

**"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed..."--Matthew 24:6**

Dear Friends,

It's getting harder to look at a screen these days without wanting to turn it off immediately. Between the headlines from overseas and the constant, ego-driven bickering we see in our own backyard, it feels like we're being hit from all sides by "wars and rumors of wars." It's exhausting. Most of us are just trying to cut through the noise and the rhetoric to figure out what is actually true and what actually works.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus doesn't try to sugarcoat this. He's very clear: things are going to be messy. Nations will clash, and the world will feel like it's groaning. But then he says something that feels almost impossible: "See that you are not alarmed."

Now, that doesn't mean we should be indifferent. It's not an excuse to ignore the crime rates, the poverty, or the political bullying that affects real people on any side of an issue. As Lutherans, we don't look for God in a "theology of glory"—we don't expect things to be shiny, powerful, or easy. We look for God in the "Theology of the Cross." We find God right in the middle of the mess, the suffering, and the things that don't make sense.

Jesus calls these struggles "birth pains." If you've ever seen something new being born, you know it isn't pretty. It's painful and chaotic. We live in that "already but not yet" space—where we know Christ has already won the day, but we haven't quite reached the finish line yet.

So, how do we stay "not alarmed" when the world is shouting at us?

First, we stay grounded in the Gospel of Grace. When the world tells us it's all about who has the biggest ego or the loudest voice, we come back to the table. We remember that God's real power shows up in simple things like bread, wine, and water.

Second, we focus on our Vocations. Instead of getting paralyzed by the "end times" or the latest political drama, we ask the simple

question: "How can I be a neighbor today?" We look for ways to cooperate, to speak clearly, and to actually help people, regardless of the politics involved.

The end of the story isn't a disaster; it's the victory of God's mercy. We don't have to walk in fear or let the rhetoric get the best of us. We walk in faith, trusting that the One who promised to be with us is already standing in the future, waiting for us to catch up.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'J'.

## **Welcoming a New Intern to St. John's in July**

In July 2026, we will be pleased to welcome Intern Roger Boettcher to the St. John's family. Roger is currently a Master of Divinity student at Wartburg Seminary and lives on a farm outside of Dodgeville.

Before discerning a call to ministry, Roger spent his career as a Middle School and High School Science Teacher. In seeking an internship site, he shared that he was looking for a community that "finds joy in worship and love for one another," and a place where he can integrate his passion for teaching both youth and adults.

Doesn't that sound exactly like St. John's?

Please look for more information in the coming weeks regarding Roger's official start date and how we can all work together to welcome him into our community.



### **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](mailto:tom@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

**(608) 577-4851 (cell)**

**Pastor:** Sally Williams [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

**(608) 643-7810 (home)**

**Director of Music:** Ruellene Seymour  
[ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

**Youth Director:** Penny Johnson [penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

**Custodian:** John Hines [john@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:john@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

**Office Administrator:** Angie Updike [office@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:office@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Dale Clason  
[sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sundayschool@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

**St. John's Lutheran Church:** (608) 643-2439

[www.stjohnssaukprairie.org](http://www.stjohnssaukprairie.org)

Like us on Facebook at St Johns Lutheran Sauk Prairie

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

St. John's Lutheran Church  
100 Oak Street  
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## 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 May. The day is in parentheses.



Liz Groth (3)  
S7849 State Rd. 78  
Merrimac, WI 53561-9719

Shirley Anding (4)  
429 Pine St. #3  
Sauk City, WI 53583-1264

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

Doris Lohr (5)  
S9591 Church Rd.  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578-9717



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

Carol Mallon (9)  
N1617 Fjord Circle  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578-9551

Marlene Wilson (10)  
S7713A Eagle Point Dr.  
Merrimac, WI 53561

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

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

	<b>Women of the Church News</b>	
	<b>Lydia Circle</b> Thursday, May 14 at Darlene Holl's, 418 Lueders Rd., Apt. 9	1:00pm
	<b>Martha Circle</b> Thursday, May 7, The Pines, front door Activity Room	9:30am
	<b>Ruth Circle</b> Monday, May 11, St. John's library	9:00am
	<b>Sarah/Mary Circle</b> Tuesday, May 5, St. John's library	9:30am

In April, 13 ladies attended Circle Meetings, with Mary Weeks and Marian DeGiovanni leading the Bible Study. (Lydia and Sarah/Mary Circles did not meet because of many being absent. Some did their study at home.) In May, Darlene Holl, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester will lead the study.

