



**Evie Haffemann, Grade 1**

---

Prairie du Sac, WI

November 2024

Dear Friends of St. John's,

There is something very beautiful about the change in seasons every year. I love the cold air in the morning, the color change of the leaves, the bright night sky revealing the airbrush colors of the Northern Lights, and the feeling that another year is about to turn. It's a time of transition every year. The seasons change and so do we. We are rarely, if ever, the same person every year at the same time. I am not the same person now that I was a year ago. I change, I evolve, I grow, and I understand myself a little more. I would suspect you are a different person this year too.

If we think about it, we too are a different church than we were a year ago. Our congregation has added some people, we baptized new babies and one teenager who chose to receive baptism on her own, we have lost some people due to death or just in part because of life changes, we celebrated our youth going to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering, we welcomed a new Intern, we tried one worship service for the summer, our TNT Team was busy gathering your hopes and suggestions about the future and what you would like to see in a new lead pastor. And this is just the stuff I could remember off the top of my head. Much more could be added to this list as we celebrated together in large and small ways. All important in the life of the church and the community of you who

love this church, you appreciate the ways in which it has cared for you and in turn, you have cared for it. Each of you has contributed to the nurturing nature of what St. John's is truly about. You have heard me say many times, this is an amazing church. We celebrate our life together in all the blessings we receive and offer back into the world. Yet the work of the future of St. John's continues.

As I write this, the Call Committee is in place and they are just beginning their important work to essentially complete the necessary paperwork to indicate that St. John's is open for call, seeking your next lead pastor. I cannot stress to you enough that this process will take some time for the pieces to all come together. And when they do, I trust that the Holy Spirit will drive the process forward, leading the next lead pastor to be called and to serve you faithfully. Just as it has in the past, the Holy Spirit will bless this congregation with the best fit in a lead pastor. Just think about how many times in the life of St. John's, this process has unfolded to ultimately reveal whom God has chosen to serve you, love you, teach you, support you and pray for you. So far, I would say that the Holy Spirit has a successful track record, don't you think?

This is an exciting time in St. John's history and its future. You have the opportunity to see the future arrive as you call your next lead pastor. This person will love you, embrace you, serve you, laugh with you, and cry with you. This person will vision the future with you and journey with you into the years. You are worth the wait St. John's. Because God who is faithful and loving, knows your future and will be there to bless you and reveal the beauty of your future for generations now and to come. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11.

Thanksgiving Peace to You and Your Families,  
Pastor Jason

## ANNUAL MEETING

St. John's Congregational Meeting to approve the 2025 Budget and approve the nominated members to the Parish Planning Council is Sunday, November 17 at 9:00am. Plan to attend this important meeting. Your voice counts!



### **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

**Intern:** Elise Iverson Uphoff [elise@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:elise@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)

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Pastor Sally Williams

[sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org) 643-2439

**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 at any time. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Cake or brownie mixes                     | Kid's cereal                     |
| Taco seasonings                           | Taco or tortilla shells or wraps |
| Canned meals (ravioli, beefaroni, etc.)   |                                  |
| Box meals (hamburger helper, tuna helper) |                                  |
| Toilet paper                              | Dish soap                        |

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 November. The day is in parentheses.

Shirley Uttech (9)  
3125 Smith Road, Apt 619  
Fairlawn, OH 44333

Macel Magnussen (10)  
930 Prairie St., Apt. 202  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Vi Bohler (12)  
N750 Golf Road #3  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

John Laughnan (19)  
930 Prairie St., Apt. 215  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



Janis Klaetsch (22)  
886 Prairie Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Dale Haroldson (23)  
930 Prairie St., Apt. 211  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



### **Stock the Schools**

Along with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's is collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. November's items are new or gently used sweatshirts/hoodies, leggings and sweatpants, child and adult sizes. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations.

