

God's Helping Hands

God's Helping Hands



Evelyn Muehrer, 3yr old

GOD'S Hands

GODS Helping



Rhett Kruchten, 4yr old

GODS
Hands



Maggie Johnson, 2yr old



Gavin Johnson, 3yr old

GODS Helping



Gibson Koenig, 3yr old



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this, the sun is shining out the window, the tulips and daffodils have been pushing their way onto this side of the dirt, and the birds are singing in the trees. It feels like Easter!

While it is exciting and enticing to think about leaving the season of Lent behind us, we had some very important themes put before us about radical hospitality that shouldn't just be cast aside.

I posed some questions as we began Lent that I invite you to reconsider now that we're in the season of Easter. Here they are:

1. What is God calling me to let go of in my life so that I may offer radical hospitality?
2. How can I live out love and compassion for others?
3. How can I nurture a spirit of radical hospitality during this season?
4. What significance does Christ's death and resurrection have on my understanding of radical hospitality and how do others see that in my daily living?

What has changed for you over these last several weeks as you have considered the idea of radical hospitality? Has anything? If not, why? Where and how is the Spirit nudging you to serve?

Matthew writes, "For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me." "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Let's continue to commit to living out the radical hospitality to which our risen Christ calls us.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Easter Blessings,

Sally



Parish Planning Council Members:

Executive Director	Nancy Passehl	(608) 219-1936
Assistant Exec Director	Marv Hupp	(608) 370-2657
Secretary	Cathy Yanke	(608) 434-4869
Treasurer	John Brennan	(608) 469-8786
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	John Ballweg	(608) 220-3894
PR and Social Concerns	Melani Wheeler	(608) 963-9540
Stewardship Board	Todd Wyttenbach	(608) 513-9797
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

Pastoral 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 and Communications Coordinator: Linda Hines

linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Financial Secretary: Bruce Fritsch bruce@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Sunday School Superintendent: Dale Clason

sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org

St. John's Lutheran Church: (608) 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 at any time. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry especially needs:

Canned Pasta
Cereal
Flour

Flavored Rice pouches
Boxed Potatoes
Sugar

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 May. The day is in parentheses.

Liz Groth (3)
S7849 State Hwy 78
Merrimac, WI 53561

Shirley Anding (4)
429 Pine St., #3
Sauk City, WI 53583

Harold Carlson (5)
400 Washington St., Apt. 222
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Doris Lohr (5)
S9591 Church Road
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marilyn Brecka (8)
N831 Barta Road
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Carol Mallon (9)
N1617 Fjord Circle
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marlene Wilson (10)
9411 Lakebend Preserve Ct
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Darlene Holl (15)
418 Lueders Rd., Apt. 9
Sauk City, WI 53583

Julie Allen (21)
8048 Lueth Road
Sauk City, WI 53583

Denise Baars (21)
400 Washington St. Apt. 115
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marilyn Straub (25)
N750 Golf Rd., Lot 22
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, May 8, at Carol Mallon's, N1617 Fjord Circle, Prairie du Sac	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, May 1, in St. John's Library, Barb Salvesson, hostess	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, May 12, in St. John's Library, Marian DeGiovanni, hostess	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, May 6, in St. John's Library	9:30am

In April, 25 ladies attended Circle Meetings. Diane Elsing, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester led the Bible Study. In May we will be studying Receiving the Spirit's Flame: "Spiritual Gifts in the Life of the Church" ... That Study will be led by Darlene Holl, Mary Weeks, Connie Burton and Kathy Lester.

The Sauk/Columbia County WELCA Spring Gathering was held on April 26th and was hosted by Zion and Leland Lutheran Churches. There will be a report of this meeting in the June Visitor.

LOOKING AHEAD: (Mark your calendars): We are planning an "All-Circle Picnic" July 17th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The picnic will take the place of our regular Circle Meetings. Ruth Circle will be in charge of the brunch and will be furnishing the food and doing the serving. All women of St. John's are most cordially invited. We will have more information about the program in the June Visitor.

