
Prairie du Sac, WI

June 2025

The Many Loves of a Church Secretary
by June Hunter

Church secretaries are loved, hated, overlooked, understood, misunderstood, overworked, competent, incompetent, long-suffering, impatient, and infinitely necessary to the daily life of the church.

They make the best cup of coffee in town, and serve it at all hours, free of charge, and they know by the sound of a voice on the telephone whether the caller is desperate or merely dramatizing. They are the minister's sounding-board, wailing wall, and nursemaid all rolled into one.

Church secretaries quickly master the art of making up an interesting Sunday bulletin when all they have to start with is the notice of the forthcoming Boy Scout paper drive. They learn to cope with salesmen, hypercritical parishioners, mischievous small boys and girls, temperamental machines, ducks and snow shovels that block the doors, and leaky toilet tanks.

They can read the minister's writing better than his wife or her husband can, and they can keep secrets. Also, they are the only ones who know where to find the new roll of adding machine tape, the movie projector, or the empty cake pan from the fellowship dinner.

Church secretaries come in assorted sizes, shapes and colors – short, tall, skinny, fat, blonde, brunette, plain, and pretty. It has sometimes happened that one has changed from fat to skinny or from blonde to gray during the course of her employment – due, no doubt, to the pressures of her work. It's more likely, however, that she would switch from skinny to fat, since there are often gifts of food sent her way.

They can paint posters, make bulletin boards, find space for two different meetings that have been scheduled for the same time slot and track down the minister during an emergency. They can come in early to open the building for a meeting or stay late to close-up.

Church secretaries spend their lunch hours at the post office buying stamps or dropping off a large mailing, buying office

supplies, dropping off the bank deposit or delivering flowers and bulletins to home-bound parishioners.

They make mental notes of comments they hear regarding the Sunday sermons and tactfully relay such comments (in edited form) at the appropriate time. They accustom themselves to receive no remarks whatsoever when the bulletin is correct week after week, but to expect a half-dozen calls pointing out the occasional “boo-boo.”

They learn to smile sweetly – and silently – when confronted with a six-page committee report for immediate typing and copying on the day of the regular monthly board meeting, when they know for certain that the committee met three weeks ago.

And they are very good at applying first aid and aspirin, picking out hymns for Sunday and music for funerals, listening to problems, thinking up ideas for activity groups, babysitting, fixing stubborn copiers and paper shredders, writing newsletters, standing in line at post offices, and eating lunch while answering the telephone.

Church secretaries like warm offices, electric typewriters, copy machines that don't quit on Friday mornings when the bulletin is being printed, thoughtful Lutheran Church Women hostesses who leave leftover goodies from the morning meetings, and all volunteers.

They do not like people who borrow office equipment after hours without leaving a note, washrooms in the other wing of the church, telephones that invariably ring when secretaries are in the above-mentioned washrooms, the eerie feeling of being completely alone in a large building some days and being taken for granted.

Most church secretaries like their work despite its unpredictable demands. Some feel it is a way to serve. All of them know that they could earn more if they worked in industry.

But...every once in a while, when a church secretary has been able to help someone in trouble or smooth out a potentially difficult situation, the smile she receives from the person facing her across the battered and cluttered desk makes her hectic daily routine very worthwhile indeed.

What is a church secretary? The “Martha” of the church office, that's all. But what would your church do without her?

Thank you greatly, Aletha Ballweg for stepping into this role at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. I hope you love it!

Original letter found in the bottom of a desk drawer, updated just a bit



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 (608) 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 Coordinator: Linda Hines linda@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Office Administrator: Aletha Ballweg aletha@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Financial Secretary: Bruce Fritsch bruce@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Sunday School Superintendents: 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

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Prairie du Sac,
Wisconsin 53578



Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry

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:

Granola Bars
Canned Ravioli
Mac 'N Cheese

Mayo/Salad Dressing
Canned Tuna
Cookies

Thank you for helping others in our community.



Birthday Greetings

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

Roger Maynard (6)
7429 North Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Maureen Patterson (6)
703 Phillips Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Jan Floeter (7)
722 Risley Oak Court
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Diane Reich (8)
1017 Madison St.
Sauk City, WI 53583

Jim Wolfgram (11)
309 Sycamore St.
Sauk City, WI 53583

Ruth Tupper (16)
1050 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Roger Clason (18)
1050 Prairie Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Carol Ellingson (19)
2012 Taylor Trail #2
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Bob Nelson (21)
821 Hanksfield Place
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Caroline Morrow (24)
8387 Rimmel Court
Dane, WI 53529

Dianne Effinger (24)
W14204 Selwood Dr
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Pam Pickens (25)
345 – 8th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, June 12, at Darlene Holl's, 418 Lueder's Road, Sauk City	1:00pm
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, June 5, at St. John's Library, Ruth Dresser, Hostess	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, June 9, at St. John's Library, Marian DeGiovanni, Hostess	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, June 3, at St. John's Library	9:30am

In May 28 Circle members and one guest attended Circle meetings. The Study was led by Darlene Holl, Mary Weeks, Connie Burton and Kathy Lester. In June the Study will be led by Darlene Holl, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester.

