

The LWR box loading crew; Roger Maynard, Larry Mcalexander, Hank Elsing, Marv Hupp, Intern Elise, Peter and Susan Heide. Not pictured John Hines

Prairie du Sac, WI

October 2024

Dear Friends of St. John's,

Recently, Megan and I took a vacation to Orlando, where we visited the "Church of the Mouse." Disney World is definitely a magical place. We did the normal tourist things and enjoyed the various parks, went on a few rides, bought some stuff (no I did not buy myself Mickey Mouse ears), and enjoyed the time together. This was a different kind of vacation for me. Not because of the destination or the company I was with, but it was "how" I got around the various locations. Due to my unfortunate accident in August, I knew that walking around the park would be next to impossible. The solution was to rent a mobile scooter.

Now I was not all that crazy about traversing the parks on wheels for the simple fear of judgment. Yet what choice did I have? So, as you can imagine, the upside to using a scooter was that it made my experience mostly pain-free and I was able to enjoy the time. It wasn't until I saw a Dad about my age with his own family, get onto the bus with his own scooter that I felt some sense of affirmation or validation. His condition was a lot worse than mine as he was wearing a boot cast on his left leg, and he had young kids. I felt compassion for this man and his family. He was there to enjoy a vacation just as I was. I saw him in his condition, and I felt connected to him.

I was naïve to think that just because school had started that this would somehow lessen the people in the parks. I was absolutely wrong. I instantly noticed that masses of people had

descended onto Disney at the same time we had. This creates issues here and there as you can imagine. Long lines for rides, food, shopping, etc. But I noticed another issue, and this was brought on by my own mode of transportation. Sitting on a scooter isn't the same as standing as an almost 6-foot-tall man. I was a good two feet lower at best. As a consequence, many people did not "see" me. Now this isn't to say that I wasn't seen at all or that I expected people to get out of the way automatically. But I noticed right away that people did not see me for a variety of reasons. Most of which, people just weren't paying attention, and I did have an acute sense of situational awareness.

After a few days of this, something changed within me. I had a greater awareness of those who were traveling around the park on scooters just like me. I noticed them and would let them get ahead of me or take a corner first, or just offer the subtle head nod as a greeting. And other scooter riders noticed me, and they would do the same. It was like we were all this silent unseen group of riders who were bonded by our condition. This tension between being seen and acknowledged versus being unseen and not acknowledged, almost made our sense of awareness for each other necessary. All of this got me thinking about how we see each other and acknowledge each other.

Do we truly see each other? Do we truly acknowledge each other? Do we find a sense of connection with each other in our own "conditions?" Maybe that condition for you is finding a connection in your grief, your hurt, your isolation. Maybe that condition is marked by loneliness, age, memory loss. Maybe that condition is being a parent and struggling with your kids trying to navigate their own changes. Maybe that condition is struggling with your faith, not feeling good enough or worthy of God's love and acceptance. Maybe it's a condition where we just can't accept grace for ourselves. Do we see each other in our conditions, where we feel unseen, where we feel unnoticed every day? Do we see each other in the pews where we come and bring our hearts to worship hoping to feel better about ourselves in our conditions?

We don't need to be on a scooter to feel unseen. We can be living our lives every day and still feel it. What we can do is see each other, acknowledge each other in our humanity, our struggles, our issues, and accompany each other. We can't fix each other, but we can make all the difference by being present. That alone can be all the difference in being seen and heard.

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 370-4501

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

Intern: Elise Iverson Uphoff elise@stjohnssaukprairie.org 643-2439

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour

ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Youth Director: Penny Johnson penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Custodian: John Hines john@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Office and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines

linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Sunday School Superintendent: Pastor Sally Williams

sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org 643-2439

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
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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:

Spaghetti	Spaghetti Sauce
Granola Bars	Crackers
Soup	Cereal
Brownie Mix	Canned Sloppy Joes

Keep this list handy as you do your grocery shopping during the next few weeks.