	<b>Women of the Church News</b>	
	<b><u>Lydia Circle</u></b> Thursday, November 14, at Dorothy Halverson's, 9456 County Rd. Y, Sauk City	9:00am
	<b><u>Martha Circle</u></b> Thursday, November 7, in St. John's Library, Marilyn Herschleb, Hostess	9:30am
	<b><u>Ruth Circle</u></b> Monday, November 11, at Marian DeGiovanni's, 295 Water St., Prairie du Sac	9:00am
	<b><u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u></b> Tuesday, November 5, in St. John's Library	9:30am

In October, 28 ladies attended Circle Meetings. In November we will have the 3<sup>rd</sup> of a 3-part study on Receiving Grace. Session 1 asked, "Is Grace Real". Session 2 "God's Power Works in Us" was led by Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester. Session 3 "Living as Children of the Light" is November's study and will be led by Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester.

Marian DeGiovanni and Ruth Dresser attended the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Women of the ELCA Women's Ministry Retreat at Bethany Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Dells on Saturday, October 5, 2024. "Turning the World Right Side Up" was the theme of the day. 2 Corinthians 12:9 – "My grace is all you need, for my power is the greatest when you are weak." It started with registration and refreshments at 8:30am. The gathering began at 9am with Thanksgiving for Baptism with Rev. Joy Mortenson-Wiebe, SCSW Bishop presiding. Rev. Janice Benson, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Portage gave the sermon. We were served communion by Bishop Joy Mortenson-Wiebe. There was a blessing for the in-kind gifts that were brought in by all the churches. Those items will be given to River Haven Homeless Shelter in Portage.

There were 71 ladies in attendance at this gathering and the offering for the day amounted to \$890. 50% will go to Lutheran Campus Ministry and 50% will go to the South-Central Synodical Women of the ELCA.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Brenda Crossfield, First English Lutheran-Platteville and she is also head of UW-Platteville Campus Ministry. Lutheran Campus Ministries are so very helpful while students are making big transitions in life. A place for big spaghetti dinners...90 meals/week...making new friends...a place where they are shown love in a lot of ways. Where students can come and share in worship, service, Christ-centered community and

food – welcoming all University students. Jesus mentions LOVE a lot. Receive and GIVE Love to others. How do we love our neighbors as ourselves? How do we show that out in the world? Love takes courage. Are we courageous enough to be vulnerable? This is what was stressed in Rev. Crossfield's talk. Lutheran Campus Ministries in this Synod are in Madison, Whitewater and Platteville.

After this we were served a very delicious lunch of tacos with chicken or beef and vegetables in a wonderful sauce.

After lunch we had our choice of several different workshops. We attended one on "Nurturing our waterways in the age of plastic." How do we be stewards of our environment in the age of plastics? How can we protect all waterways and especially those that are impacted by plastic pollution?

Angie Braddock (Executive Director of River Haven Homeless Shelter in Portage) gave a workshop presentation about the facility they have in Portage with separate places for women and single men. There are 2 family apartments. This is a temporary shelter and has resources for people experiencing homelessness. It provides guidance and promotion of independence, educating residents about the food pantry, medical assistance, mental health programs and many other things. There are often people with mental illness and some need help with drug and alcohol abuse problems. 86% re-offend. Chronic homelessness is about the same percentage. There will be a Holiday Bazaar benefiting River Haven Homeless Shelter on November 30-December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 7-8 at W6865 State Road 16, Pardeeville, WI.

We attended another workshop titled "Loving Lutherans: Nurturing Mental Health in an Election Year and Beyond." "Be curious – not furious" was one of the points stressed, and "disagree with dignity" was another one.

Many of the churches in the Synod brought the money from their Pennies for Poverty Jars to this meeting. That money will be given to Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin. As we have said many times before, we elected to give our Pennies for Poverty Jar money to 6:8. (We are allowed to donate that money to our own local charity.) We will continue to leave that jar on the name tag table until the end of the year. Last year we were able to donate \$300 to 6:8 We are hopeful that we can do the same this year! 6:8 does SO MUCH for our community.