The Sauk/Columbia County Conference (Formerly Baraboo Conference) was held on April 26th at Zion Lutheran Church, Rock Springs. Zion and St. John's in Leland (sister churches, co-hosted). There were 7 from St. John's of Prairie du Sac who attended: Marian DeGiovanni, Eunice Yanke, Kathy Lester, Ginny Nimmow, Barb Salvesson, Diane Elsing and Ruth Dresser. There was a total of 40 ladies in all who attended the conference.

Lisa Carlson Pickarts gave a very interesting talk about the Good Neighbor Clinic, which was started by her father, Dr. Haakon Carlson in 1999. He had retired and wanted to keep on helping people and Dr. DeGiovanni had talked to him about helping in Haiti (where he was doing a lot of work). Dr. Carlson was seriously thinking of joining Dr. DeGiovanni and would be spending a lot of time in Haiti. Lisa's mom (Janice) didn't want him to be away from home and persuaded him to stay.... saying "there a lot of people who need you right here." So, The Good Neighbor Clinic was started right in Prairie du Sac at St. John's Lutheran Church!

Volunteers would come every week and move furniture around, papered the windows for privacy and made the rooms into a clinic. They later moved into a facility at St. Vincent's, and they are now located in the old Sauk-Prairie Hospital. The Good Neighbor Clinic is staffed by volunteer physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers and interpreters. They have expanded services to include a diabetes nurse-patient educator. They are supported by various organizations in the Sauk-Prairie community and by generous donations from individuals and available grants. The 3 Pharmacies have been a tremendous help also. There is a lot to it, and it takes a

lot of dedicated people...some writing grant requests...to keep it going. We can be so grateful to Dr. Carlson for starting the clinic and for all the hard-working volunteers who do so much to help the thousands of people who need this health care (uninsured or low-income people). They are always very happy and grateful for this help. Dr. Carlson would be proud that his daughter Lisa is now the Vice President of the Good Neighbor Clinic.

There was a business meeting led by Donna Peterson, WELCA Synod President. Offering Total was \$688. (Half will go to Good Neighbor Clinic and Half to WELCA Synod). We talked about what we are doing as far as quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief also including hospice kits and newborn kits for Global Ministries. Other churches in the Conference are doing about the same things we are doing, some are making greeting cards and gifts for Care Ministry, making sani-pads for girls in Africa, and making t-shirts into diapers. **One big thing for us to be thinking about: St. John's, Prairie du Sac will host the 2026 Spring Gathering,** (usually the last Saturday in April). We then enjoyed a very nice luncheon consisting of chicken salad sandwiches (home-made buns), several different kinds of salads (jello, 7-layer, vegetable, macaroni) and a delicious cake for dessert.

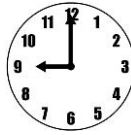
We are urging people to attend the WELCA Synodical Biennial Convention at New Heights Church at the Grove in Mazomanie on Saturday, October 4th. Early Bird Registration is July 1-August 10. We will be getting more information about this event. We were also informed that the Triennial Convention is in Des Moines, IA, July 16-19, 2026.

Here at St. John's, we will be having our Summer Picnic on Thursday, July 17th, in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle is in charge of the brunch and will be furnishing the food and doing the serving. You can bring a guest, and you don't have to bring food! How about that? It's a good deal....so mark your calendars now....and plan to attend. We will have a speaker from ADRC. This should be very interesting!

We are working on updating the St. John's WELCA pamphlet explaining all our Circle activities and including new pictures of each Circle.

Martha Circle has been Visiting Special Friends. Sarah/Mary Circle will be visiting them in June & July.

Be sure to read the Special Prayer found in this *Visitor* on June 20th.



Worship Time Change

We have changed to our summer worship schedule. Services will be at **9:00am only** from Memorial Day (May 25) weekend through Labor Day (August 31) weekend.

