

The Story of Feet

John 13:3-8

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."

John 18:12—14

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First, they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Matthew 28:5-10

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So, they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Reflection

We know the Holy Week rhythm by heart: the sorrow of the cross and the victory of the empty tomb. But as I was looking at the readings for this week, I started noticing a thread I hadn't really paid attention to before. It's the story of the feet.

It starts on Thursday with an act that still feels scandalous: Jesus, the Master, kneeling in the dirt to wash his disciples' feet—even Judas' feet. He redefines leadership right there on the floor. To love like Jesus means being willing to get our hands dirty for someone else's dignity.

By Friday, the movement shifts. Those feet are bound like a criminal's. We watch as Jesus is led from the garden to the trial and finally to the Cross. It's the 'walking out' of the love he promised. Even when he's being led away, he's the one in control.

But then Sunday dawns. When the women find him, they don't just wave; they fall down and 'take hold of his feet.' The feet that were once wrapped in a towel and later pierced by nails are now the feet of a King.

This Holy Week, as we follow the path from the basin to the cross, remember that our God isn't distant. He's the God who gets his hands dirty in the details of our lives. Whether you're currently 'stooping' to serve others or walking a path that feels like a sacrifice, know that the same feet that bore the weight of the cross now stand in victory. The One who washed his friends' feet is the same One walking beside you today. The story doesn't end in the shadows of Friday; it ends in the light of an eternal Sunday.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a cursive "m".



Parish Planning Council Members:

Executive Director	Nancy Passehl
Assistant Exec Director	Marv Hupp
Secretary	Audrey Luetscher
Treasurer	John Brennan
Evangelism Board	Gwen Ringelstetter
Fellowship Board	Cathy McAlexander
Lay Ministry Board	Josie Fentress
Member-at-Large	Mary Weeks
Parish Education Board	James Newman
Properties Board	John Ballweg
PR and Social Concerns	Melani Wheeler
Stewardship Board	Anne Klinkner
Women of ELCA	Eunice Yanke
Youth Board	Charlie Kruchten
Youth Member-at-Large	Kendra Frey

The Staff:

Please call the church office first when possible **(608) 643-2439**

Pastor: Tom Kreis tom@stjohnssaukprairie.org

(608) 577-4851 (cell)

Pastor: Sally Williams sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org

(608) 643-7810 (home)

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour
ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Youth Director: Penny Johnson penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Custodian: John Hines john@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Office Administrator: Angie Updike office@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.

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our strength
and refuge,
calling us
to serve

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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 always needs:

- Toilet paper
- Condiments (especially ketchup and mayonnaise, jelly)
- Canned vegetables and fruits
- Baby food and formula
- Box meals (e.g., Hamburger Helper)
- Canned meals (e.g., spaghetti, ravioli, etc.)
- Baking supplies (white and brown sugar, flour, oil)
- Canned Meats, Pastas, Pork & Beans, Chili, Sloppy Joes, or similar
- Diapers – sizes 4, 5 and 6

Thank you for sharing with others.

Birthday Greetings

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



Nick Lester (10)
741 Water Street
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578-1028

Loretta Landerman (11)
N816 Club Circle Dr
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578-9550

Jake Degenhardt (16)
612 Eagle Crest Ct
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jim Walter (16)
E12849 Wynding Way
Merrimac, WI 53561-9599

Jean Knuth (23)
1201 N Forest Ln
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Robert Straub (25)
N750 Golf Rd Lot 22
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578-9509

Roger Allen (30)
6890 Breunig Road
Mazomanie, WI 53560



Women of the Church News



	<u>Lydia Circle</u> no April meeting due to absences	
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, April 2, The Pines, front door Activity Room	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> Monday, April 13, St. John's library	9:00am
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> Tuesday, April 7, St. John's library	9:30am

In March 21 ladies attended circle meetings with Darlene Holl, Mary Weeks and Kathy Lester leading the Bible Study. In April Barbara Salvesson, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester will lead the Study.

The time we've been looking forward to is almost here; it's April and on the 25th we are happy to be hosting the Sauk/Columbia Conference Spring Meeting here at St. John's. There are 14 churches in the Conference and we hope to have representatives from all of them, including many of us from St. John's in attendance. The schedule for that day is:

8:30-9:30am: Registration with coffee and treats in the Fellowship Hall (Registration \$10 to cover the cost of the noon meal, pay at registration.)