The deadline for having our Lutheran World Relief kits and Quilts ready for shipment is September 12th. We should be thinking about applying for the \$250 grants that each Circle and the quilters can get from Thrivent. The grants are such a wonderful help for the expense of these kits and also the Quilts. Lydia Circle (Sewing/Fabric Kits); Martha Circle (School Kits); Ruth Circle (Baby Care Kits); Sarah/Mary Circle (Personal Care Kits). The Quilters have been diligently working on making quilts all year.

Saturday, October 4th is the Biennial Convention at New Heights Church at The Grove in Mazomanie. "We Stand with You in Love" is the Theme of the Gathering. Watch for further details in upcoming newsletters.

We are working on updating the WELCA pamphlet explaining what Circles are all about. Each Circle should try to get a picture of your group at your May meeting.

Martha Circle is visiting Special Friends in April and May. Sarah/Mary Circle will be visiting them in June and July.

The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for June will be Tuesday, May 27th at 9:00 a.m.

Be sure to read the Special Prayer found in this visitor on May 20th.

Summer Worship Schedule Change

This summer we are going to have only one summer worship service at 9am. This will begin on Sunday, May 25 and will go through Sunday, September 1. Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends are included in the 9am schedule. Sunday, September 7 we will resume our 8am and 10:30am service. We encourage you to continue commitment to this faith community through your attendance and weekly offerings.

Adult Education

April 27	Good Earth: History and Action of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Association	Sauk Prairie Conservation Association
May 4th	Gun Violence Prevention, Part 2: Youth Perspectives, Family Stories, and Mental Health	Janelle Hupp and Cora Miller
May 11th	Study on James, Ch 1-3 Christian Action Amidst Daily Life	Intern Elise
May 18th	Study on James, Ch 4-5 Christian Action Amidst Daily Life	Intern Elise

May 18th is the last day of Adult Education for the academic year. Continue to watch communications for any summer offerings.

NO Sauk Prairie School A/P Testing

The Sauk Prairie High School will not be using our building for their A/P Testing this year. Testing has changed and requires the students to use computers at the school this year.

Geraniums for Pentecost

Jennifer Sawle will be in the gathering area between services on May 18th to sell Red Geraniums to decorate our church on Pentecost and again before and after the 9am worship service on May 25th. Afterwards, the geraniums will be planted on the church grounds. Flowers/donations may be given in celebration of a special occasion, or in honor or memory of a loved one and the details will be printed in the bulletin on Pentecost.



American
Red Cross

Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive in St. John's fellowship hall on Monday, May 19 beginning at 11am. Go to redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.



St. John's is scheduled to deliver Mobile Meals June 9-13 and June 16-20. 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, simply sign up on the kiosk. Thank you for your help!



Post High School Graduates

Are you graduating from a trade school, a university, a higher education program, etc. this May or June? We would like to celebrate with you! We ask you to send us your name, school or program that you are graduating from and the degree or certificate that you have received. We will print them in our newsletter (the *Visitor*) for others to see so that we may celebrate this milestone with you by lifting you up in prayer and joy. Congratulations!

Hello
My name is

Intern

Dear Friends of St. John's,

As nature gets busy in the spring, it seems we do too: graduation parties, picnics, volunteering opportunities, etc. We enter into a season of abundance: long, warm days, and chances to gather. God is our God of abundance, and there is no shortage of places to experience the glory.

Through life there's usually a lot more than what we can take in. Sometimes more fun or interesting things to do than our schedule allows, and sometimes more struggles than we can bear. You might be overwhelmed in a time of grief, a time of being so busy you're breathless, or in a time of economic or political stress. God's abundance is for you in times of joy and happiness, and for you in times of support and need.

Let God help you discern and prioritize what is important. Let God help you to see what you need more of, and what you need less of. Open up to God to admit those areas where you need help, and don't be too proud to ask for help.