Our worship services are held in St. John's sanctuary and services are available on Zoom. An easy way to connect to Zoom is to go to our website, stjohnssaukprairie.org and click on the "Join Us Live for Worship" button in the upper right corner of the opening page.

Retirement Celebration!

Please join us on Sunday, June 15 after worship for a reception to celebrate Linda Hines' retirement. We will have a brief program and enjoy some appetizers and desserts as we give her thanks for her ministry dedicated to God and God's people. Hope to see you there!

Welcome Aletha Ballweg

We are delighted to welcome Aletha Ballweg to our team as the new Office Coordinator. Aletha will begin on June 2 and overlap with Linda for training for two weeks. Please stop by to introduce yourself and give Aletha a warm welcome as she begins this important role in supporting the life and work of our church community. We will have an official installation this summer. Welcome, Aletha!



Fellowship Coffee Time

We will continue to offer our coffee time after worship during the summer months. We are happy to have this opportunity to gather together in fellowship.

We need some servers to help us. Are you willing to learn the art of making coffee in the large machine (it is VERY easy), pick up the pre-ordered donut holes from the Piggly Wiggly and serve one Sunday this summer? Sign up on the kiosk today!



Dear Friends in Christ,

In Philippians 4:6–7, Paul writes, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

This time of year is often much hoped for after the long winter months. We long for the blooming flowers, the warmer temps, and the sunshine. What we don’t always bargain for are the massive amounts of transitions that happen in our lives and our communities.

School ending, graduations, retirements, and moving can all cause our anxiety to increase. Not to mention the daily decisions and events that we face.

Anxiety is something many of us carry quietly—sometimes as a passing worry, other times as a deep, persistent weight on our hearts. Whether it’s concern for our health, family, finances, or the state of the world, anxiety can be overwhelming. But the good news is this: we are not alone, and God’s Word speaks directly to our troubled hearts.

God doesn’t deny our struggles or minimize our anguish. God doesn’t require us to figure everything out on our own. We are invited to go to God in the MIDDLE of our anxiety—not after we’ve figured everything out or made everything perfect. God asks us to bring our burdens to God *as we are*, because God loves us *as we are*.

As a church family, we can support one another by being honest about our worries, praying for each other, and reminding one another of God’s faithfulness. Anxiety may not always disappear instantly, but the presence of Christ with us gives us strength, clarity, and hope.

If you’re feeling anxious today, take a moment to breathe, pray, and remember that God walks with you. Reach out to a trusted friend, a pastor, or a small group. Let’s be a community that walks alongside one another with love and compassion.

And always remember: **God’s peace is greater than our fear.**

Peace,

Hello
My name is

Intern

What do graduations and Pentecost have to do with each other?

We will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday June 8th. This ancient Greek word isn't meant to confuse us. It is meant to remind us of what happened so, so long ago. Pentecost is a birthday! It is a beginning! It is the start of a new thing!

I think about how in the months of May and June, we celebrate graduations from Kindergarten through college. We aren't celebrating the end of something in a graduation, but rather a beginning! We celebrate that the student is now prepared with their knowledge to take on the next big thing!

Pentecost is the same way. There is a conclusion to Jesus' ministry when he was living in the flesh, and there is also this amazing blessing of the disciples being given the Holy Spirit to start the church. Another way to look at it is that Pentecost is a nexus, that moment where things shift from the way they were to the way they would become.

What is shifting in your life right now? Think of something that has happened (or a thing that should be happening but hasn't been). What have you learned during this time? How do you feel God calling you forward? Just as with the disciples, I believe that the Holy Spirit is *already* at work in your life. I believe that Pentecost is a reminder that we are all part of this global church, and that the Spirit of God is already moving in our lives. Let us give thanks and praise for the gift of the Holy Spirit, which dwells in each of us, and for the presence of God in Jesus Christ! Amen.

Blessings,
Intern Elise

Sermon Feedback Opportunity

On Sunday, June 22 we will have an opportunity to give Intern Elise help and guidance in her internship through her final Sermon Feedback Notes. As in previous feedback opportunities, we will have an insert in the bulletin for that Sunday that you can fill out right in the pew. The insert will contain 2-4 questions that will guide you in your thoughts. Come to worship, hear Intern Elise's message and share your thoughts!



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

Deb and Tony Corrao on the death of Tony's brother, Jim V. Corrao

Dick and Okla Yanke, Brian and Diane Williams and their families on the death of Luena Meister, an aunt of Dick and Diane

Kathy and Nick Lester on the death of Kathy's sister, Shirley Albers

Lon and Patty Kaderavek, Aaron and Rachel Kaderavek and their families on the death of Lon's father, John Kaderavek

Please keep these families in your prayers.

