,737

July expenses exceeded income by \$8K which means we are down \$60K YTD. Most of the expenses for the 2024 National Youth Gathering have been paid. In anticipation of the next Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in three years, a motion to begin designating \$500 per month for expenses for the next three years was made by James and seconded by Gina. Motion carried. The next bigger expense will be the organ repair. Currently the plan is for the work to begin at the end of August. Donations received designated as organ repair is \$14,430 plus the Memorial Committee has pledged \$6K.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- Sheila will update the New Member photo board
- Pet Blessing collage is ready for posting
- The group needs to pick a coffee serving date
- Meet with the Bishop on August 14 at 6 pm

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander reported:

- The bars remaining from the Youth Brat Event will be used for Vacation Bible School treats.
- We will host a Welcome reception for Intern Emily Iverson Uphoff at our coffee fellowship on August 11. Please come to welcome her to St John's.
- 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:

- Prepared for VBS which is currently going on
- Set Rally Day for the Sunday School for September 22nd
- Still recruiting for Superintendent and Teachers
- Meeting in August will discuss any immediate needs of the children's library

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- No report provided

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

- "How to set up coffee" training video will be filmed at the end of August
- Just Bakery is returning September 15th

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- Discussed Stewardship ideas. One idea is to highlight one expense per month, and I think that will present it in a more relevant and fun way than we have been doing.
- I will send the updated Administrative Manual by the end of this week and the budget next Monday. An updated list of approved vendors is needed.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- 26 ladies attended the All-Circle Brunch where Pastor Jason presented the Bible Study and Vicky Dresser entertained with songs she had written herself.
- No regular Bible Study meetings in August.
- Work on Lutheran World Relief kits and Quilts continues. Box Car Loading Day is September 14.
- Synodical WELCA Retreat is October 5th at Bethany Lutheran Church of Wisconsin Dells.
- Remember to donate to the Pennies for Poverty Jar located on the name tag table each Sunday.

Youth Committee: Tracy Pape reported:

- No report provided.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report provided.

Youth member at Large: Sean Jager reported:

- Marching band and fall sports have been practicing throughout the summer.
- School starts in less than a month.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Interim Jason's Report:

- July was an unexpected month of health concerns for me. The beginning of July found me at UW for 5 days with a cellulitis infection. At the tail end of recovering from that, I tested positive for Covid two weeks later. These two health events limited my office time greatly in efforts to recover and regain energy. I am grateful for all the well wishes and prayers that people shared with me. HUGE thank you to Nancy Kaufman, Pastor Sally, and Linda Hines for checking in on me, offering words of encouragement and care, and giving me permission to be gentle with myself and my health.
- I facilitated a book study during the month. People in the group received the book "The Thing Beneath the Thing" really well and commented that it had been a helpful read. Lots of thoughtful and honest conversation around self-discovery and authenticity was shared by everyone and admitted that the book encouraged them to look at their own triggers that lead to bigger potholes and being able to identify how to address avoidance and complacency.

TNT PPC Report – August 2024

Lots of solid work and movement forward by the TNT. Ultimate goal of being able to fill out specific pieces of the Ministry Site Profile is well under way with new team chair Kristin Ryan (due to Covid, Pastor Jason unable to be present at July meeting, as well as Gary Tomter who was in the hospital for heart surgery).

TNT is actively working at completing specifics of the MSP through delegated tasks. TNT will update PPC hopefully by the September meeting around progress.

Both TNT and PPC will be meeting with Bishop Joy and Marie for a six-month check-in on August 14 at 6PM. The intention behind the meeting is to offer a six-month check-in, where we are all at in the process, and what can be expected for the future. This meeting has the potential to certainly offer some solid information around and/or clarify additional tasks that might be needed to fill out MSP.

HUGE thank you to Kristin Ryan for her leadership as well as TNT for their continued focus, diligence, and energy.

Sally's Report:

- VBS is in full swing. Thank you to our volunteers who are making this week possible! There has already been a bunch of singing, game playing, and lots of giggles this morning.

- I appreciate the youth and adults who have volunteered to help with different aspects of Sunday School prep for the fall. I still need a superintendent (people who are available for coordination or needs on Sunday mornings) so please invite some folks to ponder this position.
- My next grad school class will meet on Tuesdays which means I will miss PPC and Board meetings for September, October, and November. I will be meeting with those Board chairs and Nancy before those meetings to ensure good communication and coordination of ministry.
- Intern Elise begins August 6th and will spend most of her first week getting to know our VBS students along with some general introduction to procedures and policies. Elise will be engaging in all of the areas of pastoral ministry while she's here, with the exception of presiding at communion, baptisms, and weddings as is the policy of the ELCA. We are delighted to welcome her to St. John's!
- Thank you to our staff who have picked up extra duties while Pastor Jason and I were in and out with sickness over the last few weeks. They are always going an extra mile. Thank you.