9:30am: Opening Devotions with Pastor Tom in the Sanctuary

Featured Speaker: Founders and leaders of 6:8 Foundation

Short business meeting following the presentation

12:00pm: Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall

We are asking those attending to let us know by April 18th. Angie Updike will be taking reservations by either calling the church office, 608-643-2439, or e-mail office@stjohnssaukprairie.org, or you can stop in the office and tell her in person. PAY \$10 AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION. We will allow for last-minute registrations, of course, but earlier is most helpful.

Lydia Circle is visiting Special Friends in April and May.

Bible Study Leaders Meeting for April is on Tuesday March 31 at 9:00 a.m.

Be sure to read the Special Prayer for Peace found in this Visitor.

With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families:

Cheryl & Steve Sprecher, JoAnnah & Todd Sorg and family on the death of Cheryl's mother, JoAnnah's grandmother, Donna Mae Schomber.



Hank & Dian Elsing and family, on the death of grandson Colby and Hank's brother, Robert.

Dan, Jordan, Megan & Noelle Small and Roxanne Zick on the death of Dan's father and the girl's grandfather, David.

Amy & Bill Nelson on the death of Amy's mom, Marlene Reuter.

Jake & Katelyn Keller and family on the death of Jake's mom, Julie.

Chris & Roxann Grinde on the death of Chris's brother, Curt.

First Communion

On Sunday, March 8, the following youth received their First Communion:

Andrew Kraus

Emma Kraus

Amelia Trager

Amelia Ziehlsdorf



Update for 2026 Lutheran World Relief Baby Kits

New or Like New or Handmade Items ONLY!

- Sizes remain the same (6 Months through 24 Months/ 2Toddler).
- Like New means **pristine, no stains or signs of wear!**
- No fleece or micro fleece as micro-plastics are released into the water supply when washed, causing environmental concerns.
- Onesies & footed sleepers can be modified only by cutting & then hemming or surging the hems making a usable t-shirt or non-footed sleeper. If you prefer not to sew yourself, you may still donate the items & we will hem before adding them to kits.

The new guidelines suggest asking: Would I give this as a gift at a baby shower?

Hand towels and socks MUST BE NEW!

Thank you for your understanding as LWR seeks to improve the quality of the Baby Kits!

Any questions direct to Marian DeGiovanni 608-963-7941.



Café Now OPEN

Full Breakfast
& Lunch Menu

Sun - Mon - Tues
7am - 2pm

Café Located at 6:8
821 Industry Rd
Sauk City, WI 53583

The 6:8 Café is more than just coffee and great food. It's a space where lives are transformed through **job training, second chances, and community**. Every purchase directly supports 6:8's mission to help individuals and families move from surviving to thriving.



Learn more at
makingservicepersonal.org/cafe



SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray for peace on the 20th day of each month. On April 20th, please repeat the following prayer:

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world
as your love would have it:
a world where the weak are protected,
and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the riches of creation are shared,
and everyone can enjoy them;
a world where different races and cultures
live in harmony and mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with justice,
and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

April Prayer Ventures

Prayer Ventures is a devotional resource from the ELCA that provides specific prayer petitions for each day of the year. These prayers are designed to connect your personal prayer life to the global mission of the church, its partner organizations, and the specific needs of the world. The Prayer Ventures for Holy Week and for peace are listed below are just a few of the prayers we share with you today.

Give thanks, for God has not left us alone stumbling in darkness, guilt and chaos. Time and time again, we are led to the cross and the empty tomb, where we are bound to, and set free by, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our lord, Messiah, and Savior.

Maundy Thursday, “When in the shadow of the cross Christ knelt and washed the feet of his disciples, he gave us a sign of love complete” (*ELW* 360). Ask God to help us understand the sacrificial love Jesus Christ had for his followers, neighbors in need, and the world. Pray that we do likewise and that our actions of love, mercy, and service inspire others.

Good Friday, pray that we deepen our understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the ultimate demonstration of God’s boundless love for *all* humanity. Ask God to forgive us when we seek or justify vengeance, isolation, and dominance over people whom we see as adversaries, who unsettle us, or whose beliefs differ from our own.

Easter Sunday, shout together with siblings in Christ throughout the world, “Hallelujah! Christ is risen!” Give thanks to God for showing humanity that God’s promise of love, forgiveness, and new life embodied in Jesus Christ is real, given to all people, and to be trusted. Hallelujah!