Then comes the part I'm still learning: the Sabbath. Often pastors will talk about Sabbath in the winter, as a time to rest, but I'm here to remind you (and myself) of the Sabbath in what might be your busiest season. Find a moment to rest, and rest in God, if you take a break. I'm slowly learning that choosing some way to 'take it easy' actually allows me to do other things better. Some days I dial down my dinner cooking, others I'll turn on the TV for 30 minutes, others I'll take up a friend's offer to pick up a few things at the store for me.

Our God of abundance wants us to enjoy what is offered to us. God will help us find what is important, and God will bring the help and support we need. Let's remember to rest a little and let God into each of our days.

Intern Elise

Immigration Team

Interested in St. John's role in supporting our immigrant neighbors? No experience is needed! Contact Intern Elise at Elise@stjohnssaukprairie.org



New Babies!

We celebrate with Brendan and Mikayla Coy on the birth of their son, Jameson Joel. Jameson is welcomed home by big sister Vivian and his grandparents, Steve and Robyn Coy.

We also rejoice with Cydney and Jeremy Kruchten on the birth of twin daughters, Sutton Elizabeth and Peyton Olivia. The girls are welcomed home by brothers Rhett and Knox. Jerry and Nancy Kaufman are their grandparents.

We rejoice with Eldoris Lovell and her family as she celebrates the birth of great-grandson, Reedus David Lovell. His parents are Brandon and Katie Lovell.



Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Jolene and Leon Herbrand on the death of Jolene's aunt Donna Nichols.

SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray the following prayer on May 20th.

Father God, we pray for our world today. We pray for peace and hope to abound. Many are affected by natural disasters: floods, droughts and forest fires. Many are struggling with conflict, poverty and the global food crisis. O Lord, we pray for your provision, peace and protection. Please help those who are working in communities afflicted by crisis.

Lord, we ask for peace in these nations and throughout the world. Protect all those who are vulnerable to the effects of war and displacement from their homes. Give those in authority patience, humility, wisdom and endurance to persevere in bringing about positive solutions for their nations. Amen.

Sunday School News

Sunday School Offering

We encourage our Sunday School students to keep bringing in their offerings for Good Gifts. This year's offering is going to nutrition for children. One child receives foods high in protein and vitamins for a month for \$25. Many of these children have lost one or both parents and is a way we can be the feet of Jesus – bringing his message of nourishment and care. We will collect our final offering on Sunday, May 4 (the last day of Sunday School). Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you, Sunday School Volunteers!

As another year of Sunday School comes to an end our hearts continue to be filled with gratitude for all of our volunteers. We simply cannot have this program without you. Thank you for your tireless dedication and love for our students.

Dale Clason (Superintendent)

Hana Johnson, Kelly Koenig, Alyssa Himebauch (3 yr olds)

Jordan Small, Kendra Frey, Ella Stephan (4K & K)

Lee Nolden, Abbey Nolden, Derek Rosenstiel, Lillian Ott (1st grade)

Lillyann Nurkala, Kylie Hutchins, Sophia Hansen (2nd grade)

Jill Kreuger, Polly Sailor, Charlie Lueck, Cora Miler (3-4th grade)

Tammy Annen (5-6th grade)

Dave Sweeney, JoAnnah Sorg (Singspiration)

Ruellene Seymour (Kids of the Kingdom)

Dale Clason, Audrey Luetscher (Library)

Maren Anderson Boerger, Christopher Stephan, Laura Hutchins,

Roxanne Zick, Miranda Jager (Substitutes)

Alice Chenoweth, Annie Kippley, Linda Hines, John Hines, Penny

Johnson (Assorted tasks)

My deepest apologies if anyone was inadvertently left off this list. My gratitude is deep. Thank you for bringing great joy and life to our Sunday School students this year!

Peace,
Pastor Sally



Summer Camps

If you are interested in registering for a Lutheran Summer Camp, here is some information that may be of interest to you. The two most popular spots for our congregation are Lutherdale and Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Both have excellent facilities and wonderful programs.