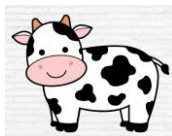


BAPTISM

We welcomed a brother into the family of Christ through baptism during the month of May.

Hudson William Gorsuch, son of Michael and Katelynn (Kluver) Gorsuch was baptized on May 4, 2025. His sponsors are Jenna Stuetngen and Hunter Kluver. Kim and Duane Larson are the congregational sponsors. Hudson's grandparents are Jeff and Diane Gorsuch.

Please keep him in your prayers as he begins his journey in faith.



Cow Chip Parade

St. John's will be hosting a parade float in the Cow Chip Parade on August 30, 2025. Sunday School students, confirmation students and teens are invited to help decorate the float or ride/walk with us. Register at <https://signup.com/go/HhWvrzO>, or, feel free to reach out to penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org with any questions. Tell your friends and family to cheer for us along the parade route!

Sunday School News

Sunday School Offering

Our Sunday School children collected \$1,334.13 toward their offering project through their regular offerings and the Bake Sale! The money will be donated to help with nutritional needs for children around the world through ELCA Good Gifts. Thank you for your generosity to our Sunday School students, families and friends!!

Vacation Bible School is back!

We are so excited to welcome our students back to Vacation Bible School this summer Monday, August 4 – Thursday, August 7 at 9am-2pm with counselors from Lutherdale Bible Camp (held at St. John's). This will include games and music and learning about Jesus!

This is completely FREE! We ask that families send a cold lunch with their students. Students who have completed Kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome to attend. If you'd like to sign up contact Pastor Sally at sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org or call the church office at 608-643-2439. Registration deadline is July 20th.

We're always looking for **volunteers** to make this week a success. Please contact me if you're interested!

- Welcoming and/or signing out students
- Creating a snack menu
- Setting up/serving/cleaning up snack
- Counselor assistant: help with crafts, attend Bible studies, help supervise at the park, etc.
- host counselors at your homes (overnight Sun-Wed, feed them breakfast and supper, supply them with bag lunches - the church reimburses for groceries)

Thank You

Sunday School Teachers!

We thank all of our Sunday School teachers, aides and substitutes for their dedication to the students this past year. You are greatly appreciated and a wonderful blessing to St. John's!

Middle and High School News

Summer Confirmation

Confirmation students should sign-up for at least three Worship Jobs during the “summer” season which is June thru Sept. Online registration is available at <https://signup.com/go/HqeMMtX>. Additionally, students can get a jump start on next year’s confirmation program by completing sermon notes, acts of kindness, staying in touch with their mentor, and other activities during the summer.

St. John's Camping Trip is July 11 - 13.

Confirmation students and teens are invited to go camping at White Mound County Park, July 11 – July 13. Friends are welcome, too! We'll carpool from St. John's at 4 pm on Friday and conclude with Worship at White Mound Park at 9 am on Sunday, at which time attendees will leave with their adults. We'll spend time swimming, hiking, and having fun! Don't let a lack of equipment or scheduling conflicts get in the way of participating. We can be flexible! Register at <https://signup.com/go/zAvfFMZ>

Outdoor Worship July 13 at 9am, White Mound Park

All are welcome! Join the youth at the end of their camping weekend for outdoor worship at White Mound Park. ***(We will also have our usual worship service in St. John's sanctuary at 9am July 13th.)***

Synod Youth Gathering is Friday, July 18, in Portage

Local ELCA congregations are organizing this youth gathering with dinner, games, and activities. We'll carpool from St. John's at 4 pm on Friday July 18 and return at approximately 9 pm. This is a great opportunity for your confirmation student or teen to hang-out with the youth from other congregations and share in the beauty of God's summer. Email penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org to register.



High School Graduates

The following students were recognized on May 18 for graduating from high school. Keep them in your prayers as they move forward into the new stages of their lives.

Destiny Bailey	Natalie Ballweg
Kennedy Colby	Andrew Deuman
Lauren Endres	Colby Frey
Jozie Frey	Boden Frosch
Joe Frosch	Gavin Goetsch
Thea Harpold	Claire Hartman
Katie Himebauch	Isabelle Kolnik
McKenzie Lautenbach	
Ava Sandeman	Malea Schonenberger
Landon Schultz	Hannah Stephan
Chase Urban	Paolo Yanke

Young Adult Updates

We love sharing the news of our young adults!

Emily Cafilisch recently graduated from UW-Madison with a BS degree in Microbiology and Biochemistry. Congratulations!

