
Prairie du Sac, WI

July 2025

Dear Friends,

I am thankful to call you all my friends! The end of my internship year comes with gratitude, thanks, wonder, and praise!

Gratitude: I give God gratitude for your generous hearts, for the beautiful community worshipping, living, and playing together. During this year, you have shown me another example of God working in a community grounded in the care and love of Christ.

I pray that you seek out the stranger, invite them through St. John's doors, and walk beside them as they get settled.

Thanks: I thank you for your generosity toward me! I received too many gifts, cards, and words of encouragement to name. Truly. It has been a formative experience in beginning to understand who God has called me to become, through your words and generosity.

I pray that you continue to use your blessings of time, talent, treasure, and kindness generously for God's church and the world.

Wonder: I am amazed by your curious hearts and minds. Thank you for playing along with me and my experiments. Thank you for opening yourselves to difficult discussions about immigration, gun violence, and even Star Wars themed sermons.

I pray that you experience God through your curiosity. That you fearlessly learn and engage with different opinions and difficult topics, so that you may discern where Christ's teachings are leading us.

Praise: I praise God that I was brought to St. John's. I praise God that I was brought to a place with people who strive to be humble and who kindly teach and guide.

I pray that you have another intern in the future who can experience your teaching congregation, and that you continue to serve the Lord with humility.

Thank you St. John's for a better internship year than I could have ever imagined.

~Intern Elise Iverson Uphoff

Treasurer's Temple Talk from June 15th Worship Service

Good Morning. My name is John Brennan, and I am the elected Treasurer here for the last 7 months. If you don't know me, you probably know my parents, or maybe one of my brothers, or sisters. We all kind of work in public service around the area. My parents raised us to serve, and apparently did a very good job at it.

I just wanted to update everybody, at the half year mark, on how we are doing as a church, financially.

First off, thank you. I think I speak for everyone, staff and volunteers, when I say that. We have a thriving community, with wonderful people spreading joy and empathy, helping people and holding hands, every single day. From card playing, to quilt making, sharing meals, and teaching children, we are spreading the good word. If you aren't here during the week, I encourage you to join in. This is a wonderful community to be a part of, and we want you to join in. Time is flying, and if you don't jump on, it passes right on by. Our greatest asset, our greatest treasure, is our people.

How are we doing with our money treasure? That is the question that we get a lot! And generally, fine. Not great, not good, just about fine. We are probably in a better situation than a lot of churches in the area, but we are, just like I'd imagine many of our own finances, just...fine. We all have lived through the whirlwind of the last few years, so I don't really need to talk about how things are expensive...but I will anyway. This is a big building. Lots of expenses, all of which cost more than they did 5 years ago. This winter was pretty expensive, and really it wasn't even that bad of a winter...we spent 8k on heating, 5k on repairs on said heating, 6k on electricity, and 2k on snow removal. We spent the money that we collected for the Organ, about 19k, this year alone. I'm sure you are all seeing it at home. Times are tough.

By far our biggest expense is also our greatest strength, our people. Again, that's our treasure. What we want to do is provide our people, you and me, with something that you value. We want to make sure that when you need Sally, or Elise, or our amazing, yet unidentified future pastor, they are there. We want to create a space where when you show up, you feel like family, and that you are surrounded by people who support and feel supported. Whether it's a cup of coffee, or a gas card to help you get to work next week.

All that being said, I guess I'm supposed to ask you for money, probably. But I'd rather just continue to show you that you are valuable to us, and hopefully, we are valuable to you. If you haven't evaluated your giving in a while, I humbly ask you to take a look.



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 Administrator: Aletha Ballweg aletha@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

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Prairie du Sac,
Wisconsin 53578

My family is going to increase our gift as much as we can, and if you think you can, and you feel like this is valuable, I hope that you do.

If you want to talk about all this, or have any questions, please reach out, I'm happy to chat, as is all of the staff and volunteers. We know that there are many challenges in the world right now, and we want to make sure that you know that we are here, to stay. Thank you.