Birthday Greetings

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

Norma Newman (4)
11020 Thousand Oaks Dr
Huntersville, NC 28078

Jim Sauer (10)
N750 Golf Rd #66
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Diane Tenley (18)
245 Sycamore Street
Sauk City, WI 53578

Dorothy Halverson (18)
9456 County Road Y
Sauk City, WI 53583



Karen Bader (27)
N2388 Trails End Rd
Lodi, WI 53555

Thank you

I want to thank you, my wonderful church family, for all the birthday cards and notes, phone calls, and flowers. I'm so thankful and grateful to have you all as special friends.

Sharing with Ruth Dresser to celebrate our birthdays at coffee time after church was great!

Gloria Moles

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, October 10, in St. John's Library, Carol Benson, Hostess	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, October 3, in St. John's Library, Ruth Dresser, Hostess	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, October 14, at Cathy McAlexander's, 2104 Mustang Dr, Prairie du Sac	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, October 1, in St. John's Library	9:30am

In September, 27 ladies attended Circle meetings, and we began a series on "Receiving Grace: A Study of Ephesians". Diane Elsing, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester led that Study. (Instead of a regular Circle Meeting, Martha Circle worked on assembling and packing their LWR School Kits.) In October the study will be "Receiving Grace: God's power works in us." Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni, and Kathy Lester will lead the Study.

We are very happy that our Kits and Quilts for Lutheran World Relief have been boxed and hauled to Madison where they will be loaded into a boxcar to travel to Minneapolis. From there they will be sent around the globe to East and West Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, to the people and places in the most need of aid. Each quilt or kit helps change someone's daily life. Sincere thanks to Henry Elsing for taking them to Madison. We also thank Henry, Roger Maynard, Peter and Susan Heide, Intern Elise, Larry McAlexander, Marv Hupp, and John Hines for loading the boxes in the trailer. Another big thanks to all the people who worked so diligently in getting everything purchased and packed up to go. The numbers are as follows: 425 quilts; 28 Sewing/Fabric Kits, 93 Personal Care kits; 77 Baby Care Kits and 232 School kits. We are all so very grateful to Thrivent who donated \$250 for every group of kits and also for the quilts. That was definitely a wonderful lift for all of us.

So far we have four ladies from St. John's who will be attending the WELCA South Central Synodical Convention at Bethany Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Dells on Saturday, October 5th. We will have a report on that meeting in the November Visitor.

PLEASE NOTE: The Pennies for Poverty Jar will be on the name tag table for the next few weeks. We have chosen to give our Penny Jar money to 6:8. As you know, 6:8 is a very worthy organization who helps men, women and children in need in our

community. Pennies, larger coins, paper money, checks, everything helps!! AND IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

The ThankOffering Service will be on Sunday, November 24th. This is a special opportunity to honor God by making a donation, thanking Him for all He has done for us. Put your contribution in an envelope marked THANKOFFERING. There will be a marked basket outside the sanctuary for this purpose. There will be another reminder in the November issue of the Visitor.

Martha Circle is visiting Special Friends during August and September. Sarah/Mary Circle will visit them during October and November.

Remember to look in this Visitor for the Special Prayer for Peace to be read on October 20th.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for November will be on Tuesday, October 29, at 9:00 a.m.

Adult Education

BOOK STUDY WITH PASTOR JASON

The Book: "Messy Spirituality" by Mike Yaconelli

When: Sept 29, Oct 6, 13, 20, 27 at 9:15am

Where: St John's Library

Back by popular "demand," Pastor Jason is offering another book study.

"Messy Spirituality was written for the silent majority of us who have been convinced that we just don't do Christianity right. Mike Yaconelli dares to suggest that imperfection, unfinishedness, and messiness are, in fact, the earmarks of true Christianity; that real Christianity is messy, erratic, and lopsided."

Pastor Jason is very much looking forward to time together again. "This is going to be a great book to read, ensuring some rich conversation together."

Technology Help

We are looking for a few more people to join our Technology Team. This team works in pairs to provide our Sunday morning ZOOM broadcasts. You can work the 8:00am worship service or the 10:30am worship service. Roger Seymour is the team leader and very knowledgeable at teaching you what is needed. It is a flexible schedule, and you can work just once every 4-5 weeks if you want to. Contact Roger Seymour if you are interested, rrcmor@gmail.com or (608) 588-3198.

SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray this prayer on the 20th day of October.

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.

Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine.

We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.

Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Neal Jessie on the death of his sister, Jean Jessie.