There was a very big occasion in April! Ladies of St. John's hosted the WELCA Sauk/Columbia Conference on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> (after the deadline for Visitor Articles.) We will have a report on that conference in next month's Visitor.

There was a notice on the front page of the April Trumpeter that there will be a monthly discussion via Zoom beginning on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7-8 p.m. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85497831977?pwd=FYKBaaX45hy1I18YPYOVWniVmv5cn9.I>

Beginning May 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a Bible Study discussion offered monthly. It will be the third Thursday of each month at the same time each month. The offer is open to all women. The discussion will center around the Gather Magazine Bible Study. This is the link to gather <https://www.gathermagazine.org/> Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. Gather is published 6 times a year. Subscription is \$19.95/year. For more information or to subscribe by phone, call 1-844-409-0676. For new members: This is the magazine that has our Bible Study for our monthly Circle meetings.

Lydia Circle is visiting Special Friends in April and May.

Bible Study Leaders Meeting for June is May 26 at 9:00 a.m.

## **DON'T LET A FALL CRAMP YOUR STYLE! TAKE A STEPPING ON WORKSHOP RIGHT HERE AT ST. JOHN'S**

Last July at the summer joint women's circle meeting the speaker was Marina Wittman from the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Sauk County. She talked about a service offered by the Center of a "Stepping On Workshop", a 7 week course on how to avoid falls. A sheet was passed around asking who might be interested and many showed interest in such a workshop. Marina made plans to offer it right here at St. John's on 7 consecutive Thursdays, from May 7 to June 18 from 9:30 to 11:30am with a suggested donation of \$20 per person for the entire workshop. Because of the interest shown by the ladies in attendance at that July meeting it is only being publicized to us. Even if you didn't sign the sheet and you or someone you know of could benefit, you or they are encouraged to register. To register, call Marina at the ADRC 608-355-3289.

### **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families:

Keith and Karen Yanke, Steve Yanke, Rachel and Aaron Kaderavek (Nellie, Clare and Della), Sabrina and Kole Carpenter (Amelia and Lillian), Scott and Paolo Yanke, Karen Ballweg, Herb and Cathy Yanke (Beth, Jeff and Katie) and John and Aletha Ballweg (Renee and Matthew) on the death of Eunice Yanke.



Connie and Gary Tomter on the loss of Connie's mother, Betty Guinn and her niece, Misty Koeller.

Don and Vi Bohler and Ann and Paul Kippley on the death of Vi's sister and Ann's aunt, Vera Henriksen.

### **First Communion Instruction**

Did you miss the First Communion class in March but are interested in having your child begin communing? The pastors are happy to meet with families individually to talk more about First Communion! Please call 608-643-2439 or email [tom@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:tom@stjohnssaukprairie.org) or [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

### **Young Adult Updates**

New job? Accepted into a new program? Won an award? Need prayers for something specific? Please email Pastor Sally at [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org) or message her on Facebook with any updates, so that we may continue to celebrate and pray for you in your life in Christ.



## Wanted: Mobile Meals Delivery Volunteers!

St. John's has committed to delivering meals the weeks of June 8-12 and June 15-19. We need two volunteers every weekday. One should plan to drive his/her car on the route, and one should plan to "run" the meals to the houses. Meals are ready for pickup at the Sauk Prairie Hospital near the employee entrance (\*\*see the new map on the kiosk) between 11:20 and 11:30 a.m. Total delivery time is usually one hour. Routing and delivery instructions are provided when you pick up the meals. This is a very rewarding volunteer experience.

If you are available to help, please add your name and phone number to the schedule on the kiosk.

St. John's is a proud supporter of Just Bakery of Dane County. By purchasing baked goods through Just Bakery, we are supporting the neighbor in need of hope. Look for the Just Bakery table on May 17 in the fellowship hall between services with their wonderful baked goods.



## SPECIAL PRAYER

We invite you to pray for peace on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of each month. On May 20, please repeat the following prayer:

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle;  
the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding;  
and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what  
we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the  
power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world  
emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer  
lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring  
suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task  
of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power  
to fulfill the destiny for which we and all people were created.