Summer Camps are not just for youth! There is a Family Camp at Lutherdale (lutherdale.org) where families will participate in campfire, Bible study, arts & crafts, waterfront activities, the challenge course, and more! Families explore camp together and strengthen relationships with one another as they play in God's creation. Sugar Creek (sugarcreekbiblecamp.org) has several Family Camps to choose from. Sugar Creek welcomes all family shapes & sizes – including of course grandparent/grandchild family units. Experience games, crafts, nature walks, swimming, evening programs, interactive campfires, horseback rides, all of your choice!

Before you register for camp, please contact Penny at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org to learn about available financial assistance, in support of your youth's faith experiences.



Affirmation of Baptism

On April 27 St. John's held our Affirmation of Baptism service for the following young people. Please keep these celebrants in your prayers.

Caden Argall
Brooke Braund
Breileigh Brickl
Neelah Ganshert
Alyssa Himebauch
Lee LaVigne
Elio Piccinelli
Ella Stephan

Bryce Ballweg
Evelynn Brennan
George Colby
Liam Hart
Michael Jolicoeur
Parker Pape
Joslyn Schultz
Austin Urban

Serving in May

Greeters:

May 4 (Front door)
(Side door)

May 11 (Front door)
(Side door)

May 18 (Front door)
(Side door)

May 25 (Front door)
(Side door)

8:00am

Don/Vi Bohler

Rich/Kris Frey

Linda Hines

Chesney Braund

Isabelle Jolicoeur

9:00am

Steve/Cheryl Sprecher

10:30am

JoAnnah/Todd Sorg

Jackie Frosch

Isabelle Jolicoeur

Olivia Thorne

Ushers:

May 4

May 11

May 18

May 25

8:00am

Lon Kaderavek

Dale Haroldson

Cora Miller

Todd Wytttenbach

Gina Wytttenbach

Henry Dean

Olivia Thorne

Rob Richard

Cooper Rennie

9:00am

Todd Wytttenbach

Gina Wytttenbach

Cooper Rennie

10:30am

Tom Varley

Gina Varley

Reid Hart

Gerry Westphal

Deb Westphal

Paityn Hauge

Claire Hansen

Acolytes:

May 4

May 11

May 18

May 25

8:00am

Kate Endres

Violet Richard

9:00am

10:30am

Madyn Ludowitz

Carly Jorgenson

Assisting Ministers:

May 4

May 11

May 18

May 25

8:00am

Jordan Small

Donna Knickmeyer

Jordan Small

9:00am

Neelah Ganshert

10:30am

Jude Hanna

Clay Hutchins

Readers:

May 4
May 11
May 18

May 25

8:00am

Nancy Kaufman
Dale Haroldson
Gary Tomter

9:00am

Jama Graves

10:30am

Dale Clason
Marian DeGiovanni
Jon Neubacher

Cantors:

May 4
May 11
May 18

May 25

8:00am

Jeff and Kathy Ochsankehl
Connie Burton

9:00am

Doug Slater

10:30am

Connie Burton
Doris Lohr

Communion Set/Clean: Set-Up

May 4 Linda Michaels
May 11 Jane Calenzo
Rich Calenzo
May 18 George Colby

9:00am

May 25 Jayne Carlson

Clean-Up

Dale Clason
Barb Salvesson
Sarah Warmke
Dale Clason

Patty Barritt

Communion Assistants: 8:00am

May 4 Kris Frey
May 11 Patty Barritt
May 18 Violet Richard

9:00am

May 25 Audrey Luetscher

10:30am

Mary Weeks
Dale Clason

Sunday Stewards:

May 4 Melani Wheeler
May 11 Todd Wytenbach
May 18 Gwen Ringelstetter

9:00am

May 25 John Ballweg

10:30am

Gina Varley
James Newman
James Newman

Technology Team:

May 4 Ellen Jorgensen
May 11 Ellen Jorgensen
May 18 Ellen Jorgensen

9:00am

May 25

10:30am

Sandberg family
Sandberg family
Sean Jager

Coffee Servers:

May 4

May 11

John and Linda Hines

May 18

May 25

Bob and Josie Fentress

Notes from Fellowship Board

Thank you to everyone who worked and/or donated food for the Palm Sunday Brunch. 207 persons were served. It was a beautiful day with great food and loving fellowship.