Did you recently earn a degree from college or a tech school? Are you starting a new internship or job? Celebrations or prayer requests? Contact us at sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org and we will include it in our next Visitor!



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Thank you for your donation to Sauk Prairie Dollars for Scholars, Inc. in the amount of \$500 toward the St. John's Lutheran Church Scholarship. We appreciate your continued support of our mission. Thank you for being a part of the commitment to our community's young scholars.

Serving in June

Greeters:

June 1 (Front Door)	Cindy and Cliff Thompson
June 8 (Front Door)	Rich and Kris Frey
(Side Door)	Jackie Frosch
June 15 (Front Door)	Landon Pape
(Side Door)	
June 22 (Front Door)	Cheryl and Steve Sprecher
June 29 (Front Door)	Todd and Gina Wytenbach

Ushers:

9:00 a.m.

June 1	Lon Kaderavek	Rob Richard
	Dale Haroldson	Violet Richard
	Sam Philo	
June 8	Gina Wytenbach	Paityn Hauge
	Wolfgang Reich	Lyle Opie
	Diane Reich	
June 15	Dale Haroldson	Gerry Westphal
	Lon Kaderavek	
June 22	Todd Wytenbach	Kiptyn Suchla
	Gina Wytenbach	Lucas Muehrer
	Lon Kaderavek	
June 29	Dale Haroldson	Mylee Schultz
	Bob Fentress	Quinn Goetsch
	Josie Fentress	

Acolytes:

9:00 a.m.

June 1	Charlie Lueck	Lucas Muehrer
June 8	Kate Endres	Sam Philo
June 15	Charlie Lueck	
June 22	Mason Ramirez	Lyle Opie
June 29	Willy Pickett	Jace Schultz

Assisting Ministers:

9:00 a.m.

June 1	Patty Barritt
June 8	Jude Hanna
June 15	Patty Barritt
June 22	Donna Knickmeyer
June 29	Molly Williams

Readers:

9:00 a.m.

June 1	Carrie Richard
June 8	Mary Halweg
June 15	Marilyn Herschleb
June 22	Patty Barritt
June 29	Donna Knickmeyer

Cantors:

June 1	Becky Weittenhiller
June 8	Marv and Janelle Hupp
June 15	Liz Ziehlsdorf
June 22	Bill Burton
June 29	Melani Wheeler

9:00 a.m.**Communion**

June 1	Jane/Rich Calenzo	Dale Clason
June 8	Linda Michaels	Linda Michaels
June 15	Landon Pape	Landon Pape
June 22	Jayne Carlson	Dale Clason
June 29	Deb Corrao	Deb Corrao

Set-Up**Clean-Up****Communion Assistants: 9:00 a.m.**

June 1	Patty Barritt
June 8	Kris Frey
June 15	Charlie Lueck
June 22	Dale Clason
June 29	Audrey Luetscher

Technical Support: 9:00 a.m.

June 1	Ellen Jorgensen, Bryce Argall, Brock Esser
June 8	Ellen Jorgensen
June 15	
June 22	Brock Esser, Bryce Argall
June 29	Ellen Jorgensen, Lucas Muehrer

Sunday Stewards: 9:00 a.m.

June 1	Cathy McAlexander
June 8	Roger Seymour
June 15	Nancy Passehl
June 22	Nancy Passehl
June 29	Todd Wytenbach

Coffee Servers:**9:00 a.m.**

June 1	Marilyn Herschleb
June 8	
June 15	Fellowship Board
June 22	
June 29	Linda Michaels

Contact the church office if you would like to volunteer to help with our worship services, phone 608-643-2439.



St. John's is scheduled to deliver Mobile Meals June 9-13 and June 16-20. Meals to be delivered are picked up at the Sauk Prairie Healthcare Center and help many in our community. For more details and to volunteer, please see the kiosk in the front gathering area of the church. We thank all of our wonderful volunteers for helping with this program!

Safe Surrender

Anyone interested in working on 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 Small and medium-sized roles available.

Immigration Team

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

SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to repeat the following prayer on June 20th.

Father of love, In Jesus, you showed us the meaning of hospitality, by caring for our fragile humanity. Help us to become a community that welcomes those who feel abandoned and lost, building a house where all are welcome. May we come closer to one another as we offer the world your unconditional love. This we pray in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Organ Repair Fundraising

THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH! We met our fundraising goal for the organ repairs, and the work has been done.

We held our Organ Re-dedication service on May 18 during both worship services. What a blessing to hear our beautiful organ music once again.