The ThankOffering Service will be on Sunday, November 24. In giving thankofferings, we share in the tradition that goes back to at least the 1800s when Christian women formed "mite" or "cent" societies of giving to support the mission of the church. When others

said there was not enough money to carry out the church's work, the women believed otherwise and acted together. When the ELCA formed several years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude to God for His many blessings. The offering goes to the National WELCA, and provides for World Hunger, Global Ministries and other important programs. Put your contributions in an envelope marked THANKOFFERING. There will be a basket outside the sanctuary for this purpose.

Christmas Cheer recommendations for the WELCA gifts are Hope House and Special Olympics. We will give \$200 to each group. This recommendation will be voted on/approved by each Circle during our November Circle Meetings.

Sarah/Mary Circle is visiting Special Friends during October and November. Lydia Circle will visit them during December and January.

Remember to look in this *Visitor* for the Special Prayer to be read on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for December will be Tuesday, November 26 at 9:00am.



**Thank You, LORD!**

### **Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service**

Join us for a special Thanksgiving Eve worship service here at St. John's on Wednesday, November 27 at 6pm. We will celebrate Holy Communion together and collect an offering of non-perishable items for the local food pantry. All are welcome!



### **Thanksgiving Community Meal**

The Sauk Prairie Community will host a free Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 28 at St. Al's school gym. All are welcome!

St. John's has been asked to help provide pies for this meal. If you are able to donate a pie (or two) please bring your pie to St. Al's gym by 3:30pm on Wednesday, November 27.



# SPECIAL PRAYER

*We invite you to pray this prayer on November 20<sup>th</sup>.*

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Loving Creator,

We asked for strength, and you gave us difficulties to make us strong.

We asked for wisdom, and you gave us problems to solve.

We asked for prosperity, and you gave us purpose and brains to use.

We asked for courage, and you gave us fears to overcome.

We asked for patience, and you gave us situations where we were forced to wait.

We asked for love, and you gave us troubled people to help.

We asked for justice, and you called us to be just and to lead with integrity.

Lord, we have received nothing that we asked for or wanted.

And yet, we received everything that we needed.

For this, we give You thanks.

*- Written and offered by Dr. Colleen Hanycz*



## **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:  
Bill and Connie Burton on the death of Bill's sister, Barb.

Bob Egan, Courtney and Michael Schwartz and their families  
on the death of Bob's sister and Courtney's aunt, Sue.

Tom and Gina Varley and their family on the death of Tom's  
mother, Marilyn Varley.

Sherrie, Paul, Audrie, Lillyann and Natalie Nurkala on the  
death of Sherrie's father, Lyle Meldahl.



## **Baby Congratulations**

We rejoice with Beth and Mike Treffert on the birth of their  
daughter Braelyn Adelyne. She joins big brother Lucas at home.  
Celebrating with the family are proud grandparents, Tom and Gina  
Varley.



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Truth be told, I very much dislike election season. I get very annoyed and exhausted by the ads that run rampant on my tv. The mudslinging, name calling, and misinformation makes me wonder if we'll ever get a glimpse of Christ's kingdom here on earth.

Back in August many rostered leaders received an email with some do's and don'ts in election season and along with it prayers, as we strive to love our neighbors as we will soon elect our new president. I am going to share a few of these prayers and scriptures with you with hope that they might be balm for your soul as well as ignite a fiery passion within you to continue to work for the justice that Jesus calls for in this world; so perhaps we just might catch a glimpse of Christ's kingdom now.

From: [wichurches.org/elections](http://wichurches.org/elections)

*On your way to the polls, conventions, or demonstrations*

**When our anger leads us to roads of rage; Spirit of Wisdom, guide us to take hopeful action.**

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." - Psalm 34:14

*When the news is disturbing*

**When hopelessness troubles us; Gentle God, may we know your presence is with us.**

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." - John 14:27

*When social media posts or politics threaten friendships*

**When politics and systems of the world threaten to divide us; Prince of Peace, reign in us.**

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." - Colossians 3:15

*When fear of what might happen overwhelms us*

**When hope seems but a glimmer; Eternal One, remind us that seeds take time to be planted.**

"And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace." - James 3:18

Feel free to check out the additional prayers at the website provided above and keep them close. Remember the calling to

justice and especially the promise of the Advocate; the Holy Spirit who continues to work through us all.