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:

- Baking mixes (such muffins and pancakes)
- Box meals (e.g., Hamburger Helper)
- Canned meals (e.g., spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)
- Baking supplies (white and brown sugar, flour, oil)
- Toilet paper

Thank you for helping others in our community.



Fellowship Committee

Thank you everyone who provided food for Linda Hines' Retirement Reception. You came through in true St John's fashion with a wonderful assortment of delicious food. I also want to give special thanks to the members of the Fellowship Team for serving.

We at St John's are fortunate to have all of you who volunteer in so many different ways. To show our thanks to you, we invite you to join us at a Volunteer Appreciation Continental Breakfast after church on July 27. At this time we will also honor Intern Elise as her internship at St John's is concluding. Please join us as we celebrate her and you.

Please continue to volunteer and sign up to serve coffee to your church family. It's fun, it's easy and we are here to help. You can find the sign-up sheet posted on the kiosk in the foyer.

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u>	
	<u>Martha Circle</u>	
	<u>Ruth Circle</u>	
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u>	
	Thursday, July 18 in fellowship hall for All Circle Brunch Picnic	10:00am

In June, 25 ladies attended Circle Meetings with Darlene Holl, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester leading the Bible Study. The main focus of the study was on relationships with our families.

In July we will not have our regular individual Circle Meetings. Instead, all Circles will meet together for a very special “picnic” on Thursday, July 17th. This will be brunch at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Ruth Circle will be in charge of the brunch and will be furnishing and serving the food. ALL LADIES OF ST. JOHN’S ARE MOST CORDIALLY INVITED! Just bring yourselves and you can also bring a guest. So, mark your calendars and be sure to make plans to attend. There will be a speaker from ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center). Since “some of us” are aging, this should be a very interesting topic AND we are planning some good musical entertainment as well. You don’t want to miss this event. Good food....good entertainment....good company!!! It will all be fun....so come!

“WE STAND WITH YOU IN LOVE”...That is the theme of the WELCA 2025 Biennial Synodical Convention on Saturday October 4th. It will be at The Grove: Regional Community Center, 314 Anne Street, Mazomanie. Early Bird Registration July 1-August 17 is \$30. After that it will be \$50. There will be a Keynote Speaker, workshops in the morning, then lunch, and more workshops in the afternoon. The closing gathering; 2:30-3:15. If you want to attend you should let Aletha in the Office know and she will send in the registration forms (and checks) all together by the August 17th deadline. We will carpool. **Worship Service Offering:** The offering will be split equally to SCSW Women of the ELCA; Heights Unlimited Community Resource Center –Food Pantry for New Heights; Katie’s Fund. Each church should bring a check made out to SCSW WELCA. The offering will be collected in a basket at the back of the worship space.

Workshop titles:

Climate Justice: You CAN make a difference.

Chair Yoga-Treat Yourself to Love and Compassion

Height Unlimited workshop

The Little Heart Project, Sharing Gods Love through the Written Word

Let's Create Triennial Swap Bookmarks

The Pennies for Poverty offering is in connection with this meeting. They usually choose a charity in the Madison area, but they allow us to choose one from our own area. The past couple of years we have given our offering to 6:8. In 2023 our total was \$300....in 2024 it was \$503. In 2022 we gave \$200 to Hope House. We have decided to give the Pennies for Poverty money this year to 6:8. PLEASE NOTICE THE PENNIES FOR POVERTY JAR ON THE NAMETAG TABLE and DONATE if you can!

The deadline for having our Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts ready for shipment is September 14th. Be looking for lists of items we need for each kit in the Visitors and bulletins. We have lots of shopping and work to do for making our kits. Garage sales are good places to shop for some of our kits, and the sales for school supplies usually start in July. We can apply to Thrivent for the \$250 grant to help with each kit and also for quilts, which is a tremendous help!