Pray for peace where there is conflict, war, and instability in the world, including Iran, the Middle East, Venezuela, Ukraine, Mexico, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Myanmar. Pray for people who are impacted and displaced by conflict, that they remain hopeful, find safe sanctuary in welcoming communities, have resources to meet daily needs, and know that they are not forgotten.

“Woman, dancing from the garden, find the others and proclaim Christ is risen as he promised; tell the world he knew your name” (*ACS* 935)! Ask the Spirit to help us invite others to have faith in God’s love and mercy and to spread the good news of the risen Christ through word of mouth, relationships, and acts of love and service.

* April 2026 Letter (doc), by ELCA | Mar 10, 2026 | Prayer Ventures, https://resources.elca.org/?_categories=prayer-ventures&_subcategory=2026&_language=english&_media=documents



Dear Friends in Christ,

For the first several years I was here, Easter morning was a challenge. By the end of the services my head felt like a pressure cooker, my throat scratchy, and my eyes uncomfortable. I thought it was par for the course after a long, holy week of services, but in fact it was because I'm allergic to lilies which are typically centerpieces for Easter gardens up front. (Yes, I'm to blame for not having a sanctuary filled with lilies, I apologize.)

The very symbol meant to point us to new life, beauty, and hope... is also the thing that makes some of us mildly miserable.

But maybe that's actually kind of perfect.

Because resurrection isn't always neat and tidy. It doesn't always arrive in ways that are comfortable or predictable. Sometimes new life comes wrapped in things we don't expect—or even things that bother us a little.

Think about that first Easter morning. There was confusion. Fear. Tears. Mary Magdalene didn't recognize Jesus at first. The disciples were hiding behind locked doors. Resurrection didn't show up as a perfectly staged moment with lilies and brass music—it broke in right in the middle of uncertainty and real human mess.

Kind of like a sneeze in the middle of a quiet sanctuary.

The truth is, God has a habit of bringing new life in ways that interrupt us. Resurrection shows up in unexpected conversations, in second chances, in small acts of kindness, in moments when we thought hope had already run out.

And sometimes, yes, even in the things that make us uncomfortable.

So if you're someone who loves the lilies—breathe deeply and enjoy them.

And if you're someone who's reaching for a tissue—take heart.

Because whether it smells like heaven or makes you sneeze, Easter is still happening.

Christ is risen.

Even now. Even here. Even in the middle of it all.

Fellowship News

We celebrated birthdays and anniversaries during Sunday coffee time. We served Lenten lunches on Wednesdays and two Thursday soup lunches for the Ecumenical practices. Our annual Palm Sunday Brunch was served between church services on Palm Sunday, March 29. Thank you to all who volunteered to work and to donate food.

Baby Congratulations

Brooke and Trey Storms welcomed a daughter, Paisley Kaye to their family on March 11. Grandparents are Brett and Rhonda Herschleb and Marilyn Herschleb is great-grandma. Dexter and Teresa Breunig welcomed a daughter, Kenna Mae to their family on March 19. Lori and Allan Breunig are the grandparents and Marilyn Herschleb is great-grandma.



Sunday School News

Sunday School Offering Project

Our offering for the 2025-2026 Sunday School year is being designated for Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry. A nutritious diet is important to a child's health. Foods high in protein and vitamins help keep tummies full and immune systems strong.

Offering and items will be collected every Sunday we have Sunday School. Students are welcome to give each week or as they are able. EVERY gift counts. It's not the amount we give, but the reason we give we are God's Helping Hands.

There will be a basket to put donations in by the Children's Library.

There will be no Sunday School on April 5.

Adult Education

During the month of April, we will be studying the readings from Acts that we will hear in worship. We will meet at 9:15-10:15am in the church library (we will NOT meet on Easter Sunday). We have Bibles for you to use or you're welcome to bring your own from home. You don't have to know anything about Acts or even the Bible to come and explore scripture!

Middle and High School News

Affirmation of Baptism is Sunday, April 28

Join St. John's as we celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism with our 9th grade students! Sunday, April 28 at the 10:30 Service, ninth grade students will complete their confirmation program by affirming the promises made at their baptism. Parents, Mentors and Confirmands are asked to arrive at 9:30am to prepare for service. We'll have a small reception and professional photographs prior to the service, and all are welcome to celebrate this important life milestone.

Sixth Graders - Orientation to Confirmation is May 6

On Wednesday, May 6 we begin the process of introducing the incoming confirmation class to our confirmation program. Students who are currently enrolled in the Sixth Grade, along with one adult, must attend. We'll talk about confirmation requirements, introduce confirmation education, talk about mentorship, and review the confirmation expectations. We will meet from 6:00pm – 7:00 pm.