Jan Dobrzynski on the death of her husband, Dick Dobrzynski.

Dean and Joanne Walsh, Tiffany and Andrew Haffemann and their families on the death of Dean's stepfather and Tiffany's step-grandfather, Jerry Alt.

Marcia and Roger Howard on the death of Marcia's brother, Michael Schoenemann.

The family of Ronald Steinhorst (d. May 20, 2024), son Gregory; grandchildren: Joshua, Nicole, Nathan and Brennan. Also, niece Fay (Jim) Neumaier.

Please keep these families in your prayers.



Baptisms

St. John's welcomed a new sister and brother in Christ through their baptisms in September.

Neelah Marie Ganshert, daughter of Paul and Kathleen (Michaels) Ganshert, was baptized September 15. Her sponsors are Linda Michaels and Alyssa Himebauch.

Samuel Kade Robertson, son of Jordan and Alecia (Deedon) Robertson, was baptized on September 29. His sponsors are Jennifer Thomas, Nathan Deedon and Devin Robertson. His congregational sponsors are Sam and Bianca Paque.



Dear Friends in Christ,

I love Fall. The cooler temperatures that call for sweatshirts and jeans, the gorgeous pallet of changing leaves, and pumpkins. Yes, all things pumpkin. My drinks, my desserts, and my decorations.

But as much as I love the Fall, I am mindful that it signals big changes in our weather and our routines as darkness becomes a familiar companion as we careen into winter. (Maybe it'll be a late and mild winter this year?!)

My mind always wanders back to the book, *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*. This book talks about life and death; especially about dying and grief.

Many of you have recently (and not so recently) experienced the loss of someone significant in your life. The journey of grief is long, hard, and often very lonely. In the past I have offered a grief group and other forms of grief support; I have been thinking about doing this again, but I would like to hear from you.

What might be helpful as you navigate your own journey? A list of resources? A closed group that meets for a certain period of time with the same people or a group that is more fluid and people can funnel in and out as desired? Speakers? One-on-one or small group conversations?

There are no right answers in this nor is there only one way to seek support on your grief journey. If you are looking for support for yourself or for a loved one, please take a moment to drop me an email, call or stop by so we can talk more about what might be helpful for you.

In the meantime, we hold onto the hope from Revelation that "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed way." Rev 21:4

May God's peace surround you.

With deep gratitude,

Thank you

Thank you to all who sent cards, visited, phoned and prayed for me during my recent rehab. A special thank you to Pastor Sally for her visit and the prayer shawl, and to Pastor Jason for visiting and doing the church service at Maplewood.

Blessings to all, Denise Baars

Hello
My name is

Intern

Hello Friend.

How did your summer wrap up? How are you feeling heading into fall? We are at that moment when the trees are holding onto many green leaves but letting some fall to the ground, and some days the atmosphere has an entirely different smell: crisp, dry, and sweet. Fall for me is a time to think about all things cozy. Fall is the season of transition. Naturally, our lives also transition when the seasons change. What will those changes bring to your life this fall? Perhaps the kids being back in school is a welcome routine, or maybe it means special time with the grandkids is now limited with busy school year schedules. Maybe the cooler weather is a welcome relief, or it is the beginning of a season of chill. Maybe it's a good time to visit friends or maybe the shorter days mean less time moving about.

For a few months I will relish a different pace. It's a time to sip hot soups, use my hands to knead dough, and sit in the light of neighborhood bonfires on dark, crisp nights. During the summer I take in the awe of God's incredible Earth under the blue sky, 100 shades of green, and big adventures! During the fall, I turn toward smaller satisfactions that warm the heart. I feel like Jesus uses the Gospel to constantly remind us that it is the small things that add up: quiet conversations, learning about our neighbor through a book or documentary, or giving thanks for our nourishing food through cooking.