Peace,



### Adult Education

Nov 17th - Join Intern Elise for a presentation on the signs and symbols used in worship and how they may be a part of our faithful practice. We will also review the flow of the ELCA church calendar.

### New For You

Graphic Novel Bibles are now available for youth and adults to read during services. These colorful, picture-based Bibles can be found near the sanctuary entrance. An engaging, modern format may appeal to some readers. Buddy up with a friend if copies are already in use!



**JUST BAKERY**  
A JustDane Initiative

Just Bakery baked goods will be available for purchase on Sunday, November 17 between our worship services. A great way to add some special treats to your Thanksgiving feast!



**MOBILE MEALS**  
God's love in action

A huge thank you to the Mobile Meal volunteers for again sharing your time and kindness with our neighbors!  
Thank you,

Dan Lovell  
Kim Langer  
Steve Barritt  
Mary Halweg  
Holly Kindschi

Kathy Lovell  
Mike Langer  
Patty Barritt  
Rita Amundson  
Deb Treinen

Hello  
My name is

*Intern*

In the book *How to Walk Into a Room*, Emily P. Freeman describes the feeling in between two moments in life as an 'ellipsis.' The ellipsis is used in writing when words aren't actually written on the page, but the intent is understood. For example, 'As the couple walked at sunset, the man got down on one knee, looking up. The woman gasped, and the man asked...' You've already guessed this is a marriage proposal, and the woman's response is unknown. The missing words are written as '...' and that is the ellipsis. Freeman describes the ellipsis as a time when we know what has come before but we haven't arrived at the next thing yet. We might not know exactly what the next thing is. Chances are, if we listen to our heart and watch how God is moving in our lives, we probably do have an idea of what's coming, just like the ellipsis that leads us to what we already sense.

To me, the month of November can be such a time where 'what's next' is anticipated, but not yet known. In our little section of the Earth, fall is fully here and winter is fast approaching. In the church, the seasons of Advent and Christmas are ahead of us. By the time you are reading this, our country has voted on a change of leadership. For some of us, the ellipsis of our lives hinges on job changes, health changes, changes in our community or relationships. Anticipating what's next, but not fully knowing what it includes the progression of aging.

God is present with us through the ellipsis. When we hang between two things, it can be extremely lonely or scary or exhilarating! I am thankful Christ walks with me, and remembering this sharpens my focus. I think Jesus spent his entire life living and describing these in-between moments, encouraging us to move ever closer to God. Like Freeman, there are two things I ask when I'm hanging in-between, in the ellipsis: 1) Where am I coming from? 2) How is the Spirit of God already moving in my life; where do I sense happiness, contentment, joy, and light? Praying those questions helps to shine light down the path ahead, especially in the between times.

In Peace,  
Intern Elise



### **First Communion Instruction**

A First Communion class will be held on Thursday, November 7 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 10 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.

# Sunday School News

### **Singspiration Sings at Worship**

Students will be singing in worship on Sunday, November 10 at both services. If you haven't received an email with this information, please contact Pastor Sally at 608-643-2439 or [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org).

### **Christmas Program**

Our annual Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 15th at 1:30pm. Please rsvp your students' involvement asap! We look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ together through scripture and song!

Thank you to our Singspiration leaders, Dave Sweeney and JoAnnah Sorg, and to our Parish Education Board for their work in creating and coordinating the program.

There will not be Sunday School classes on Sunday, November 24 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

# MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

## Confirmation Classes and Fellowship Meal

Prior to each confirmation class, all are welcome to join us for a delicious meal, and we ask for a \$2 contribution per person. We also need folks to help with the work: The Set-Up Crew works 4:45-5:45PM, Clean-Up Crew works 5:45-6:45PM, and we also seek desserts. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/WedNightMeal>.