Amen.

Dear Friends in Christ,



"People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" [Mark 10:13-16](#)

As another year of education comes to an end our hearts continue to be filled with gratitude for all of our volunteers. We simply cannot have this program without them. Please join me in thanking them for their tireless dedication and love for our students.

Dale Clason, Superintendent  
Dave Sweeney - Singspiration

### **Teachers & Helpers**

Hana Johnson, Alecia Robertson, Alyssa Himebauch, Kelly Koenig, Natalie Nurkala, Jordan Small, Ella Stephan, Lydia Muehrer, Laura Opie, Sam Philo, Abbey Nolden, Lee Nolden, Derek Rosenstiel, Lilly Ott, Pollyanna Sailor, Sophia Hanson, Kate Endres, Jill Krueger, Tammy Annen, Kendra Frey

### **Support Staff**

Penny Johnson, James Newman, JoAnnah Sorg, Jaelyn Sorg, Molly Williams, John Hines, Angie Updike, Peter Heide

### **Confirmation Staff**

Penny Johnson (Youth Director)  
Pastor Tom Kreis, Robin Lueck, Ken Lueck, Emily Rennie, Donna Nelson

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

Peace,

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

## Affirmation of Baptism

On April 26 and May 3 St. John's held our Affirmation of Baptism service for the following young people. Please keep these celebrants in your prayers.

Hudson Ballweg  
Drew Brickl  
Aubree Deuman  
Paityn Hauge  
Leah Kruchten  
Madyne Ludowitz  
Coraline Miller  
Violet Richard  
Kiptyn Suchla

Chesney Braund  
Henry Dean VI  
Kendra Frey  
Clay Hutchins  
William Leith  
Charles Lueck  
William Pickett  
Audrey Sandberg



## First Communion



The following students have completed their First Communion class and will be receiving their First Communion.

Malania Hitchcock    Vada Steinmetz

## Baby Congratulations

Ryan and Morgan (Varley) Mable welcomed a boy, Cooper Andrew, on January 28. The grandparents are Tom and Gina Varley.



Caleb and Paige Sisbach welcomed a boy, Rowan Robert, on February 25. Kim Sisbach is grandma and Jean Knudtson is great grandma.

Tyler and Mikayla Hartmann welcomed a girl, Elowynn Betty, on March 27. Grandparents are Melani and Brett Wheeler.

## Geraniums for Pentecost

Kim Sisbach will be in the gathering area between services on May 3 and May 10 to sell red geraniums to decorate our church on Pentecost. Afterwards, the flowers will be planted on the church grounds. Donors' names will be included in the bulletin on Pentecost. Flowers may be given in honor of or in memory of others. The cost is \$8.

## Fellowship News

We served refreshments to the volunteers who worked at the Guns to Gardens event. We celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism for our newest members of St. John's at a reception held on April 26. We will honor our high school graduates at a reception prior to the 10:30 service on May 17.

## **Community Resources**

Maplewood has FREE resources where the community is encouraged to attend. Simply come to Maplewood, 245 Sycamore St., Sauk City, during the designated date and time.

1. Grief & Loss Support Group (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 3-4pm)
2. Caretakers Alzheimer/Dementia support group (every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 3-4pm)

## **Sunday School News**

We are excited to have our Sunday School students lead us in worship through their singing on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 10:30 service. Thank you to Dave Sweeney for leading Singspiration this year! May 3<sup>rd</sup> is also the last day of Sunday School. Time flies when you're having fun. Thank you all for supporting our students as they learn about Jesus! And a very big special thank you to Dale Clason for leading this program as our superintendent!

## **Adult Education**

We continue to study the book of Acts in May. Please join us in the church library at 9:15-10:15am on Sundays as we learn more about these scripture passages. We will meet through May 17. This will be the last day of class for this academic year. Keep your eyes out for summer opportunities!

## **Middle and High School News**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Orientation, May 6**

Is your student currently enrolled as a sixth grader, and ready to begin the confirmation program at St. John's next Fall? Then, you should attend the Confirmation Orientation on Wed, May 6 at 6:00pm. Both you and your 6<sup>th</sup> Grade student should attend learn about program expectations, register for the program, and get a jump start on the opportunities that will begin in summer. If you are unable to attend on May 6, but need to register your sixth-grade student for the confirmation program, please contact Penny Johnson at penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org today.