Have you heard of the Danish idea of *hygge*? It's pronounced "hoo-ga," and while it's an awkward word in English, the meaning is that warm, cozy feeling we get when there are twinkling lights with music, or dappled sun at the park or lake, sitting around with old friends over delicious food. *Hygge* is a type of coziness that creates warmth and happiness inside our hearts and souls! I often find that *hygge* brings forth deep gratitude for the world God has given us, and relationships in the image of Christ. So, even as daylight wanes, I look forward to giving thanks for the *hygge*, or coziness, in my life as given by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peace and Light,
Intern Elise

St. John's is scheduled to deliver Mobile Meals October 14-18 and October 21-25. These are meals delivered from the Sauk Prairie Healthcare Center and go to help many in the Sauk Prairie community. If you are interested in delivering meals, please sign up on the kiosk. There are directions also posted on the kiosk, but if you have any questions, contact Patty Barritt at (608) 393-5218 for details on how delivery works.



Coats for Kids

St. John's is working with Concordia United Methodist Church to collect winter wear for children in need in the Sauk Prairie School District. Please keep this in mind as you clean out your closets this fall. Bring your gently used coats, boots, hats, mittens, scarves and gloves to the back area of the coat room. We need all sizes. Thank you.



First Communion Instruction

A First Communion class will be held on Thursday, November 7th from 6-7pm. If you would like to explore the possibilities of first communion for your children, no matter what their age, please sign up by calling the church office. Taking the class does not obligate anyone to begin communing nor is it a requirement for communion. The class is simply a time to explore what this gift of God might mean for you. A second class will be offered in the spring.

We will celebrate those receiving their First Communion as a group on Sunday, November 10th at either service, but if it does not work for your family on that day, we can make other arrangements to celebrate your student! Please contact Pastor Sally with any questions or concerns.



Sauk Prairie Community Acceptance Now

SP CAN Announces Community Read IV and Associated Events

The topic of this year's SP CAN (Sauk Prairie Community Acceptance Now) Community Read and accompanying activities is Adult Mental Health. This year's book selection is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. There will be two book discussion groups, October 8, 1 pm at the George Culver Community Library and October 17, 6:30pm, at the Ruth Culver Community Library.

There are also two panel discussions scheduled. One on Suicide Prevention, October 21, 6:30 pm, at Ruth Culver Community Library and the other on Mental Health Resources on October 28, 6:30 pm, at the George Culver Community Library. In addition, there will be a film screening of *The Hours* on October 24, 6 pm, at the Ruth Culver Community Library.

Books for the Community Read are free and may be picked up at either local library.



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**

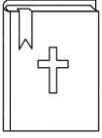


Wedding Congratulations

We celebrate the wedding of Emily Sauer and Jake Ederer on September 7. Emily's parents are Tom and Lisa Sauer and her grandparents are Jim and Betty Sauer.

Please pray for this young couple as they begin this new life milestone together.

Sunday School News



3-Year-Old & 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

On October 6th at the 8am & 10:30 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. If your student did not receive their Bible, please contact Pastor Sally.

Those receiving their Bibles are:

Our three-year-olds: Violet Carlson, Gavin Johnson, Gibson Koenig, Rayne Kruchten, Evelyn Muehrer, Eldin Nelson, Audrey Plescia, Isabella Salazar, and Gibson Sweeney

Our third graders: Gabbi Argall, Hayden Ballweg, Eralyn Greene, Grace Hanson, Cole Haug, Ellen Krueger, Ethan Lohr, Eleanor Muehrer, Emma Naggs, Olive Rennie, Lauren Schulenburg, Olivia Steinmetz, Amy Weittenhiller, and Charlotte Ziehlsdorf.



Hayride

We will gather at the Keller Farm on Sunday, October 6th from 1-3pm for a fun hayride, sweet treat, and free pumpkins for each person who attends. Please rsvp to Pastor Sally at sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org.

The address for the hayride is W13769 Wisconsin Hwy. 60, Prairie du Sac. It is the first farm/house on the right after you pass the 188 Intersection. Please look for the parking guides to avoid parking on their lawn. The wagons leave shortly at 1pm. Please be sure to be on time so we don't leave anyone behind! 😊

Trip to the Corn Maze

St. John's Middle and High School students and friends (chaperones needed too!) will travel to the Treinen Farm Corn Maze on Wednesday, October 23. We'll gather at St. John's parking lot at 4:45pm – the bus leaves at 5:00pm to the Corn Maze. We'll return approximately 7:15pm. **Must sign up before October 15** at <https://tinyurl.com/MazeTrip>.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Confirmation Classes