Worship Jobs for April

Date	Task	Who
4/5/2026	8:00 Acolyte	Charlie Lueck
4/5/2026	8:00 Usher	Cooper Rennicke
4/5/2026	8:00 Usher	Nadia LaVigne
4/5/2026	10:30 Acolyte	
4/5/2026	10:30 Usher	Nellie Kaderavek
4/5/2026	10:30 Usher	Tate Bindl
4/12/2026	8:00 Acolyte	Kate Endres
4/12/2026	8:00 Usher	Charlie Lueck
4/12/2026	8:00 Usher	Nadia LaVigne
4/12/2026	10:30 Acolyte	Clay Hutchins
4/12/2026	10:30 Usher	Nellie Kaderavek
4/12/2026	10:30 Usher	Henry Dean
4/19/2026	7:30 Communion Set Up	Kendra Frey
4/19/2026	8:00 Acolyte	Mylee Schultz
4/19/2026	8:00 Communion Assist.	Olivia Thorne
4/19/2026	8:00 Greeter	Lucas Muehrer

4/19/2026	8:00 Greeter	Jace Schultz
4/19/2026	8:00 Usher	Kendra Frey
4/19/2026	8:00 Usher	Jaelyn Sorg
4/19/2026	10:30 Acolyte	Madyn Ludowitz
4/19/2026	10:30 Communion Assist.	Madyn Ludowitz
4/19/2026	10:30 Greeter	Khloe Walker
4/19/2026	10:30 Greeter	Willy Pickett
4/19/2026	10:30 Usher	Madyn Ludowitz
4/19/2026	10:30 Usher	Aubree Deuman
4/19/2026	11:30 Communion Clean-Up	Madyn Ludowitz
4/26/2026	8:00 Acolyte	Carly Jorgenson
4/26/2026	8:00 Usher	Nadia LaVigne
4/26/2026	10:30 Acolyte	Natalie Nurkala
4/26/2026	10:30 Usher	Olivia Thorne

"Guns to Gardens" Event

St John's will be hosting a Guns to Gardens Safe Disposal event on **Saturday, April 18, 9:00am – Noon**. (See flyer on the kiosk for details.)

This initiative creates a safe and confidential way for community members to remove

unwanted firearms from their homes, and at the same time helps reduce the risk of gun-related injuries and deaths. These firearms will not be resold. Instead, they will be dismantled and reforged into garden tools - symbols of growth, healing, and life.

Community members bring unloaded firearm(s) in the trunk of their car to our parking lot. Volunteers will guide participants through the entire process. The firearms are then dismantled on site. At the end of the process, they will be offered a gift card for their donation (while supplies last).

Guns to Gardens is a modern take on the Biblical prophetic vision of a future without violence or war, and therefore no need for weapons. The prophet Isaiah says, "they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." In that vein, we're beating guns into garden tools and promoting a message of nonviolence, as modeled by Jesus Christ.



Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help at the event! There's still time to volunteer using the online signup form: <https://signup.com/go/VjccnCC>. You can also find this link on our Home page at www.stjohnssaukprairie.org.

A Note from Executive Director, Nancy Passehl, and Assistant Executive Director, Marv Hupp

Wow!!! 2025 has gone and 2026 begins. Let us start with thanking all of you for your support and financial donations and contributions to keep St. John's up and running.

After many months of work by TNT and the call team Pastor Tom was hired and began his tenure with us on September 1, 2025. We are blessed to have a great call team with members Steve Barritt, Steve Kindschi, Kristin Ryan, Mary Weeks, Sean Jager and Nancy Passehl. Thanks to their dedication the hiring process went very well.

A special thanks to John Ballweg and many others for their tireless effort to refurbish our parsonage to welcome our new pastor and family. We welcomed Pastor Tom, his wife Karen and family to our congregation, community and to our parsonage.

We added new board members, Charlie Kruchten, Mary Weeks, Audrey Leutscher, Kendra Frey and Josie Fentress. We thank all of them for their willingness to serve on our board.

We have been through some staff changes and are now full-staffed with our new office coordinator, Angie Updike, who is doing a fantastic job. We have also hired a bookkeeper, Karissa Johnson, who is getting us acquainted with new software ICON. We thank John Brennan for his dedication to making this transition work smoothly.

Life continues with high level of hustle and bustle. The children's music, the choirs, the youth programs, the laughter in the halls are all signs of a youthful, healthy and happy congregation.