This month, there will be no class on Nov. 20 (Second Mentor Night) and no class on Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving Eve Service). You can find the full confirmation calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/ConfirmCal>

## Potato Peeling for Sauk Prairie Thanksgiving Meal

Is your student looking for a service activity? St. John's is gathering a team of helpers to contribute to the Sauk Prairie Thanksgiving Meal. We need 15 students to help peel potatoes, 12Noon-1:00pm on Wed Nov. 27. Even if your kiddo doesn't need a service activity, please consider helping a good cause in our community (chaperones needed too!). There is no better way to feel the blessings of God than to help others. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/popeeling> and bring your own peeler.

## Mentor Night

St. John's confirmation students will have their next Mentor Night on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. Students and their mentors can find all lessons at <https://tinyurl.com/StJohnsMentor>. You may meet at any location or have an online meeting. If you cannot meet on the date above, please arrange for an alternative date during this same week. We are deeply grateful to all adults serving as mentors to our Youth! It is a great way to share God's love and experience God's blessings together.

## Bread Baking with Intern Elise

High Schoolers, let's spend a little time together Nov 7th at 6:30pm making delicious homemade communion bread to use at St. John's. We will make a sweet, delicious bread that will have everyone excited to accept the body of Christ during our Communion Meals! The bread will be served in both church services on the remaining Sundays in November. There is no cost and no supplies are needed. RSVP to Intern Elise at [Elise@StJohnsSaukPrairie.org](mailto:Elise@StJohnsSaukPrairie.org)

## Serving in November

### Greeters:

Nov 3 (Front Door) Jill/Sam Krueger  
(Side Door) C/C Thompson  
Nov 10 (Front Door) T/G Wyttenbach  
(Side Door)  
Nov 17 (Front Door) Kendra Frey  
(Side Door) Parker Pape  
Nov 24 (Front Door)  
(Side Door) Jill/Sam Krueger

### 10:30 a.m.

John/Ellen Mast  
Dale Clason  
John/Ellen Mast  
Ginny Nimmow  
Khloe Walker  
Kiptyn Suchla  
Dale Clason

### Ushers:

November 3  
  
November 10  
  
November 17  
  
November 24

8:00 a.m.  
Todd Wyttenbach  
Gina Wyttenbach  
Violet Richard  
Dale Haroldson  
Steve Barritt  
Lon Kaderavek  
Butch Passehl  
Nancy Passehl  
Landon Pape  
Todd Wyttenbach  
Gina Wyttenbach  
Dale Haroldson  
Lilly Weittenhiller