Please continue to sign-up to volunteer to serve coffee on Sunday mornings. The Fellowship Board is available to help you get things started. Sign up by yourself, with friends or family. It is a great way to meet fellow members of St. John's!

We are making the switch from Styrofoam cups to paper coffee cups to reduce our carbon footprint. If you would care to help with the cost of paper coffee cups, please put a donation in the offering plate earmarked "Coffee Cups". We also continue to invite you to bring your reusable/travel coffee cups to use during coffee time. Please remember to take your coffee cups home with you after our fellowship coffee.

thank you

Thank you to all who attended Rev. Jeff Wild's presentation on gun violence prevention and the transformation of surrendered firearms into garden tools and art pieces. This can be a challenging topic, and everyone came with open minds, curiosity, and we gathered around Christ's hope for a more peaceful world.

Safe Surrender

Anyone interested in continuing the conversation of a Safe Surrender of firearms here at St. John's or being one of many hands to coordinate an event, please contact Intern Elise at Elise@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Middle and High School News

6th Grade Confirmation Orientation – Mark your calendars!

Is your student currently enrolled as a sixth grader, and ready to begin the confirmation program at St. John's next Fall? Then, you should plan to attend the Confirmation Orientation on Wed, May 7 at 6pm. Both you and your 6th Grade student should attend to learn about program expectations, register for the program, and get a jump start on the opportunities that will begin in summer. If you are unable to attend on May 7, but need to register your sixth-grade student for the confirmation program, please contact Penny Johnson at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org today.

Worship Jobs and More!

Confirmation classes have concluded, but that doesn't mean our confirmation students are sitting still! June through September, confirmation students will need to complete a minimum of three Worship Jobs. Look for the online sign-up information to come via email approximately May 15. Additionally, students can get a jump start on next year's confirmation program by completing Sermon Notes and Service Projects during the summer. If you have any questions, please contact Penny Johnson at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org.

High School Senior Recognition

Let's celebrate with our graduating High School seniors! On Sunday May 18 at 9:30am we will celebrate with students in the Fellowship Hall to offer our congratulations, and at the 10:30 Service we will honor and pray with our young adults as they prepare to step into the next phase of life. If you are the parent of a high school senior, please plan to arrive with your student, in their graduation cap and gown, for 10:30 Service. We will host a reception with members of the congregation after service. We are proud to celebrate this milestone in the lives of our St. John's young adults.

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: April 1, 2025

Present: Nancy Passehl, Marv Hupp, John Brennan, Sally Williams, John Ballweg, Tracy Pape, Roger Seymour, Gina Varley, James Newman, Gwen Ringelstetter, Todd Wyttenbach, Cathy McAlexander, Melani Wheeler

Absent: Cathy Yanke, Elise Iverson Uphoff, Eunice Yanke, and Sean Jager.

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Nancy Passehl. Nancy Passehl asked for approval of the agenda. The motion to approve was made by Gina Varley and seconded by Gwen Ringelstetter. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Gina Varley.

Secretary Minutes:

The March minutes were submitted online by Tracy Pape. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Gina Varley and seconded by Gwen Ringelstetter. Motion carried.

Treasurer report:

The committee reviewed and discussed the March 2025 Treasurer Report submitted by John Brennan.