The St. John's Confirmation program has begun! All are welcome to join us for a Fellowship Meal at 5:30pm on nights when we have confirmation class. We ask for a \$2 contribution per person. Confirmation classes start at 6:00pm. You can find the full confirmation calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/ConfirmCal>

Worship Job Sign-Up

Each student needs to complete 3 Worship Jobs from October through January. Your student may complete multiple jobs on any one Sunday or spread them across several Sundays. Students are welcome to complete more than 3! This is the time for our youth to learn the gift of serving others. If your student is struggling to complete their worship jobs, please contact Penny for help. Sign-up for the available spots at <https://signup.com/go/bnkqjug>

Food Pantry

St. John's day to help at the Sauk Prairie Food Pantry is **Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 9:00-10:45am**. We are looking for confirmation students and a few chaperones to fill these spots. Volunteers help load groceries into bags, other volunteers help to load bags into vehicles, and at least one youth/adult pair will help direct traffic. A Food Pantry Board Member is there to help direct the work, during the entire shift. Please register your confirmation student today: <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnsFP>

Sauk Prairie Pack Event

St. John's confirmation students and chaperones will participate in the 2024 Pack Event, October 24-26, 2024, at Grand Avenue Elementary School. This event contributes to the work of Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) a Christian non-profit group feeding God's starving children who are hungry in body and spirit. Nutrition allows children to grow, thrive and develop to their full potential. St. John's volunteers will hand-pack the meals which are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, so that kids are fed, and lives are saved! If you are called to donate funds for this project, please drop off any amount to the church office with a "Pack Event" note.

Serving in October

Greeters:

Oct. 6 (Front Door) A/L Van Landuyt
(Side Door) J/L Hines
Oct. 13 (Front Door) T/G Wyttenbach
(Side Door)
Oct. 20 (Front Door) YOUTH
(Side Door) YOUTH
Oct. 27 (Front Door) C/S Sprecher
(Side Door)

10:30 a.m.

Linda Lintl
G/D Westphal
Ginny Nimmow
YOUTH
YOUTH
Doris Lohr
G/D Westphal

Ushers:

October 6

October 13

October 20

October 27

8:00 a.m.

Lon Kaderavek
Rob Richard
YOUTH
Lon Kaderavek
YOUTH
Todd Wyttenbach
Gina Wyttenbach
YOUTH
Cathy Yanke
Rob Richard
Doug Nelson
YOUTH

10:30 a.m.

Duane Larson
Kim Larson
YOUTH

YOUTH
Bill Burton
YOUTH

Steve Barritt
Patty Barritt
YOUTH

Readers:

October 6
October 13
October 20
October 27

8:00 a.m.

John Hines
Marilyn Herschleb
Gary Tomter
Nancy Kaufman

10:30 a.m.

Dale Clason
Marian DeGiovanni
Jon Neubacher
Kathy Lovell

Cantors:

October 6
October 13
October 20
October 27

8:00 a.m.

Becky Weittenhiller
Lisa Davis
Marv/Janelle Hupp
Senior Choir

10:30 a.m.

Becky Weittenhiller
Doris Lohr
Liz Ziehlsdorf
Senior Choir

Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

October 6
October 13
October 20
October 27

Marv Hupp
Connie Burton
Donna Knickmeyer
Patty Barritt

10:30 a.m.

Jude Hanna
Jude Hanna

Patty Barritt

Communion:

October 6

October 13

October 20

October 27

Set-Up

Diane Williams

Darlene Holl

A/L Van Landuyt

YOUTH

Jayne Carlson

Clean-Up

Dale Clason

Audrey Luetscher

YOUTH

Dale Clason

Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.

October 6

October 13

October 20

October 27

Patty Barritt

Kris Frey

YOUTH

Jayne Carlson

10:30 a.m.

Kristin Pape

Audrey Luetscher

YOUTH

Dale Clason

Technology Team:

October 6

October 13

October 20

October 27

8:00a.m.

Charlie Kruchten

Bryce Argall

Bryce Argall

Lee LaVigne

10:30a.m.

Sandberg

family

Sandberg

family

Sunday Stewards

October 6

October 13

October 20

October 27

8:00 a.m.