### **Graduation Sunday, May 17**

Let's celebrate with our graduating High School seniors! On Sunday May 17 at 9:30am we will celebrate with students in the Fellowship Hall to offer our congratulations. At the 10:30 Service we will honor and pray with our young adults as they prepare to step

into the next phase of life. If you are the parent of a high school senior, please plan to arrive with your student, in their graduation cap and gown, at 9:30am. We are proud to celebrate this milestone in the lives of our St. John's young adults.

### **Worship Jobs and More!**

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

### **Summer Camps**

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

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

### **Worship Jobs for May**

We have open spots in May. If your student can help, register at <https://signup.com/go/OUAgeNd>.

Date	Task	Who
5/3/2026	8:00 Acolyte	Kate Endres
5/3/2026	8:00 Usher	John Brennan
5/3/2026	10:30 Acolyte	Willy Pickett

5/3/2026	10:30 Usher	Nellie Kaderavek
5/10/2026	8:00 Acolyte	Jace Schultz
5/10/2026	8:00 Usher	Mylee Schultz
5/10/2026	10:30 Acolyte	John Brennan
5/10/2026	10:30 Usher	Tate Bindl
5/17/2026	Communion Set Up	Lilli Weittenhiller
5/17/2026	8:00 Acolyte	Sam Philo
5/17/2026	8:00 Com. Assistant	
5/17/2026	8:00 Greeter	Khloe Walker
5/17/2026	8:00 Usher	
5/17/2026	10:30 Acolyte	Willy Pickett
5/17/2026	10:30 Com. Assistant	
5/17/2026	10:30 Greeter	Quinn Goetsch
5/17/2026	10:30 Usher	Quinn Goetsch
5/17/2026	Communion Clean-Up	
5/24/2026	9:00 Acolyte	
5/24/2026	9:00 Usher	
5/24/2026	9:00 Usher	

### **A Note from Executive Director, Nancy Passehl**

As your Executive Director, I have chosen the word “visionary” as my word for 2026. What does that mean and what will that look like for our Congregation and our Council?

**Spiritual Discernment:** Unlike a corporate visionary who creates a plan from personal ingenuity, a Christian visionary seeks a vision birthed by the Holy Spirit through prayer, scripture, and reflection. As Lutherans, we trust that God is already at work in the world, and our calling is to listen carefully for where the Holy Spirit is leading us next. We will continue to invite the Holy Spirit into our presence at worship, events, meetings, and our conversations to help us look at the future.

**Future-Focused:** It is the discipline of looking years ahead to identify “gaps” in the present—areas where the church is stagnant or failing to reach people—and imagining a better season. The PPC will begin looking at the Strategic Plan and how to build that into our vision. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is the primary “visionary body” of a parish. Its role is to serve as a wisdom community alongside our pastors.

**Mission over Maintenance:** A visionary leader is not content with simply “keeping the lights on” or managing decline. They prioritize the “right job” (the mission) over just “doing the job right” (tasks). Remember Treasurer John speaking about reaching for the “stars.” As a Congregation, we need to look at what we need and bring those thoughts to our Council. Contact any of us on the board, especially Mary Weeks and Kendra Frey, who are members at large, to let them know your thoughts.

**Casting Hope:** In a time where many feel disconnected from church, a visionary council “casts hope” by finding ways to transform parish structures (like schedules or communication) into a “missionary impulse” that invites people back. By trusting that God is already present in our community, we move forward with hope rather than fear.

Thank you for being our wonderful family at St John’s!  
Nancy Passehl, Executive Director

## **PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES**

**DATE: April 13, 2026**

**Present:** Nancy Passehl, Sally Williams, Cathy McAlexander, Marv Hupp, Tom Kreis, Mary Weeks, Kendra Frey, John Brennan, Josie Fentress, Melani Wheeler, Anne Klinkner, John Ballweg, James Newman, Audrey Luetscher,

**Absent:** Charlie Kruchten, Gwen Ringelstetter, Eunice Yanke (dec.)

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Nancy Passehl. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Mary Weeks, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Audrey Luetscher, motion carried.