### 10:30 a.m.

Kiptyn Suchla  
  
Tom Varley  
Gina Varley  
Myla Steinmetz  
Laura Hutchins  
Isabelle Jolicoeur  
  
Gerry Westphal  
Deb Westphal  
Myla Steinmetz

### Acolytes:

November 3  
November 10  
November 17  
November 24

8:00 a.m.  
Kate Endres  
Charlie Lueck  
Charlie Lueck  
Claire Hansen

### 10:30 a.m.

Michael Jolicoeur  
Alyssa Himebauch  
Madyn Ludowitz  
Elio Piccinelli

### Assisting Ministers: 8:00 a.m.

November 3  
November 10  
November 17  
November 24

Marv Hupp  
Jordan Small  
Jordan Small  
Jordan Small

### 10:30 a.m.

Jordan Small  
Clay Hutchins  
Jordan Small

### Readers:

November 3  
November 10  
November 17  
November 24

8:00 a.m.  
Rob Richard  
Patty Barritt  
Crystal Lautenbach  
Dale Haroldson

### 10:30 a.m.

Jama Graves  
Denny Dederich  
Jude Hanna  
Dale Clason

**Cantors:**

November 3  
 November 10  
 November 17  
 November 24

**8:00 a.m.**

Connie Burton  
 Kids of the Kingdom  
 Katie LaVigne  
 Chris Stephan

**10:30 a.m.**

Connie Burton  
 Kids of the Kingdom  
 Katie LaVigne  
 Chris Stephan

**Communion**

November 3  
 November 10  
 November 17  
 November 24

**Set-Up**

A/L VanLanduyt  
  
 Liam Leith  
 Jayne Carlson

**Clean-Up**

Dale Clason  
  
 Madyn Ludowitz

**Communion Assistants: 8:00 a.m.**

November 3  
 November 10  
 November 17  
 November 24

Patty Barritt  
 Kris Frey  
 Parker Pape  
 Jayne Carlson

**10:30 a.m.**

Gerry Westphal  
 Audrey Luetscher  
 Clay Hutchins  
 Dale Clason

**Sunday Stewards**

November 3  
 November 10  
 November 17  
 November 24

**8:00 a.m.**

Nancy Kaufman  
 Cathy Yanke  
 Tracy Pape  
 Cathy McAlexander

**10:30 a.m.**

Gwen Ringelstetter  
 Gina Varley  
 James Newman  
 James Newman

**Tech Team**

November 3  
 November 10  
  
 November 17  
  
 November 24

**8:00 a.m.**

Hudson Ballweg  
 Liam/Reid Hart  
  
 Lee LaVigne  
 Hudson Ballweg  
 Lisa Davis  
 Ellen Jorgensen

**10:30 a.m.**

Sandberg family  
 Brock Esser  
 Ellen Jorgensen  
 Sean Jager  
 Audrey/Jeff Sandberg

**Coffee Servers**

November 3  
 November 10  
 November 17  
 November 24

John and Linda Hines  
 Steve and Patty Barritt  
 Ziehlsdorf family

**Fellowship Notes**

We celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month by members praying for our honored pastors and signing cards which will be given to pastors.

We only have a few days left this year to volunteer to serve our church family during coffee/ fellowships time. What a wonderful way to demonstrate to your children the gift of caring for others.





## H.E.L.P.—Red Sled Project

Help Excite Little People will be collecting gently, used toys and items for teens this holiday season. The program is based out of the First United Church of Christ, Sauk City, but has become a community-wide project. All items donated are distributed to children/teens that are in need in the Sauk Prairie area. Donations may be brought to the Washington Avenue entrance of First United and placed in the bins inside the door or brought here to St. John's and placed in the decorated box found in the west entrance hall. (A volunteer will then transport them to First United.) The collection will run through Sunday, December 8.



## Sauk Prairie Area Caring Tree

St. John's is part of the Caring Tree community-wide effort to reach out to those in need during the Christmas season. You may pick a tag from the Caring Tree set up in the gathering area. Most tags have ideas for hoped-for gifts for a particular child identified only by a number, age, gender, and size. You purchase the gift and return it unwrapped with the tag attached and leave it under the tree.

Other tags ask for gift cards for local restaurants or more general "stocking stuffer" items that are appropriate for children, teens, or adults.

The Caring Tree also accepts financial gifts to allow volunteer shoppers to purchase gifts. Watch for the marked envelopes on the tree. The deadline for returning gifts to St. John's is Sunday, December 8.



## Coats for Kids

St. John's is working with Concordia United Methodist Church to collect winter outerwear 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. **The last day for collection is Sunday, November 17.**

# ANNUAL MEETING

## **Congregational 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.

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>APPROVED 2024</b>	<b>BUDGETED 2025</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
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	5.066%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$613,264.00</b>	<b>\$625,210.00</b>	<b>1.95%</b>

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

## **Call Team update and more**

The Call Team has been formed and the members are Steve Barritt, Steve Kindschi, Kristin Ryan, Mary Weeks, Sean Jager and Nancy Passehl as lead. We thank the TNT team for their hard work and will continue to use the information they gathered to complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which is required to call a pastor. Pastor Jason continues to guide our congregation through this transitional time and has agreed to continue with us through the end of January. Since Pastor Jason is our interim pastor, he is not allowed to be considered for the lead pastor position with our Congregation. We thank him for all the work he has done and continues to do for all of us which will help us to prepare for our new pastor.

The Call Team met with the Synod representative for an informative meeting regarding the call process. Our team will meet weekly in order to complete the MSP. We will keep you informed as we continue in this process. Please let any of our team members know if you have comments or questions.