The Triennial Convention is in Des Moines, IA July 16-19, 2026. (There are scholarship application forms available, and they are due on July 31, 2025).

In August, each Circle usually does something special together such as going out to eat or getting together to work on kits. This year, Martha Circle has already decided to get together as usual because they feel the Bible Study on relationships sounds very interesting. Whatever the choice, we will not really be taking a "break" because we will all be diligently working on the very important kits.

Sarah/Mary Circle is visiting Special Friends in June/July. Lydia Circle will visit them in August/September.

There will be no Bible Study Leaders meeting for August. We will resume our regular Circle Meetings in September.

Be sure to read the Special Prayer found in this Visitor on July 20th

Intern Committee - Farewell Celebration!

Please join us in celebrating the conclusion of Elise's internship at St. John's. Her last worship with us is on Sunday, July 27th at 900 a.m. Following the service, there will be a farewell in the fellowship hall. Cards and/or gifts to Elise are welcome. We thank Elise for her teaching and ministry and Pastor Sally for her leadership and guidance.



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.

Garry Bahe (1)
190 Pacific Rd
Merrimac, WI 53561

Bruce Pickens (15)
345 8th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Brian Williams (17)
530 6th Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Deb Westphal (18)
E8715 State Road 60
Sauk City, WI 53583

Carol Ohlsen (22)
E12550 Inspiration Dr
Merrimac, WI 53561

Milt Risgaard (25)
507 Lake Wisconsin Dr
Merrimac, WI 53561

Gerry Westphal (30)
E8715 State Road 60
Sauk City, WI 53583

Thank You

Dear St. John's family,

Thank you all for the wonderful Retirement Reception and the most wonderful cards, gifts and well-wishes. The food was delicious!

I also thank you all for your kindness, wisdom, grace and caring while I was employed by you of St. John's. I greatly enjoyed my days working with you. Thank you and God bless you all.

Linda Hines



Dear Friends in Christ,

In the life of the Church, we often find ourselves marking time through seasons — Advent, Lent, Easter — and through the special rhythms of community life: baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, and goodbyes.

In June we celebrated the retirement of Linda Hines and this month we now prepare to say goodbye to Intern Elise. Goodbyes are never easy. Whether they come with celebration or sorrow, retirement or relocation, they bring with them a mixture of gratitude and grief, joy and sadness.

As we say farewell to Intern Elise, we give thanks for her service, her presence, and the countless ways she has helped shape our congregation over the last year. We give thanks for the ways she showed up at the countless bedsides, living rooms, and nursing home services. We give thanks for the knowledge and passion she exuded as she taught about immigration, social justice, gun violence, and simply being a good neighbor. We give thanks for the shared laughter as she led worship in her light up shoes and dawned her blaze orange hunting hat. The list goes on.

We send her with our love and our prayers, confident that God's grace will continue to guide and bless her — just as it will continue to guide us here.

Goodbyes in the body of Christ are never the end of the story. In the Lutheran tradition, we believe strongly in the **communion of saints** — that even when we are apart, we remain united in Christ. We continue to pray for one another, encourage one another, and celebrate the ways God is at work in each of our lives.

We trust that God goes before us and remains with those we love, no matter where the path leads.

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally".

Hello
My name is

Intern

Last year I listened to the book How to Walk Into a Room, on discernment in all areas of our lives. Author Emily Freeman describes the 'Point and Call' method used by Japanese train engineers. They point and name all the things that they see as a standardized safety metric. River crossing over a bridge? Point, and say "river crossing." Point and Call is meant to create the habit of becoming aware of our surroundings, identifying and naming, so that we can respond to hazards or blessings accordingly. Infants and toddlers do the same.

At first I was completely flummoxed about how this could be a life changing practice or a means for discernment... And then, I realized that I was pointing at things without naming or calling them. Naming and calling is to become aware of what is happening around us, to us, and through us. Becoming aware, leads to discernment, understanding what needs to happen with what we observe.