March report numbers:

Current Month Income	Current Month Expenses	Current Month Balance	Year-to-Date Income	Year-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date Budget
\$42,224	\$46,682	(\$4,458)	\$148,947	\$157,541	\$156,302

John Brennan reported that many people have asked how we're doing compared to last year. While we used a lot of our savings in 2024, we're seeing good progress in 2025. So far, we're on track to cut our deficit by more than half. While we can't predict the future, Giving is up, and Expenses are about the same. We're entering spring in a strong position, with exciting events ahead for our congregation.

John Brennan recommended a change in our policy for restricted giving. Restricted giving is a great way to support causes through St. John's, such as projects for Haiti, Lutheran World Relief, and the Good Neighbor Clinic. However, John suggests we no longer accept restricted gifts for individuals. We encourage people

to still give directly to individuals, and our office can assist with these connections, but we won't act as a middleman for these gifts. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sally. A motion to change the policy to no longer accept restricted giving for individuals was made by James Newman and seconded by Gina Varley. Motion carried.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- One couple signed the Guest Book, and a Welcome Card was sent. Looking for a person to take on this job and be on our board. Fay Rentmeester had done this before me. --- Sheila is still in Illinois with her mother.

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander reported:

- We are making the switch from Styrofoam cups to paper coffee cups as we feel a responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint and to be good stewards of our earth. The cost of the Styrofoam cups is \$40 per 1000 cups, as opposed to \$100 per 1000 paper cups. If you, too, feel the call to help St. John's be a responsible caretaker of the earth, please consider donating toward the purchase of paper cups.

We continue to invite church members to bring their reusable/travel coffee cups to use during coffee time while reminding everyone to remember to take their cups home each week.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

The committee held an email meeting instead of an in-person meeting and provided updates.

- The summer schedule will start on May 25 and go through August 31, with one service at 9 am
- We have a group of bakers who have volunteered to make communion bread, which will be served once a month instead of wafers.
- Easter flowers were sold on March 9 & 16. We will be setting up flowers on Saturday morning, April 19. People are welcome to pick up their flowers after the 10:30 am service on Easter Sunday. It will be on a first-come, first-served basis as we cut back on the number of plants.

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

The parish ed board did not meet in person in March, but we touched base via email this month.

- Confirmation students will be going camping in July.
- Confirmation students are conducting Wednesday evening services for Lent, including creating the prayers and giving the sermons, as well as all Worship roles, with the support of Pastor Sally and Elise.
- April is the affirmation of baptism.
- Dale Clason has taken over as superintendent for the remainder of the school year as well as the next school year.
- Elise is in charge of the adult ed schedule and has done a fabulous job getting a number of diverse topics and speakers.

Properties: John Ballweg reported:

There are no new developments to report for the April meeting. Is aware of the handicap button sticking at the main entrance and is looking into the matter.

PR & Social Concerns: Melani Wheeler reported:

No new concerns.

- We have drivers for pick up for JUST BAKERY now. We will not have a sale in April due to the Easter Services, and they are not able to come any other time in April.
- Marv and Janell Hupp are interested in taking over the Just Bakery Sales and some pick up.
- Working with Elise on our Gun Violence Awareness and the program to be presented.

Stewardship Board: (Cathy Yanke/Anne Klinkner/Todd Wyttenbach) reported:

No report provided.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke reported:

- The Gather magazine is now coming with three Bible Studies included and should arrive quarterly. This is to help with more prompt delivery.
- The WELCA Spring Gathering is Saturday, April 26, hosted by Zion Lutheran Stone Church of Rock Springs. Lisa Pickarts, daughter of Haakon and Janice Carlson will be the guest speaker. She will share her experiences as an RN at Sauk Prairie Hospital and as VP of the Good Neighbor Clinic. We would like to see a large group from St. John's in attendance. Call the office if you would like to carpool.

Youth Committee: Tracy Pape reported:

The committee held an email meeting instead of an in-person meeting and provided updates. After reviewing our recent March activities and discussions, there are no new developments to report for the April meeting.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

No report provided.