### **Secretary Minutes:**

The March 3, 2026, minutes were submitted online by Audrey Luetscher. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Melani Wheeler and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marv Hupp. Motion carried

### **Treasurer’s report** John Brennan

- Things are going well in the office. Karissa, Angie and I are

working well. We have now more than halved the time required for Karissa in office. I think this number will continue to go down as we go through our work flows.

- We had an expensive winter, just like everyone else, but I really like where we are and how money is coming in. We are slightly over budget year to date, but we usually are at this time of year as we pay winter bills and yearly payments.
- I will email our detailed expense reports to boards that have Lots of transactions for you to see where you are. Josie, obviously our budget will look blown, because of the \$5,500 in bell purchases, but we all understand that was out of the ordinary.
- We do have one missing pink slip for Aldis on 2/27 on the Visa bill for \$22.57, hopefully I didn't misplace it, but if anyone has any ideas, let me know.
- Attendance is up, giving is up, people are excited. Keep up The great work everyone!

Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Marv Hupp, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pastor Tom. Motion carried.

Current Month Income	Current Month Expenses	Current Month Balance	Year-to-Date Income	Year-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date Budget
\$38,666	\$44,865	-\$6,114	\$117,672	\$136,468	-\$18,550

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Evangelism:** Gwen Ringelstetter  
No meeting

**Fellowship:** Cathy McAlexander

- Hosted new member reception
- Hosted welcome reception for Angie Updike
- Marilyn Larson & Molly Williams birthday celebration
- Diane Elsing's birthday & Hank & Diane Elsing's anniversary
- Pastor Tom's birthday celebration
- Served Palm Sunday brunch
- Providing food for volunteers at Guns to Garden event April

**Lay Ministry:** Josie Fentress

No meeting in March

**Parish Education:** James Newman

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the last day of Sunday School
- Affirmation of Baptism is April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Sunday School teachers and helpers will get a handwritten Thank you card and a jar of candy
- VBS will be the first week of August (8/2-8/6)
- Sunday School rally day tentatively set for September 20

RIC Update: We plan to hold our first meeting April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm. At which time we will start with step one of the “building an inclusive church toolkit.” Not everyone will be able to make the first meeting but scheduling adjustments can be made moving forward.

**Properties:** John Ballweg

- The grease trap was cleaned by Strander Sanitation
- Jefferson Fire & Safety performed annual inspection of extinguishers
- Ever Ready Electric has been contacted about the ceiling fans & lights in the sanctuary. We expect to receive their recommendations by the end of April
- Badger Excavating & Plumbing plan to install the two new high-rise toilets the week of April 13<sup>th</sup>
- Automatic Closers of Wisconsin has been contacted to correct current problems with the automatic closers on 6 doors. This includes the two side doors off the parking lot and the four main doors facing Oak St. The ballpark estimate for these is \$6500. Although this is not budgeted for 2026, we feel strongly the replacements need to be made now to make sure the doors open/close properly for safety reasons. Do we have PPC approval to move forward with this?

**PR & Social Concerns:** Melani Wheeler

- Safe surrender this Saturday, April 18. Many thanks to Jacki Frosch, Connie Henry, Pastors Tom and Sally. We’re excited to share the outcome.
- Just Bakery will be here this Sunday, April 19
- I dropped the ball with the Mobile Meals sign-up for this month. I have reached out to Office Manager Angie and Theresa Douglas
- No concerns with the food pantry. Thank you to Patty Barritt for taking the items every week for us

## **Stewardship Board:** Anne Klinkner

- The board reviewed the Feb. 2026 financial statements. The addition of the balance sheet is greatly appreciated & will take care of the ongoing findings that have been recommended during our annual review
- The Financial Review write-up is complete and a copy will be forwarded to John Brennan for the 2025 files
- Monthly themes for May, June, July will be reviewed and discussed next month
- The current timeline for the 2027 budget was discussed. The normal schedule is budgets go out in May for individual board review May/June. Stewardship reviews in July, after approval by the PPC in August it will be presented in the August/September Visitor and then voted on in November at the Congregational Meeting.
- The board discussed the Stewardship Campaign. We are attempting to do year round Stewardship with the monthly themes and this year on how we fund different missions
- Our objective should be how we connect with three different groups. They are the people who are there all the time, the people who help and attend spontaneously and those who do not participate in the church at all. We will have to consider this as we develop our campaign
- At the request of the PPC, the board discussed how the church will be funded when traditional methods are no longer around and there is a different demographic makeup of the church