Old Business:

- PPC Retreat Follow-up—reusable name tags with lanyards have been prepared for each PPC member to wear during church service to encourage easier conversations.
- Transition team update. Goal is to meet with Bishop Joy and Marie and the PPC at our 6-month mark to discuss our vision, progress and the MSP form they are working on. Kristin Ryan has assumed the chair role with Gary's step down due to health issues.
- Budget 2024 was \$613,264 and 2025 budget proposed is \$625,210. This is a 1.95% increase which including purchasing another computer and an intern salary. A motion to approve the budget was made by Gina and seconded by Eunice. The budget will be at the October 2024 congregational meeting. Motion carried.
- Nominating committee meeting on August 8. Will continue discussion at congregational meeting.
- Parsonage use. The school district has a new teacher moving from up north who has not yet found housing for him and his family. A motion was made to allow him temporary use of the parsonage in exchange for utility payments and service to the church. Motion was made by Donna and seconded by Gina.

New Business:

- Call committee names—Reviewed names we previously suggested. We are planning a committee of six.

· St John's ministries

At the TNT meeting, we discussed what ministries we offer and realized we do not know and so are not sharing with others and new members. This list was compiled by Ellen, Linda, and Donna. Anything missing? Will work to compile a list with mission and contact for others to be able to help.

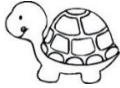
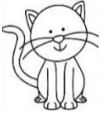
- Hospice and Newborn kits for Global Health Ministries
- Quilts for local disasters (fire, tornado, etc.) and Lutheran World Relief
- School kits LWR
- Personal Care kits for LWR
- Baby Care kits for LWR
- Fabric Sewing Kits for LWR
- Baptism Quilts for St. John's
- H.E.L.P. Program's Christmas Toy Drive (thru UCC)
- Caring Tree
- Prayer Chain
- Sewing Machines (for teaching young women sewing in Madison)
- Clothes for Dress for Success
- Coats for Kids (local with Concordia Church for SP School families)
- Good Neighbor Clinic
- Cell phone collections
- Home Communion
- Adult learning^{12 1}
- Hope House (Baraboo)
- 6:8
- Bell Ringing for Salvation Army
- Vacation Bible School
- National Youth Gathering
- Peeling Potatoes for Thanksgiving Community Meal
- Baking Pies for Thanksgiving Community Meal
- Sunday School has collected offering and held Bake Sales for:
1) ELCA Good Gifts World Hunger, 2) Porchlight, 3) Tower Rock Library
- Lions Club
- Egg carton collections
- SP School District snack box collections
- Food Pantry
- Socks and underwear collections

- We will soon return to two services. Discuss if this is a time to continue two identical services or make them different as well as times/music/length and other considerations.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Cathy M. Donna made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Gina. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 pm. with The Lord's Prayer led by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



Pet Blessing

On Sunday, October 13th, we will hold a Pet Blessing Service outdoors after the 10:30am service, beginning about noon. Pets hold a special place in our hearts, and this service is one way to remind us that God loves and cares for all of God's creatures, even the furry ones! You are welcome to bring your well-behaved and social pet. If your pet doesn't enjoy being around other animals or people, or has passed away, consider bringing a favorite photo. To create a safe and stress-free environment, it is important that everyone follow these guidelines for participation in the Pet Blessing:

- Keep pets on a short leash or kenneled at all times.
- Bring domestic animals only; no "exotic" pets.
- Pets are to stay outdoors while on church grounds.
- Parents must be present to assist small children with their pets. We ask that parents tend to the pet during the service.
- Be respectful of other pets. Since pets can be nervous in group situations, respect a pet's "space" by not crowding around them. If you wish to approach a pet, ask the owner first.
- Do not bring pet food or treats with you to the service.
- You are responsible for your pet at all times. Please have clean-up bags with you (just in case...).

We hope to see you and your pet at this fun event! Share a favorite photo of your pet with us on the St. John's Facebook page!



Happy September Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Skye Paque (18)

Waylon Sweeney (26)

Our Sunday School Students:

Metta Opie (1)

Ira Opie (3)

Olin Frey (4)

Raegen Roessler-Hamilton (5)

Ryan Bakken (7)

Olivia Stephan (9)

Tate Neubacher (10)

Lucas Muehrer (12)

Corbin Colby (13)

Teddy Rosenstiel (13)

Vincent Meyer (15)

Maximus Nelson (15)

Callie Lohr (17)

Hayden Ballweg (23)

Mckayla Peterson (24)

Caleb Anderson (27)

Nicole Scott (27)

Owen Robertson (29)

Our Youth:

Ramona Blau (2)

Audrey Sandberg (3)

Claire Hansen (5)

Masen Schmidt (8)

Gavin Sawyer (9)

Austin Urban (12)

Cannon Esser (15)

Claire Hartman (15)

Brooke Braund (17)

George Colby (18)

Lauren Endres (18)

Micah Boerger (19)

Malea Schonenberger (28)

College and Career-age Young People:

Gavin Tompkin (4)

Samantha Johnson (7)

Annika Braund (10)

Ryan Jager (16)

Ashley Pape (17)

Kyra Manning (18)

Ellery Apel (20)

Erelyn Apel (20)

Michael Blau (21)

Matthew Johnson (24)