## **PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES**

**DATE: October 1, 2024**

**Present:** Donna Nelson, Nancy Passehl, Cathy Yanke, Jason Hill, Ellen Jorgensen, James Newman, Tracy Pape, Roger Seymour, Gina Varley, Gwen Ringelstetter, Cathy McAlexander, Sean Jager

**Absent:** Anne Klinkner, Nancy Kaufman, Elise Iverson Uphoff, Sally Williams, Lon Kaderavek, Eunice Yanke

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Nancy Passehl. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Gina and seconded by Donna. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Nancy P.

### **Secretary Minutes:**

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

### **Treasurer report:**

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

September report numbers

Current month Income	Year-to-Date Income	Current month Expenses	Year-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date Budget
\$ 30,481	\$345,087	\$48,089	\$434,825	\$459,948

In order to meet expenses (payroll) for the month, \$20K was moved from savings to checking. Current giving is not meeting current expenses. We are thankful for those who use Simply Giving to give regularly to help assure some income each month. With the final months of the year approaching, we need to find ways to increase our income or cut expenses (or both).

A discussion about fundraising for the church followed as well as other options, including legacy giving, planning to encourage people to name the church in their estate planning. Fred used to hold a class regarding this each year. Jama Graves helped him present. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Gina and seconded by James. Motion carried.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Evangelism:** Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- Pet Blessing will be this month

**Fellowship:** Cathy McAlexander reported:

- We honored the Sunday School students and teachers at fellowship coffee on Rally Day with balloons and streamers on the serving table.
- We thanked all who volunteered to serve coffee during fellowship this summer.
- We placed calendar sign-up sheets for members to volunteer to pray for our pastors during Pastor Appreciation month in October
- They are considering a Family Game Night. Parish Ed and member-at-large, Roger, offered to help coordinate. Another idea is a movie night.

**Lay Ministry:** Gina Varley reported:

- No report this month

**Parish Education:** Pastor Sally reported:

- Hayride prepared
- Rally Day was Sept 22nd
- Library budget reviewed for Children's Library supplies.

**Properties:** Lon Kaderavek reported:

- No report this month

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

- No report this month

**Stewardship Board:** Anne Klinkner reported:

- Work on setting up a Venmo account as an option for electronic giving continues.
- The board is working on monthly Stewardship themes for 2025 to promote additional contributions.
- Watch for Time and Talent surveys at Rally Day, in your email and on the table in the Narthex. You can put your completed surveys in the basket. New for 2024 is a Google Document you can complete electronically. That will be emailed as well.
- The team that conducted our 2023 Financial Review in 2024 for the 2023 year has been contacted to return in January 2025 for the 2024 Financial Review.

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

- Fall Bible Study has begun with "Receiving Grace: A Study of Ephesians"
- Kits and Quilts for Lutheran World Relief are headed to Minneapolis. We sent 425 quilts, 28 Sewing/Fabric Kits, 93 Personal Care Kits, 77 Baby Care Kits and 232 School Kits
- 4 Ladies will attend the WELCA South Central Synodical Convention at Wisconsin Dells on October 5, 2024.
- The "Pennies for Poverty" money will be donated to 6:8 of Sauk Prairie for their projects in our community. Donate now!
- ThankOffering Sunday will be November 24, 2024

**Youth Committee:** Tracy Pape reported:

- 6:8 A discussion was had regarding the 6:8 Hunger Pack event. Penny also will share a "team" event time and date for those interested.
- Confirmation meal donation collection container will be available during confirmation meals for donations.
- Corn Maze Confirmation students will travel to Treinen Corn Maze on October 23. Watch for signup.
- Potato Peeling - St. Al's Confirmation students will be invited to peel potatoes for the Thanksgiving meal at St. Al's. This event will take place on November 27, at noon. Watch for sign-up.
- Committee Recruitment - A discussion was had regarding growing the youth committee. All are welcome, simply email Tracy\_0820@yahoo.com and share your interest in becoming involved.

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

- No report provided.