Nancy Passehl

Cathy Yanke

Tracy Pape

Cathy McAlexander

10:30 a.m.

Gwen Ringelstetter

James Newman

Anne Klinkner

James Newman

Coffee Servers:

October 6

October 13

October 20

October 27

John and Linda Hines

Doug and Donna Nelson

Fellowship Committee Notes

Ruth Dresser, Gloria Moles and Almay Nelson's birthdays were celebrated in August and early September.

We resumed serving Just Bakery items the third Sunday of month beginning September 22.

Sunday School students and teachers were honored at coffee time for Rally Day.

Please continue volunteering to serve coffee. We have just a few openings through the end of the year!



Pet Blessing Service

On Sunday, October 13th, we will hold a Pet Blessing Service outdoors after the 10:30am service, beginning at **12pm**. 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, feathered, and scaled 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.

The following are reminders for an "uneventful" event:

- Pets must be kept on a short leash or always kenneled.
- 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...).

See you there! In the meantime, we invite you to share a favorite photo of your pet with us on the St. John's Facebook page!

Outgoing Parish Planning Council (PPC) Members

We are grateful for the wonderful work all our PPC members have done this past year. Some of those leaders will be leaving the council this year. Nancy Kaufman, our Executive Director has finished her term after leading us through our first year of transition after Pastor Fred Rilling's retirement. Nancy Passehl will move up to Executive Director, from her position as Assistant Executive Director. Donna Nelson, Lon Kaderavek, Anne Klinkner and Ellen Jorgensen have all finished their terms on the Council and will step aside. Eunice Yanke will remain for another 2-year term. Please take a moment to share your gratitude with these members for their service.



Congregational Meeting

MEETING

On November 17, at 9am, we will have a congregational meeting between services in the sanctuary and on Zoom to approve our 2025 budget, elect members to our Parish Planning Council, elect three voting members to attend the Synod Assembly in 2025 and elect three congregational members to serve on our 2025 Nomination Committee. Please join us for this important meeting.

We will be voting to fill the open positions on our PPC. Our nominees are Executive Director-Nancy Passehl, Assistant Executive Director-Marv Hupp, Treasurer-John Brennan IV, PR and Social Concerns-Melani Wheeler, Stewardship-Kathy Lovell, Properties-John Ballweg and WELCA-Eunice Yanke. Our nominees for Synod Assembly Voting Members and nominees for the Nomination Committee will be taken from the floor on the day of the meeting.

All active members of St. John's are invited to attend. (The ELCA defines "active members" as those who have both given and communed at least one time in the previous year.)

Reading of the Congregational Meeting Minutes

In lieu of the reading of the minutes from the March 10, 2024 Congregational Meeting, the minutes are listed here. Please take the time to read through them before attending the meeting on November 17, 2024. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and/or make corrections at that meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING March 10, 2024

(In building and via Zoom platform)

PPC Executive Director, Nancy Kaufman, confirmed at least 50 active members present and called the meeting to order at 8:55am. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the estimate to fix the organ.

The minutes of the October 15, 2023, Congregational Meeting were published in the March Visitor as well as in the March 3 and March 10, 2024, Sunday bulletins in lieu of reading them at the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as provided was made

by Brian Weeks and seconded by Connie Burton. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Nancy described the purpose of the meeting to be for approval of \$25,000 to have the organ fixed as proposed by Bogue Services. Additional information included some history of the organ including that the organ was purchased when the church was built in the 1960s. The current value of the organ is \$450,000. It is not currently working to its capacity. The fix as proposed is to return the organ to a functional level. If we were to return it to its concert level, the cost would be \$250,000.

Discussion included the following questions from the congregation:

- Will there be continuing costs in addition to the \$25,000? No, this cost will bring it back to a functional level.
- Who plays the organ other than Connie? At this time, no one, but Ruellene and Kim are both able to play an organ but considering the current condition the organ is in, they choose not to do so.
- When would the repairs be made? At this time the schedule would be late summer/fall with the project expected to last for 4-6 weeks.
- Will there be a warranty on the work? We expect that yes, there will be because the work will be done by the same company that tunes the organ.
- Are we able to use Memorial money for this project? Yes, we could if we wanted. Our purpose for this meeting is not to ask for money, but rather to request approval to use current funds for this project.
- Is this a good financial decision to spend this money with limited people who play organ? We believe yes, it is, for the future of our church. When we recruited for organists when Connie retired, some were unwilling to play our organ because it was in need of repair.