We wish to thank the following people for their donations:

- Steve and Patty Barritt in memory of Rev. Eldor Fruehling
- John and Ellen Mast in memory of Rev. Eldor Fruehling
- Arthur Ness in memory of Rev. Eldor Fruehling
- Arthur Ness in memory of Alfred Ness, long-time organist and choir director and his wife, Lilyan who donated the Dulciana rank after Alfred's death
- Dianne Effinger in memory of Jim Effinger
- Ruth Dresser in memory of husband Marshall and son Tom
- Sandy Frey's family memorial
- Bob Nelson in honor of Almay Nelson's 90th birthday
- Barbara Wilkens and Doug Slater in honor of the beautiful music
- Stan and Carol Mallon
- Donna Knickmeyer in loving honor of Juan, Kelly, Mason Ryan and Emily Jean Ramirez
- Donna Knickmeyer in loving memory of Bill and Ryan Knickmeyer
- Marcia and Roger Howard in memory of Mike Schoenemann
- Connie and Bill Burton in memory of Harvey and Ardell Jewell and in memory of Connie's first organ teacher, Elmer Ackermann
- Donna and Doug Nelson in honor of Connie Burton's devotion and years of working with our organ
- Dan and Janis Baun in honor of Connie Burton
- Marv and Janelle Hupp
- Rich and Kris Frey in memory of Fred Kippley
- Mel and Doris Lohr in memory of past organists, Alfred Ness, Karen Luher, Verona Gruber and Dorothy Bostad
- Jan Floeter in memory of her husband, Lester H. Floeter
- Steve and Holly Kindschi

- Bob and Josie Fentress in honor of their grandchildren
- John and Aletha Ballweg
- Herb and Cathy Yanke in memory of Jim and Carolyn Yanke
- Deb and Gerry Westphal in memory of Myrtle Hamre and Wilbert Westphal
- Audrey Luetscher in memory of her husband, Tom Luetscher
- Ginny Nimmow in memory of her husband Edmund Nimmow
- Jackie Frosch in memory of her mom, Dorothy (Bostad) Hamre, honoring her years as organist at St. John's
- Bob and Marlene Wilson
- Gene Mowitz
- Derek, Rebecca and Teddy Rosenstiel
- Larry and April Sawyer
- Laura and David Jelle
- Cindy and Cliff Thompson in honor of family
- Jeff and Kathy Ochsankehl in memory of Merna and Carston Koeller, James and Patricia Ochsankehl
- Terry and Sue Slotty in memory of Dede Egan
- Terry and Sue Slotty in memory of Harlen and Diane Slotty
- Rodney and Marsha Key in memory of James and Anita Key
- Paul and Ann Kippley in memory of Vern and Harriett Kippley, Fred Kippley, Mark Bolton and Clayton Bohler
- Paul and Ann Kippley in memory of Sandy Frey
- Brian and Mary Weeks in honor of St. John's Music Ministers
- Lois and David Kaul in honor of their children
- Carol Anderson in memory of John A. Anderson
- Carol Anderson in memory of Aaron Anderson
- Brian and Diane Williams in honor of Pastor Sally, Jeff and Molly Williams
- In memory of Sandy Frey
- In memory of Verona Gruber for all her years of playing organ for St. John's
- In honor of Connie Burton for all her years of playing organ for St. John's

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: May , 2025

Present: Nancy Passehl, Marv Hupp, John Brennan, Sally Williams, Elise Iverson Uphoff, Eunice Yanke, John Ballweg, Roger Seymour, Gina Varley, James Newman, Gwen Ringelstetter, Cathy Yanke, Cathy McAlexander

Absent: Tracy Pape, Melani Wheeler, Sean Jager

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Nancy Passehl. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Eunice and seconded by John Ballweg. Motion carried.

A devotion/prayer was then given by Cathy M.

Secretary Minutes:

The April minutes were submitted online by Tracy Pape on behalf of Cathy Yanke. A motion to approve minutes was made by Gina and seconded by Cathy M. Motion carried.

Treasurer report:

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

April report numbers

Current Month Income	Current Month Expenses	Year-to-Date Income	Year-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date-Budget
\$46,699	\$47,904	\$195,646	\$204,485	\$208,403

· I have been asked to do a temple talk about our current financial situation. I view this as a wonderful chance to introduce myself in this role. I hope to put a face to my name and encourage people to talk to me and ask questions and raise any concerns that they have. My proposal is to gently talk about how we all know that expenses have increased and have all added dollars to our budgets to meet our needs. I will encourage folks to evaluate their giving and hopefully we are offering something that we all want to support. The sky is not falling, but we all need to look at our giving and see if we are giving at a 2025 level.