Consider these Points and Calls and their effects:

Point: river- **Call:** "flooded river" - **Effect:** Caution for safety(!) and glory for God's wild creation

Point: people - **Call:** "Congregation" - **Effect:** A sense of unity and belonging in the Christian family

Point: tears - **Call:** "Sadness" - **Effect:** Identify the cause of sadness, and discerning God's presence in difficulty and where the Spirit is leading your at this time

Ultimately, what we Point and Call and discern is part of understanding God's Spirit moving in our lives. We become attuned through pointing and calling things with gratitude. Or, we become attuned to pointing and calling things with discernment so that we may move through the seasons of life with the Spirit guiding us. I wonder what you will find as you Point and Call in your life, and may you observe where God's Spirit is already moving within. Amen.

Blessings,
Intern Elise

With Sincere Sympathy



We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

- Gloria Moles on the death of her sister-in-law, Nancy Reneau
- Cheryl and Steve Sprecher, JoAnnah and Todd Sorg and their families on the death of Steve's uncle, Keith Sprecher
- Marla Jean Lokken and family on the death of her husband Duane
- Gwen and Doug Ringelstetter and her family on the death of her father Deane Yanke
- Tracy and Doug Pape, Landon and Parker on the death of Tracy's mother Ruth Ann Larson
- Brian and Mary Weeks and family on the death of Brian's father Jim

Please keep these families in your prayers.



BAPTISM

We welcomed a sister and brother into the family of Christ through baptism during the month of June.

Greta Josie Myhro, daughter of Colin and Dani (Tarnutzer) Myhro was baptized on June 8, 2025. Greta's sponsors are John Seng and Chelsea Reuter-Seng. Her grandparents are Josie and Bob Fentress.

Cooper Ray Koziol, son of Nathan and Carly (Reinke) Koziol was baptized on June 29, 2025. His sponsors are Julia Maerz and Brandon Koziol. Cooper's grandparents are Brad and Claire Reinke

Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their 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> by August 15. Reach out to penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org with any questions. Tell your friends and family to cheer for us along the parade route!



Thank you to our many volunteers who delivered Mobile Meals in June. We are scheduled next in the month of October. For more details and to volunteer, please see the kiosk in the front gathering area of the church.

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



Organ Repair Gifts

In addition to those who listed in the Visitor last month, we'd like to recognize the following who gave kind and generous gifts towards the repair of our beautiful organ.

- Cheryl and Tom Schneller
- Marilyn Herschleb

Serving in July

<u>Greeters:</u>		<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	
July 6	Front Door Back Door	Todd & Gina Wyttenbach Abbey Nolden and Family	
July 13	Front Door Back Door	Rich and Kris Frey Jackie Frosch	
July 20	Front Door Back Door	Chesney Braund Khloe Walker	
July 27	Front Door Back Door	Cliff and Cindy Thompson	
<u>Ushers:</u>		<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	
July 6		Lon Kaderavek	Hudson Ballweg
		Gerry Westphal	Deb Westphal
July 13		Todd Wyttenbach	Gina Wyttenbach
		Lon Kaderavek	Lillianna Weittenhiller <i>Nellie Kaderavek</i>
July 20		Lon Kaderavek	Gerry Westphal
			<i>Nadia LaVigne</i>
July 27		Todd Wyttenbach	Gina Wyttenbach
		Kendra Frey	<i>Madyn Ludowitz</i>
<u>Assisting Ministers:</u>		<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	
July 6		Donna Knickmeyer	
July 13			
July 20		Marv Hupp	
July 27			
<u>Readers:</u>		<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	
July 6		Nancy Kaufman	
July 13		Dale Haroldson	
July 20		Denny Dederich	
July 27		Jama Graves	