A motion to approve the \$25,000 to return the organ to its functional level was made by Mary Weeks and seconded by Janelle Hupp. Motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Nancy K shared other housekeeping items including the need for Palm Sunday Breakfast volunteers, a request for input to the Transition Committee's questions, and a request for volunteers to sign up to serve coffee between services.

Marv Hupp made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Donna Nelson. Executive Director Nancy

Kaufman asked if there were any objections and after receiving none, she adjourned the meeting at 9:09am.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Yanke

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	5066%
TOTAL	\$613,264.00	\$625,210.00	1.95%

(A more itemized listing of the various board budgets is available in the church office.)

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: September 3, 2024

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

Absent: Sally Williams

NOTE: Prior to the start of the PPC meeting, the TNT Transition Team presented their project presentation before handing off to the Call Committee. TNT members, namely Kristin Ryan, Marv Hupp, Megan Tarnutzer, Derek Rosenstiel, Jordan Small, and Donna Knickmeyer were all present. Gary Tomter and Pastor Jason were also on the committee. The work of this group is the instrumental foundation to begin the call process for a new Lead Pastor. The group plans to present during the September 29 services at the sermon and offer additional information to those who wish to gather that day between services.

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Nancy Kaufman. Nancy K asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Anne and seconded by Gwen. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Cathy M.

Secretary Minutes:

The August 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 August 2024 Treasurer Report submitted by Donna Nelson.

August report numbers

Current Month Income	Year-to-Date Income	Current Month Expenses	Year-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date Budget Expenses
\$29,622	\$314,605	\$41,351	\$386,736	\$408,842

August income shows a late summer drop and leaves us a deficit of \$74K for 2024 YTD. Office expenses are much higher this

month because of the purchase of two computers. Final bills for the National Youth Gathering were paid this month.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- No report provided.

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander reported:

- In August we honored our new Intern at coffee time on August 11.
- We videotaped a tutorial on how to make coffee featuring younger church members: Riley Jorgensen, Olivia Stephan and Sofia Stephan.
- Ruth Dresser and Gloria Moles shared their birthday treats at the August 25 coffee.
- Almay Nelson's family honored her with birthday treats during the September 1 fellowship time.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Welcomed Gina Wyttenbach to the board as Usher organizer.
- Decided to put greeters at the back door, continue at front door and forego greeters at sanctuary door as it is less necessary with ushers there. This will start in October.
- Combining online volunteer sign up under one link is still in the works.
- Shared PPC approved Lay Ministry budget.
- Discussed Lay Ministry annual task sheet for '24/'25.
- We will order 200 Christmas Eve candles to top off our current supply of 400.

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

- Sunday School preparation and cleaning out of closets is underway.
- Rally Day is set for September 22nd.
- Hayride is set for October 6th, and everything has been organized for it.
- Discussion with Dale about the Children's library. Got a list of books and supplies needed.

Properties: Lon Kaderavek reported:

- The refrigerator needed to be repaired in parsonage this month, probably going to be needing a new one at some point as it is really noisy, probably the compressor and it is not available. The refrigerator was purchased in '93 but it works fine for now.

- Finally received a quote for repairing those windows in the parsonage from a different contractor, cost is \$2,500 for all windows. I told him to put us on his schedule and they will be repaired this fall.

PR & Social Concerns: Ellen Jorgensen reported:

- No report provided.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner reported:

- ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL REVIEW. The Administrative Manual with the changes needed to accommodate the newly added Financial Secretary position was approved. The next update is due by August 13, 2025.

- 2025 BUDGET. The budget for 2025 was approved by the Parish Planning Council at the August 6, 2024, Parish Planning Council meeting. The budget has been forwarded to Linda Hines for publication in the Visitor and the bulletin for future dates. The budget will be presented at the November 17, 2024, Congregational Meeting.

- CONTINUED RESEARCH ON NEW METHODS OF ELECTRONIC GIVING-UPDATE. Nicole and Linda Hines met to set up the Paypal account. Work continues on the account set up. That is the first step to setting up a Venmo account.