· Budget worksheets will be going out to the committees next week after the stewardship committee meeting.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- Discussion of new member photos, posters, etc.

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander reported:

- Coffee servers are needed. Training will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet and PPC members will assist in recruiting servers.
- We served 207 people at Palm Sunday Brunch.
- We hosted a reception honoring the students who participated in Affirmation of Baptism.
- We will host a reception honoring the high school graduates on May 18
- We are planning a retirement reception for Linda Hines on June 15.
- We are planning a combined Volunteer Appreciation Meal and Intern Elise's Farewell Coffee for July 27.

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- Communion vessel replacement search is ongoing.
- Communion bread- served on the 3rd Sundays of the month. We have five bakers who will prepare the bread and place it in the freezer. Bread will be removed the Friday before to defrost.
- Linking online signups- discussed setting up a QR code for volunteers like Venmo giving. Also discussed giving a pitch for volunteering during a summer service.
- Organ repair- will not be finished by Easter Sunday due to a family emergency with technicians.
- Summer worship schedule with one service at 9 am begins on May 25 and goes through August 31st.
- Pentecost Sunday is June 8th. Jennifer will be selling geraniums between services on May 18th and before and after the 9 am service on May 25th.

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

- Paperwork was completed and sent out for VBS with Lutherdale along with a downpayment.
- April 27th was Affirmation of Baptism
- May 4th was the last day of Sunday school.
- A big thank you to all Sunday school and confirmation teachers and helpers.

We made sure to thank all Sunday school volunteers with thank you cards, a gift certificate, and a couple of short speeches the last Sunday.

- Adult ed on May 4th was led by Cora Miller and Janelle Hupp on the topic of gun violence.
- May 18th is graduation Sunday.

Properties: John Ballweg reported:

The following projects were completed in April:

- PD Locksmith adjusted the closer and strike plate on the exterior door near the pastor's offices.
- Two fire extinguishers were replaced at no charge (due to a safety recall with the handle).
- Prairie Plumbing & Heating replaced a leaky valve in the men's restroom.
- The power assist door at the front entrance was adjusted so it opens/closes freely.
- Several ceiling tiles near the boiler room were replaced - to determine if roof repairs done earlier this year were successful.

Looking ahead, we'll focus on the following projects:

- Get bids to install one chair-height toilet in both the women's and men's restroom.
- Compile a materials list and schedule some time to replace siding and door frame/trim on the south side of the storage shed.
- Replace a leaky seal on the sink in the gathering area.
- Repaint several exterior panels below educational wing windows (facing the parsonage)

PR & Social Concerns: Melani Wheeler reported:

- We did not have Just Bakery in April as it fell on Easter Sunday.
- Gun Violence series has been very well received.
- Sign-up sheets need to get posted for our Meals on Wheels for June.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner/Todd Wyttenbach) reported:

- UPDATED FINANCIAL REPORT--updating the format for the financial reports in the weekly bulletins and the Visitor.
- CHANGE TO AND REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL--will be updated to reflect the decision to not allow restricted gifts to individuals as acceptable gifts and fully reviewed during the August 2025 Stewardship Board meeting.
- ANNUAL BUDGET REPORT AND DISTRIBUTION--Requests for the 2026 budget will be going out in May 2025 and will be due by June 18, 2025. Board chairs will be encouraged to find opportunities to cut expenses. The Stewardship Board will review the combined budget for all boards at the July 2025 meeting. The

budget will be presented to the Parish Planning Council at their August 2025 meeting.

- **ADJUSTMENTS TO 2025 BUDGET**--The Stewardship Board discussed the Seminary Assistance and Scholarship line items that were cut from \$2,000 to \$1,000 and \$500 to \$0 at the November 2024 Stewardship Board meeting. After some discussion, the board will restore the scholarship line item to \$500 for 2025. Seminary assistance will be discussed again.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke/Ruth Dresser reported:

- The WELCA Spring Gathering was held on April 26 at Zion Lutheran Church. It was a huge success and very inspiring. St. John's will host the Spring Gathering in spring of 2026.
- An "All-Circle Picnic" is being planned for July 17 at 10:00am in St. John's Fellowship Hall. All women of St. John's are invited to attend.
- Deadline for shipping Lutheran World Relief kits is September 12, 2025.
- The WELCA Biennial Convention will be held Saturday, October 4th at New Heights Church in Mazomanie.
- We are updating the WELCA pamphlet explaining what Circles are all about. Each Circle should take a picture of your group during your May meetings.