Cantors:	9:00 a.m.	
July 6	Katie LaVigne	
July 13	Chris Stephan	
July 20	Kathy & Jeff Ochsankehl	
July 27	Connie Burton	
Communion:	Set Up/	Clean Up
	9:00 a.m.	
July 6	John and Aletha Ballweg	
July 13	Marilyn Herschleb	
July 20		<i>Nellie Kaderavek</i>
July 27	Jayne Carlson	
Communion Assistants:	9:00 a.m.	
July 6	Mary Weeks	
July 13	Kris Frey	
July 20	Chesney Braund	
July 27	Jayne Carlson	
Technical Support:	9:00 a.m.	
July 6	Ellen Jorgensen	
July 13	Sandbergs	
July 20	Ellen Jorgensen	
July 27	Sandbergs & <i>Lyle Opie</i>	
Sunday Stewards:	9:00 a.m.	
July 6	John Ballweg	
July 13	Melani Wheeler	
July 20	Nancy Passehl	
July 27	Todd Wyttenbach	
Coffee Servers:	9:00 a.m.	
July 6	Heather & James Newman	
July 13	Melani Wheeler	
July 20		
July 27	Fellowship Committee	

6th grade shadows in italics

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

Sunday School News

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.

Middle and High School News

Summer Confirmation

Confirmation students should sign-up for at least three Worship Jobs during the "summer" season which is runs 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, and staying in touch with their mentor. The 2025-2026 Confirmation program will resume on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, with a welcome back night for students and their adults. Watch for more information to come.

7th-12th Grade Camping, July 11-13, White Mound Park

Come with a friend, or invite a friend to come camping with Intern Elise (no additional adults needed at this time). We are flexible, so don't let equipment or schedules stop you from participating! This will be classic summer fun: swimming, campfires, sleeping under

the stars, hiking, and fellowship. 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.

SIGN UP@ tinyurl.com/StJCamping

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 Mount Park. (We will also have our indoor worship in St. John's sanctuary at 9am).



Thank You

Thank you for all of the wonderful birthday cards and greetings from my church family. God bless you all. – Denise Baars

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Dear righteous Judge, forgive me of al my sins and thank You for Jesus' life-giving death and resurrection. In His holy name, Amen.

WELCOME

We welcome Aletha Ballweg as our new Office Administrator! Aletha began her role in June, and we are grateful for how quickly she has been learning the ropes to keep St. John's organized and humming smoothly along. Thanks be to God for the gift of administration! Aletha's Installation was celebrated June 29th. Help us continue to welcome Aletha by stopping by with a friendly greeting and encouraging word! You can reach Aletha at aletha@stjohnssaukprairie.org

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: June 10, 2025

Present: Nancy Passehl, Sally Williams, Elise Iverson Uphoff, Eunice Yanke, John Ballweg, Todd Wyttenbach, Roger Seymour, Gina Varley, James Newman, Cathy Yanke, Cathy McAlexander, Melani Wheeler

Absent: Marv Hupp, John Brennan, Tracy Pape, Gwen Ringelstetter, Sean Jager

Call to Order/Opening Remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Nancy Passehl. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Gina and 2nd by Melani. Motion carried. A devotion/prayer was then given by Cathy Y.

Secretary Minutes:

The May minutes were submitted online by Cathy Yanke. A motion to approve minutes was made by James and 2nd by Eunice. Motion carried. .

Treasurer report:

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

I am always optimistic and still believe we will be just fine. Direct communication about the needs of our church with all our members, especially with those that we all are close with is so important. Spreading the good word. Nothing we are spending is frivolous or unnecessary. We have great people doing great things.

May report numbers

Current Month Income	Current Month Expenses	Year-to-Date Income	Year-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date-Budget
\$ 37,238	\$ 42,232	\$ 232,885	\$ 268,994	\$ 260,504

Big Expense this month was the final payment on the organ, coming in at \$9463. This is now paid for and done. Thank goodness.