- STEWARDSHIP. The Board continues to work on ideas to increase contributions and make the current annual Time and Talent Survey form a combination of our ministries and volunteer opportunities associated with them.

- ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW. Anne will ask the same review team we had last year if they are interested in performing our annual review in 2025 for the 2024 year.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- No report provided.

Youth Committee: Tracy Pape reported:

- October: Corn Maze and 6:8 Pack Event

- November: Potato Peeling - Thanksgiving Meal

- December: Caring Tree Shopping

- January 2025: Alive - Youth Night

- Planning and preparation are underway as we welcome back confirmation students, on Sept. 25.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report provided.

Youth member at Large: Sean Jager reported:

- Tuesday will be the first day of school for everybody. The Fall sports and marching band will be continuing with their season.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Interim Jason's Report:

- Massive thank you to the St John's staff in being able to navigate the unexpected results of my unfortunate motorcycle accident on August 12th. Thank you specifically to Pastor Sally for being able to take on a few more things in her already busy schedule.
- Huge thank you to the St John's TNT for their diligence and dedication in being able to continue their solid work in moving forward with the final stages of the transition process. They are actively working on filling in certain sections of the MSP (Ministry Site Profile) and are scheduled to make a presentation at the September PPC Meeting along with updating the congregation on September 29.
- Due to popular "demand," I am offering another book study beginning September 29th between services in the library. The book is titled "Messy Spirituality" by Mike Yaconelli. This will be a five-week book study wrapping up on October 27th. Super excited to offer this and anticipate that it will be a content rich study and conversation.
- Looking forward to going on a much-needed vacation with Megan scheduled for September 6-13.

Sally's Report:

- August and September have been filled with education programming organization. I would love to have PPC members attend Rally Day on September 22nd at 9:15-10:30 and mingle with our families with your name tags on.
- Intern Elise is a great addition to our faith community! Thank you all for welcoming her with open arms. We will attend an internship retreat at the end of September.
- We have pushed our congregational meeting to November to give us more time to find people to fill the open PPC positions. Thank you to our outgoing members for hanging on for a few more weeks.
- Keep reminding folks that we go back to 8am and 10:30am services this Sunday.

Old Business:

--PPC Retreat Follow-up

--Transition Team update. A presentation was before the meeting. Will present to the congregation September 29 at both services and at Adult Education.

--Nominating Committee. They are still looking for volunteers to fill the Stewardship Board chair as well as PR & Social Concerns. Because of not having these spots filled, the congregational meeting has been postponed to November.

--Annual Meeting—exact date to be determined in November.

--Parsonage use. A new-to-the-school-district teacher moving to the SP area who has not been able to find housing has moved into the parsonage. Lon has been in contact with him to arrange needs.

--Call Committee. Members of the PPC will be contacting potential members of the call committee to begin their process in October.

--Sunday Stewards

New Business:

--We welcomed Intern Elise to our church and our council

--TNT committee presentation

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Devotion will be given by Nancy P. Gina made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Lon. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:05 pm. with the Lord's Prayer led by Nancy Kaufman.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



Happy October Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Chloe Johnson (7)
Presley Katzman (16)

Briggs Katzman (10)
Asher Herschleb (20)

Our Sunday School Students:

Sam Philo (2)
Layla Kelley (4)
Vivianne Herbrand (8)
Elsie Kinney (13)
Ella Paul (14)
Declan Leith (19)
Milo Lueck (25)
Matthew Peterson (31)

Vada Steinmetz (2)
June Lochner (5)
Beckett Suchla (8)
Kane Schwartz (13)
Leonard Pickett (15)
Della Kaderavek (25)
Ella Herbrand (26)

Our Youth:

Boden Frosch (1)
Emelia Greene (4)
Weston Smith (12)
Logan Buchanan (17)
Jason King (23)
Jake Buckles (29)
Khloe Walker (29)

Kaitlynn Lins (3)
Joslyn Schultz (7)
Thea Harpold (16)
Simon Homp (19)
Ava Sandeman (23)
Kellen Ryan (29)

College and Career-age Young People:

Ethan Jones (9)
Zachary Suchomel (29)

Randy Trudell (25)