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

- No report

## **Pastor/Intern Reports**

### **Interim's Report:**

Interim Jason's Report:

- Massive rejoicing and thanksgiving for our TNT who completed and wrapped up their work this past month. TNT gave a congregational presentation on their process and findings. The presentation was well received, and I feel that the congregation appreciated knowing where the call process is now headed as the TNT will hand off the preliminary work to the Call Committee, in order to complete the MSP. Thank you to Kristin Ryan for serving as bridge representative from TNT to Call Committee as she will be able to offer consistency and process as the work continues. I will be submitting a final report for the PPC at the end of this month.
- I am excited to begin a new church year with both Sunday School and Confirmation students. Seeing the faces of our youth for both Rally Sunday and the first night of confirmation is a welcome sight, as they are full of excitement and anticipation for the upcoming year. I look forward to once again getting to know the youth, dropping by their classrooms, sitting in on sessions, and being a pastoral presence of care, humor, and attention.
- I am grateful for the opportunity to offer another book study featuring the book "Messy Spirituality" by Mike Yaconelli. As I have mentioned before, the book is one of the best I have ever read, and I cannot recommend it enough. The book study runs for five Sundays with our first meeting having met this past Sunday (9/29).
- Very grateful for the opportunity to continue serving as the Interim Pastor through the end of January as a three-month contract was just signed and approved by current PPC Executive Director Nancy Kaufman and incoming PPC Executive Director Nancy Passehl.
- I am looking forward to attending the South-Central Synod Fall Theological Conference being held at both Peace Lutheran Church in Waunakee, and Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison; scheduled for October 9-11.
- Boundaries training where attendance is highly encouraged on November 7, 2024.



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

- Elise and I are attending a supervisor/intern conference outside of West Bend.
- The pastoral team will be attending the Fall Theological Conference in Madison mid-October.
- Thank you PPC members for welcoming our Sunday School parents at Rally Day! I'd love to have you volunteer to help with meals for Confirmation nights (or at the very least come and eat with our youth and their parents) as another way to connect with this section of our membership.
- It's been a fun season of baptisms!
- I will be sending out an invitation to local clergy to participate in an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service. TBC!
- Hats off to TNT for their hard work and great presentation!

### **Intern Elise report:**

- No report this month

### **Old Business:**

- Transition team congregational presentation—Successful and good comments were received. Their teamwork is completed, and they handed off the information that the Call Committee will now lead.
- Nominating committee—for the congregational meeting, John Brennan (Treasurer), Kathy Lovell (Stewardship), Marv Hupp (VP exec PPC), and Melanie Wheeler (PR & Social Concerns). More information is in the Visitor.
- Annual Meeting scheduled for November 17 at 9am between services for elections and budget approval. See the Visitor for more information and a report of last year's meeting minutes.
- Call Committee—Steve Kindschi, Steve Barritt, Sean Jaeger, Mary Weeks, Kristin Ryan and Nancy Passehl will begin meeting on October 10 and then on October 15 with a synod representative.
- Sunday Stewards—sign-up sheets

### **New Business:**

- Interim contract—A three-month extension contract has been offered and accepted by Interim Pastor Jason. Additional goals have been identified.

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 6:00 pm.  
Devotion will be given by Cathy Y.

Donna made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Gwen. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 pm. with The Lord's Prayer led by Nancy Passehl.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.



## **Happy November Birthday!**

### **Our Youngest:**

Emmett Fuchs (8)  
Winnie Gustafson (18)

Lainey Keller (15)  
Barrett Larson (28)

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

Clara Duren (1)  
Evelyn Muehrer (3)  
Olive Nelson (6)  
Kinley Chetwood (17)  
Madelyn Bischoff (22)  
Kenzie Sawyer (23)  
Finn Paque (27)

Kohen Chetwood (3)  
Eralyn Greene (5)  
Emersyn Katzman (8)  
Kendall Koenig (20)  
Mia Perry (22)  
Andrew Ryan (26)  
Theo Nelson (30)

### **Our Youth:**

Carly Jorgenson (2)  
Nadya Khodakivska (7)  
Conner Evert (12)  
Kaleb Chetwood (14)  
Tyler Jorgenson (18)

Emma Gilchrist (4)  
Myla Steinmetz (8)  
Henry Dean (13)  
Ryan Jorgenson (18)  
Caden Argall (19)

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

No Young Adult names to publish this month