In closing, I ask for your continued prayers for our staff and we thank them from the bottom on our hearts. Our staff members are Tom, Sally, Angie, Ruellene, John, Connie, Kim, Penny and Jackie. Without all of them we would not be who we are today. We thank all of our council members for their dedication and hard work. We thank Pastor Tom and Pastor Sally for their dedicated service to all of us. Again, we would not be where we are today without all of you. We thank you for all your time, talents, donations and contributions. We are humbled to lead your church. Finally, when you have ideas and/or suggestions, we'd love to hear them!

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: March 3, 2026

Present: Nancy Passehl, Marv Hupp, Tom Kreis, Mary Weeks, Audrey Luetscher, John Brennan, Josie Fentress (Zoom), Anne Klinkner, John Ballweg, James Newman, Kendra Frey

Absent: Eunice Yanke, Pastor Sally, Cathy McAlexander, Melani Wheeler, Charlie Kruchten, Gwen Ringelstetter

Call to Order/Opening remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Nancy Passehl. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Anne Klinkner, 2nd by Mary Weeks, motion carried. Our devotion was meditative music that prepared us for the meeting.

Secretary Minutes:

The February 3, 2026, minutes were submitted online by Audrey Luetscher. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Marv Hupp and 2nd by John Ballweg. Motion carried

Treasurer's report John Brennan

- Audit went well and we are essentially debt free.
- Prairie Bookkeeping has been going very well. Our transition
- to our new ICON software is complete. We are very happy about it's ability to record and report how our church is operating.
- Our larger expenses for the beginning of the year included A new set of bells for the bell choir and a new water softener system.

Current Month Income	Current Expenses	Current Balance	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	YTD Budget
\$41,031	\$47,093	(\$6,062)	\$79,006	\$91,608	\$95,772

Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Mary Weeks, 2nd by Marv Hupp. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - SEND TO SECRETARY E-MAIL

Evangelism: Gwen Ringelstetter (on medical leave)
Pastor Sally is recruiting new members for the committee. Directory will be tabled until a team is formed.

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander

- We celebrated new members, office administrator Angie, Marilyn Larson's 101st birthday (also Molly Williams' 13th), Diane Elsing's birthday and Hank & Diane's 63rd wedding anniversary.

Lay Ministry: Josie Fentress

No meeting/report

Donna Knickmeyer filling financial responsibilities

Parish Education: James Newman

- No new announcements for Sunday School
- Confirmation students are leading the 6:30 Lenten services
- Affirmation of Baptism is at the end of April. Penny ordered corsages and organized the photographer.
- Need to get RIC committee date scheduled to proceed.

Properties: John Ballweg

Recently completed projects:

- The interior push button for the power assist door at the side entrance has been replaced.
- We were able to clean/service one of the exterior doors so the crash bar is now functioning properly again. The other door will require a service call (see below).
- The flush valve in the nursery room toilet failed on February 27th. Thanks to quick action by Angie, Pastor Tom, Pastor Sally, Penny and Lon, the water flow was stopped and the flooring was cleaned and dried.

Upcoming tasks we'll be working on:

- Hellenbrand Glass has been contacted to replace the crash bar on one door at the side entrance. The date hasn't been set, but I was told the service call should take place this week.
- We are looking for options to get a lift in the sanctuary for closer inspection of all ceiling fan blades to make sure they are secure before we continue using the fans.

- Is there anything we can do to more securely fasten the taller water fountain between the main bathrooms (it is pulling away from the wall)?
- Schedule carpet cleaning.

PR & Social Concerns: Melani Wheeler

- Gun/Surrender update: Need to discuss funding money for the event and volunteers. Anyone know where we can obtain parking lot cones or should they be purchased?
- The Community Spaghetti Meal is currently on hold.
- No changes to the Food Pantry items

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner

- Bob Lange was welcomed back as the newest member of the Stewardship Board.
- The Stewardship Board reviewed the audit results for the year ending December 31, 2025.
- The calendar year 2025 audit resulted in the following findings: All income and expenditure have been accounted for and are recorded in the accounting system. St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church ended up with net income of \$90,000 for the 2025 year. There were no major discrepancies found during the audit.
- Review of Monthly Ministry Themes: March 2026 is Music and Worship. April is Children's Ministry.
- Pastor Tom and Angie will discuss having Vanco do a presentation for us so we can increase the participation in electronic giving for congregation members who may be interested.
- Annual Report: The audited financial reports are included in the annual report as well as reports from each committee. Anne will send out the annual report for the Steering Committee to the board members.