Youth Committee: Tracy Pape reported:

- Graduation Sunday: third Sunday in May. High School seniors will attend the 10:30 service. Two Youth committee members volunteered to create posters to celebrate the seniors.
- Summer Camping Trip held July 11 – July 13, 2025, at White Mound County Park. All St. John's confirmation students and teens are invited, up to 15 campers. Elise, Penny and James will chaperone (more chaperones are welcome). Anyone who'd like to help with the planning and camping should email Penny.
- Summer Youth Night will be held on July 18 during the evening at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Sauk-Prairie, Dekorra, Wisconsin Dells and Portage area Lutheran churches will collaborate food, music, and worship.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report provided.

Youth Member at Large: Sean Jager reported:

- The youth of our church are involved in many activities in addition to their academic studies, ranging from a May 12th music concert at the high school at 7PM, to various baseball, softball, girls' soccer,

track and field, lacrosse, tennis, and golf. Further information and non-local events can be found here:

<https://badgerconference.org/public/genie/77/school/4/date/2025-05-01/view/month/?categories=426>

Pastor/Intern Reports

Lead Pastor's Report:

- No report provided

Sally's Report:

- We are grateful for our shared ministry with the leaders and people of Concordia United Methodist (Pastor Kook Ho Kim), First United Church of Christ (Pastor Jennifer Seach), and St. John - St. Paul (Pastor Kathi Matthews Risley) for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Next year we are seeking additional ecumenical opportunities.
- Preparing for Office Coordinator interviews in early May. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, June 15 as we celebrate Linda Hines' ministry after the 9am service with a reception in the fellowship hall.
- Alice and Joe Chenoweth, Jordan Small, Intern Elise, and I will attend this year's synod assembly in Middleton on May 16 and 17. We will report on the experience and business matters next month.
- May's challenge to our PPC is to introduce yourself to our new members from the last three installations via phone, mail, in person, or email. I will supply their contact info to you! We are welcome to invite them to explore volunteer opportunities.

Intern Elise's Report:

- Last Sunday July 27th, last day in office Wednesday July 31
- Intern, Supervisor, and Committee submitted 'final evaluations' to Luther Seminary
- Faculty Approval interview in May. Synod Candidacy Committee Approval interview In June.
- Luther graduation June 1 (diploma mailed in August)
- Second gun violence prevention Adult Education with Dr. Janelle Hupp, John Ballweg, and Cora Miller was engaging and brought forth rich discussion
- Will offer book study on James in May

Old Business:

- Call team update

Information about a candidate has been received. The call committee will begin their due diligence.

- Safety Teams Update

This group will be meeting on Wed, 14th at 6 pm in the library

- Office Coordinator Update

We have conducted interviews with three candidates and decisions will be made soon if possible.

New Business:

- Discussion on finances—John Brennan, Treasurer, will plan a temple talk to share financial information in a transparent and insightful manner. Questions from the congregation are encouraged.

- Parsonage Usage—the teacher who has lived in the parsonage over the school year is willing to live there again next school year if we do not need it for a pastor. John Ballweg will be reviewing and updating the agreement.

Parking Lot items:

- One service – Lay Ministry
- RIC – Conversations to begin after the lead pastor is hired
- TNT – bucket list of items brought up by members that need additional discussion

Next meeting is Tuesday, June 3, 2025**, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Cathy Y. John Ballweg made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was seconded by Gwen. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 6:49 pm. with The Lord's Prayer lead by Nancy P.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Yanke.

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

***Per email request, the next PPC meeting will be held Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at. 6:00pm.*



Happy June Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Briley Schwarz (7)

Brinley Myhro (13)

Collins Neubacher (21)

Cooper Koziol (22)

Our Sunday School Students:

Eleanor Muehrer (3)

Emma Kraus (4)

Sam Krueger (8)

Allie Lochner (8)

Jesse Paque (13)

Roman Koenig (16)

Kolt Steinmetz (16)

Reese Bletsch (21)

Our Youth:

Gracyn Hehenberger (4)

Collin Lins (8)

Liam Hart (9)

Jenna Shimpach (9)

Mason Ramirez (15)

Alyssa Himebauch (16)

Michael Jolicoeur (16)

Carson Lohr (24)

Charlie Lueck (24)

Neelah Ganshert (30)

Lee LaVigne (30)

College and Career-age Young People:

Gavin Goetsch (4)

Jacob Lins (6)

Natalie Ballweg (12)

Dylan Quayle (16)

Ava Shimpach (19)

Brody Ballweg (22)

Wesley Himebauch (29)