Youth member at Large: Sean Jager reported:

- April 7th: Baseball @5PM
- Varsity @ Sauk City Jaycee Baseball Park
- Junior Varsity @Grand Avenue Baseball Field
- April 8th: Golf @9AM @Lake Wisconsin Country Club
- Baseball @5PM
- Varsity @Sauk City Jaycee Baseball Park
- Junior Varsity @Grand Avenue Baseball Field
- Softball @5PM
- Varsity @Sauk Prairie High School JV Softball Diamond
- Junior Varsity @Westwynde Park
- Girls' Soccer @5 & 7PM @Sauk Prairie High School Stadium Field
- April 10th: Boys' Tennis @4:15PM @Sauk Prairie High School
- April 11th: Baseball @4:30, 5, & 7PM
- Junior Varsity (4:30PM) @ Sauk City Jaycee Baseball Park
- Junior Varsity 2 (5PM) @ Grand Avenue Baseball Field
- Varsity (7PM) @Sauk City Jaycee Baseball Park
- Lacrosse @5 & 7PM
- Varsity (5PM)@Sauk Prairie High School Stadium Field
- Junior Varsity (7PM) @Sauk Prairie High School MS Practice 1 (Yes, that is the name they put for the place)
- Girls' Soccer @5 & 7PM
- JV @Sauk Prairie High School MS Practice 1
- V @ Sauk Prairie High School Stadium Field

Further information about the rest of the month can be found at <https://badgerconference.org/public/genie/77/school/4/date/2025-04-01/view/month/?categories=426>

Pastor/Intern Reports

Lead Pastor's Report: Not applicable

Sally's Report:

- Thank you to Pastor Karen Hofstad for pastoral coverage and Pastor Dan Odden for presiding and preaching at worship in my

and Intern Elise's absence. It was a gift to step away from daily ministry and spend some time with my family.

- A safety team will be gathering in April/May to begin the process of going through our building, policies, and procedures to see how we might improve the overall safety of all who are on church property. Team members are: Nancy Passehl, John Ballweg, Gina Varley, Marv Hupp, Intern Elise, and Pastor Sally.
- Due to this time of transition and the extra workload without a lead pastor, we did not apply for an intern for the 2025-2026 school year. This was a very hard decision to make, and we look forward to applying again as soon as we're able.
- Please continue to challenge yourselves to meet new-to-you members and visitors to church.

Intern Elise's Report:

- Continued work on the approval process.
- Recruited five new communion bread bakers to make 'real' communion bread for the 3rd Sundays of the month.
- Preparation for hosting Rev. Jeff Wild for Faith, Firearms, and Forging on April 6.
- Wrapping up teaching 9th grade confirmation year.
- Increased preaching schedule through Lent.
- Preparing for Holy Week and preaching Maundy Thursday and Easter.

Old Business:

- April 6 Firearms and Forging Event
- Safety Teams Update
- Office Coordinator Update
- Call Team Update

New Business:

- There are no new business items to report

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Cathy McAlexander. James Newman made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Gina Varley. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm. with The Lord's Prayer led by Sally Williams.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Pape.



Happy May Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis.

Our Youngest:

Lily Carpenter (17)

Our Sunday School Students:

Ethan Lohr (1)

Dakota Scott (1)

Eli Emerson (5)

Lyle Opie (7)

Eloise Nelson (16)

Macelyn Krintz (19)

Maddox Burke (21)

Amelia Trager (21)

Hallie Ballweg (24)

Oliver Newman (24)

Riley Jorgensen (30)

Nadia LaVigne (31)

Our Youth:

Colby Frey (3)

Malcolm Leith (5)

Mason Burke (7)

Cooper Rennie (9)

Clay Hutchins (11)

Bryce Argall (16)

Evelyn Bahe (17)

McKenzie Lautenbach (18)

Liam Leith (25)

Ian Quayle (25)

Leah Kruchten (28)

College and Career-age Young People:

Jozie Braund (12)

Austin Bruckert (15)