We have to decide on the CDs: Both are maturing. We do not currently have need for the cash, and with no large purchases upcoming, my advice would be to roll them over. As you can see on

your reports, currently we have about 70000 in savings. These two CDs have 125,000 in them. We could discuss changing the investment vehicle to something more flexible, Todd had some ideas. Flexibility might be nice for an incoming pastor.

Todd asked if we should consider renewing the CDs outside of Bank of Prairie du Sac if rates were higher. With John not in attendance, Nancy asked we hold that discussion for next month.

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Melani and 2nd by James. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: Gwen Ringelstetter reported:

- No report provided.

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander reported:

- We honored the high school seniors at a reception on May 18.
- We will celebrate Linda Hines retirement at a appetizer and dessert bar during Coffee/fellowship time on June 15.
- Elise's last Sunday will be celebrated 7/27/2025 with a continental breakfast

Lay Ministry: Gina Varley reported:

- No report at this time.

Parish Education: James Newman reported:

- Sunday School
 - year ended.
 - Next year splitting 3rd and 4th grade back up.
 - Looking for a 1st grade and 3rd grade Sunday school teacher and a 1st grade helper
 - Next year's offering will be donated to the local food pantry
 - Rally day September 21st
 - September 28th first day of Sunday school for the 25/26 school year
 - tentative hayride date October 5th
- Confirmation
 - Wednesday, May 7th was 6th grade orientation
 - Graduation Sunday was May 18th.
 - Friday July 11-13 camping at white mound.
 - next year looking for 8th grade teacher
 - confirmation classes start on September 25th
- VBS
 - will be August 3rd-7th, sign-up has begun
 - host families for counselors will be needed
 - looking for a volunteer coordinator

Properties: John Ballweg reported:

- Replace siding and molding on the South side of the storage shed - We finalized the materials list and priced everything out at Menards. Will have additional discussion before deciding when to move forward with the project.
- Parsonage - We'll do a walk-through inspection with Scot when the school year is complete (and before he moves out) to determine if any repairs or maintenance projects are required.
- Plumbing - We've requested bids from Prairie Plumbing & Heating and DeMars Plumbing to replace one toilet each in the Men's and Women's restrooms with higher (19") toilets to improve accessibility.
- Rainwater - We're aware water tends to 'pond up' in the corner near the nursery & music room and the pastor's offices. We'll purchase adapters for the downspouts and corrugated drain tiles to direct the rainwater further out into the lawn.
- Will contact the Prairie du Sac Fire Department to schedule their annual walk through.

PR & Social Concerns: Melani Wheeler reported:

- No report provided.

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner/Todd Wytenbach) reported:

- The Administrative Manual will be reviewed at the August 2025 Stewardship Board meeting.
- Budgets will go out to the Board chairs in May 2025 and will be due by June 18, 2025.
- The Stewardship Board will work on their budget during the June 2025 meeting.
- The Stewardship Board will review the combined budget for all boards at July, 2025 meeting. The budget will be presented to the Parish Planning Council at their August 2025 meeting.

Women of ELCA: Eunice Yanke/Ruth Dresser reported:

- 28 Circle members and one guest attend Circles in May
- 7 women from St. John's attended the Sauk/Columbia County Conference at Zion Lutheran Church, where Lisa Carlson Pickarts spoke on her work at the Good Neighbor Clinic (started by her father, Dr. Haakon Carlson)
- St. John's will host the 2026 Spring Gathering
- The Synodical Biennial Convention will be held October 4th at New Heights Church in Mazomanie

- St. John's will hold a Summer Picnic on Thursday, July 17th in the fellowship hall beginning at 10:00am. We will have a speaker from ADRC. Please come!

Youth Committee: Tracy Pape reported:

- No report provided.

Member at Large: Roger Seymour reported:

- No report provided.

Youth Member at Large: Sean Jager reported:

- No report provided.

Pastor/Intern Reports

Lead Pastor's Report:

- No report provided.