Women of the ELCA : Ruth Dresser/Eunice Yanke

- 24 ladies attended circle meetings in February
- The March Bible Study will be led by Darlene Holl, Mary Weeks and Kathy Lester
- Ruth Circle will discuss the study together with no one person leading
- We are hosting the Sauk/Columbia Spring Conference meeting on April 25. The registration begins at 8:30-9:30 with meeting starting at 9:30. Pastor Tom will lead devotions. John & Sarah

Ramthun, founders of 6:8, will then have a presentation of their organization. Cost of the meal is \$10. Please RSVP by April 18th to Angie Updike (608-643-2439), email (office@stjohnssaukprairie.org) or stop into the office. Money will be collected at the time of registration.

- Sarah/Mary Circle will be visiting special friends during February and March
- Bible Study Leaders meeting for March is Tuesday, February 24 at 9:00am.
- Leaders Meeting for April is Tuesday, March 31 at 9:00am.

Youth Committee: Charlie Kruchten

No report

Member at Large: Mary Weeks

No report

Youth Member at Large: Kendra Frey

- We have two weeks left of trimester two, which ends March 12th. Many are finishing final projects and gearing up for final exams.
- A few Sauk Prairie kids went to State Wrestling on February 28th.
- Show Choir is doing very well and will be going to Biloxi, Mississippi from March 4-9 for a competition.

Pastor Tom's report:

- Continuing to collect a list of all of St. John's ministries to evaluate them and how we might support them more fully and evaluate the necessity of starting new ministries.
- Reaching out to a couple of new families that have shown interest in joining.
- Working with Angie to finish up our Congregational Report to the Synod.
- I have accepted the call to help with the Bishop Election Committee in our Synod.
- We are in the season of Lent and life for the pastors is a little busier.

Pastor Sally's report:

- Thank you, St. John's for the gift of my time away. I was able to reconnect with good friends, spend evenings and weekends

with my family and continue my graduate school classes. It's good to be back!

- I will begin a 3-week Adult Ed series on gun violence prevention using the documentary Ricochet this Sunday. Plans continue toward April's gun disposal event. Jackie Frosch and Connie Henry have been integral to this planning process.
- First Communion instruction is March 5 and March 8 will be the First Communion celebration for those who can come.
- Please pray for one of our St. John's young adults, Jonah Richard, who has been sent to the Middle East. He is part of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th Refueling Wing out of Milwaukee. We pray for his safety and for his family (Rob, Carrie and Violet) and friends as they are apart.

Old Business:

- RIC update from James on the committee. Needs to schedule first meeting of the group.
- John Ballweg has received a bid for \$1,400 to install 2 19" toilets in the main bathrooms. This includes toilets, installation and disposal of old toilets. Cost is in the yearly budget. Instructed to proceed.
- Update from all on who they asked to volunteer-ongoing
- Discussion continued on the positives of installing a new updated phone system. Pastor Tom is checking into other carriers for monthly prices and options.

New Business:

- Mary Weeks briefly discussed the interesting topics and ideas covered at the LEAD conference.
- Marv Hupp will be presenting a Temple talk this Sunday, at both services.

Annual report notes-Pastor Tom and Pastor Sally

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 6:00 pm. Devotion will be given by Melani Wheeler. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by James Newman and 2nd by Audrey Luetscher. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 7:15 pm. with the Lord's Prayer lead by Pastor Tom.

Respectfully submitted by Audrey Luetscher



Happy April Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis.

Our Youngest:

Jameson Coy (8)	Petyon Kruchten (9)
Sutton Kruchten (9)	Samuel Robertson (26)

Our Sunday School Students:

Eliana Greene (4)	Sofia Stephan (4)
Emery Traher (4)	Zeke Kaul (5)
Tatum Sorg (5)	Jack Schulenburg (10)
Ethan Ballweg (15)	Hank Lochner (15)
Emerson Woider (16)	Henry Hart (17)
Emily Ramirez (17)	Bennett Robertson (18)
Lyla Ballweg (19)	Lauren Schulenburg (21)
Remy Robarge (26)	

Our Youth:

Charlie Kruchten (3)	Reid Hart (16)
Isabelle Jolicoeur (23)	Wyatt Frey (26)
Graysen Dunn (29)	Cora Miller (29)

College and Career-age Young People:

Andrew Deuman (23)