## **Women of the ELCA :** Ruth Dresser/Eunice Yanke

- 21 ladies attended circle meetings in March
- The April Bible Study will be led by Barbara Salvesson, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester
- The Sauk/Columbia Spring Conference meeting on April 25 is at St. John's. The schedule for the day:  
8:30-9:30 Registration with coffee and treats (\$10 fee for meal)  
9:30 Opening devotions with Pastor Tom, followed by featured speakers, John and Sarah Ramthun from 6:8, followed by a short business meeting  
12:00pm luncheon in the Fellowship Hall  
RSVP by April 18 to Angie Updike by calling or emailing: [office@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:office@stjohnssaukprairie.org)
- Lydia Circle will be visiting special friends in April and May
- Bible Study Leaders meeting for April is Tuesday, March 31 at 9:00am.

- Please see detailed meeting minutes in the April Visitor

**Youth Committee:** Charlie Kruchten

No report

**Member at Large:** Mary Weeks

No report

**Youth Member at Large:** Kendra Frey

- Show Choir ended their season extremely well this year
- Boys basketball and track have started their season. Track had their first meet on April 9
- Spring Break has just ended and we have started school again on April 6
- That's all for now, thank you!

**Pastor Tom's report:**

- First, thank you to everyone who made Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week/Easter so special. It was wonderful to experience my first Holy season with you all. The volunteerism, the music, the food, worship, it was all quite wonderful
- I hope to have a couple of proposals for the PPC on an updated phone system at our May meeting
- I had a recent follow-up conversation with Wartburg Seminary. They are meeting this week to review intern candidates, and they are fit with potential host sites. A month ago, I had a conversation with a potential intern. We will find out the next steps in the upcoming weeks
- Based on collecting St. John's missional activities, I have begun to work on some of the groundwork for our long-term planning to allow the Executive team to hit the ground running later in the year, when we begin the process of planning
- Eunice Yanke's funeral was held last week. The family was very happy with the event. Thank you to everyone who works behind the scenes to make things happen. The church is set-up, clean, tables are set, coffee is made, bulletins printed, music is played, communion is set-up, and I could go on. It truly is a testament to the great team we have here at St. John's. Thank you!
- Working with the Memorial Committee to write procedures and policies. Additionally, looking at succession planning

## **Pastor Sally's report:**

- In March I taught a first communion class. We had 4 students receive their first communion
- Thank you to Angie, Ruellene, Connie and Penny for all of their extra hours before and during holy week. John Hines was also busy preparing the building for all of our different services. We are so grateful for our incredible staff.
- April and May adult education will focus on the readings from Acts during the Easter season
- It has been a busy season of funerals for many of our members. Please hold them in prayer and check in with them.
- Thank you to Jackie Frosch and Connie Henry for organizing and leading the Guns to Garden event.

## **Old Business:**

- Marv Hupp presented a temple talk at both services on March 8
- Annual report notes from the Pastors

## **New Business:**

- Passing of our finances

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 6:00 pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marv Hupp and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pastor Tom. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Audrey Luetscher



## **Happy May Birthday!**

*The day is in parenthesis.*

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

Ethan Lohr (1)	Dakota Scott (1)
Eli Emerson (5)	Lily Carpenter (17)
Macelyn Krintz (19)	Maddox Burke (21)
Amelia Trager (21)	Oliver Newman (24)
Elias Ederer (30)	Riley Jorgensen (30)

### **Our Youth:**

Malcolm Leith (5)	Mason Burke (7)
Lyle Opie (7)	Cooper Rennie (9)
Clay Hutchins (11)	Bryce Argall (16)
Eloise Nelson (16)	Evelyn Bahe (17)
Benjamin Patterson (23)	Hallie Ballweg (24)
Liam Leith (25)	Ian Quayle (25)
Leah Kruchten (28)	

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

Colby Frey (3)	Jozie Braund (12)
Austin Bruckert (15)	McKenzie Lautenbach (18)