Sally's Report:

- Mark your calendars for the celebration and sending of two incredible servants of God: Linda Hines's retirement celebration: June 15 and Intern Elise's farewell: July 27.
- Aletha Ballweg started on June 2 and has been training with Linda to learn the ropes of Office Coordinator. I'm extremely grateful for Linda's work with Aletha as we make this transition. We're happy to welcome Aletha onboard!
- We need to name 3 PPC volunteers for the nominating committee. This committee works to find candidates for the PPC chairs whose terms are up.
- Due to multiple people being unable to attend our Safety Team meeting we have postponed it.

Intern Elise's Report:

- Participating on the Safety Team until end of term
- Preparing for youth camping in July
- Working to visit home-bound members
- Approved by the South Central Synod of Wisconsin for ministry of Word and Sacrament!
- Preparing my own Rostered Minister Profile for First Call
- Walked for graduation commencement with Luther Seminary

Old Business:

- Call team update- possible candidate-we may have a candidate. No other information available at this time.

- Safety Teams Update – meeting Wed—meeting was postponed. This group is looking at all types of emergencies like weather and fire as well as protest/active shooter events.
- Linda Update –Linda's gifts from PPC and reception
- Parsonage Update –Our tenant left the house for the summer in good condition and is hoping to return in the fall
- New members and update – PPC involvement. Welcome to new members. Consider Buddy program for new members

New Business:

- Discussion on finances – budget – stewardship. It is a short turn around for board to respond by 7/8. Are asking for additional week to 7/15. Plan to have Lenten offerings donated to Lutheran Social Services. Consider asking a synod representative to present a stewardship sermon. Would be beneficial to encourage those with electronic giving to consider increases. Note that more attendance does not mean more money is coming in.
- Aletha – New office coordinator – deadlines –try to be more vigilant in keeping Aletha in the loop
- John Hines – use mailbox for events for his setup – cc Aletha on Sunday events
- Nominating committee – Leaving – Cathy Y – Roger – Gina. Eunice volunteered and Nancy suggested Roger and Gina (as those leaving the board) could help. Both agreed.
- Another 2 years – Gwen – Sean-James-Anne/Todd-Tracy
- Need 3 members for nominating committee
- Email etiquette—consider which emails within the PPC require a 'reply all' response and which can be to a more limited group

Parking Lot items:

- RIC – Education to begin-
- TNT – bucket list of items brought up by members that need additional discussion

Next meeting is Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Nancy P. Gina made a motion to adjourn our meeting, and the motion was 2nd by James. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 7:28 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**



Happy July Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis

Our Youngest:

Maya Schwarz (1)

Amelia Carpenter (9)

Lennon Stuetgen (27)

Morgan Jones (7)

Rosalind Nelson (26)

Cole Haffemann (30)

Our Sunday School Students:

Claire Ryan (1)

Briggs Ludowitz (4)

Vivian Coy (6)

Haylee Williams (11)

Beau Keller (14)

Clark Kelter (15)

Pria Steinmetz (17)

Amy Weittenhiller (21)

Addison Breunig (23)

Gabbi Argall (27)

Kenley Burke (2)

Gibson Sweeney (6)

Amelia Ziehlsdorf (7)

Paige Williams (11)

Bennett Steinmetz (15)

Marla Robarge (17)

Ted Ederer (20)

Cameron Johnson (22)

Marryn Osgood (24)

Avery Jorgenson (31)

Our Youth:

Jaret Buckles (1)

Beckett Stoffels (3)

Madyn Ludowitz (6)

Brock Esser (14)

William Sandberg (24)

Jace Schultz (30)

Jaelyn Sorg (2)

Ethan Anderson (4)

Emelynn Miller (9)

Lillyann Nurkala (18)

Aubree Deuman (28)

Mylee Schultz (30)

College and Career-age Young People:

Jaxson Dunn (1)

Kennedy Colby (18)

Dylan Sawyer (25)

Isabelle Kolnik (6)

Anna Bruckert (19)