

There are seasons in life when trust feels easy. Things are humming along, prayers seem to be answered, and the path ahead looks clear. But there are also seasons—maybe even most of them—when stress creeps in, and trusting God starts to feel a whole lot harder.

Stress has a sneaky way of narrowing our vision. It locks our eyes onto what might go wrong, what we can't control, or everything we feel personally responsible for fixing. I certainly have plenty of those times in my own life. In those moments, even the Bible verses we know by heart—"Do not worry," "Fear not," "Trust in the Lord"—can feel distant or a little unrealistic.

If you've ever felt that way, here's a comforting truth: Scripture never assumes that trust comes naturally to us. Over and over again, God's people are invited—sometimes practically begged—to trust precisely when things are uncertain. The Psalms are full of this exact tug-of-war: *"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you"* (Psalm 56:3). Notice it doesn't say *instead* of being afraid, but *when* I am afraid.

Trust, in the biblical sense, isn't the absence of stress or fear. It's simply choosing, again and again, to place our lives into God's hands even when our hearts are racing and our minds are spinning.

For many of us, stress comes from the heavy weight of everyday responsibilities—family, work, health, finances, or just the frantic pace of the world around us. Sometimes it can also be unreasonable demands by others; either way, it is unsettling. It's easy to feel like everything depends on us holding the whole world together. But the good news of the gospel gently reminds us: it doesn't.

We worship a God who doesn't wait for us to have it all figured out. In Christ, God steps right into our stress, our fear, and our messy realities. Jesus himself knew exactly what it felt like to be completely overwhelmed—praying in the garden, wrestling with what lay ahead. And even there, he entrusted himself to the Father.

That same invitation is open to us today. It's not a demand to "try harder," but a promise we can actually lean into. Sometimes, trust looks like a very simple, honest prayer: *"God, I don't have this under control—but I know you are with me."* Sometimes it looks like just taking the next faithful step, even when you can't see the big

picture. And sometimes, it looks like raising your hand and asking for help—from God, and from each other.

The beauty of being a community of faith is that we don't have to carry this trust alone. When one of us is struggling, others can hold onto hope for them. When one of us is overwhelmed, others can step in to remind them of God's steadfast love.

If you are carrying a heavy burden or feeling unsure about the path ahead right now, please know that your stress is real, and it is valid. You aren't failing at faith because you feel anxious—you are simply human, dealing with a complicated world. And in the very middle of that messiness, God remains absolutely faithful to you.

So for the month ahead, let's take the pressure off ourselves to have it all together. The invitation isn't to magically erase our problems or pretend the stress isn't there. Instead, it's a gentle reminder that you don't have to carry the weight of the world on your own shoulders. When the day feels too heavy, we can practice pausing, taking a breath, and handing those heavy pieces over to God—one moment at a time. We share with God, with community, and we love and care for one another.

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

Peace,



Intern Roger Boettcher

The Intern Committee is preparing to welcome Roger in July. We will present a welcome basket at a reception following his first church service with us on July 19th. We invite the congregation members to consider donating gift cards for the basket which can be Chamber cards or Visa cards or other cards that you feel

would be beneficial for his time of service at St. John's. Even though he will be driving from Dodgeville every day, **gas cards are not needed** so thank you for keeping this in mind when purchasing a gift card. Cards may be brought to the church office by Wednesday, July 15th.



Parish Planning Council Members:

Executive Director	Nancy Passehl
Assistant Exec Director	Marv Hupp
Secretary	Audrey Luetscher
Treasurer	John Brennan
Evangelism Board	vacant
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	Marian DeGiovanni
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.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christ,
our strength
and refuge,
calling us
to serve

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 23
Prairie du Sac,
Wisconsin 53578



Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry

Food, paper products and cleaning supplies may be brought to the table in the gathering area at any time. These items are distributed to many families in the Sauk Prairie community. The food pantry always needs:

- Toilet paper
- Laundry and dish soap
- 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 July. 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

	Women of the Church News	
	No individual circle meetings this month.	
	All Circles will meet on Thursday, July 21st for a Brunch Picnic	10:00am

In June, 22 circle members, plus one guest, attended meetings with Darlene Holl, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester leading the Bible Study, "We Are Worthy".

In July we will not have our regular individual circle meetings. All Circles will meet on Thursday, July 23rd at 10:00am for a brunch picnic in the Fellowship Hall. All the ladies of St. John's are cordially invited, and you do not have to bring anything but yourselves and a guest if you want to. The theme will be patriotic for the 250th Anniversary of America. We will sing patriotic songs and there will be lots of red, white and blue. Marian DeGiovanni will be attending the Triennial Convention in Des Moines on July 16-19, so she will be our guest speaker and will tell us all about the convention.

The deadline for having our Lutheran World Relief Kits and Quilts ready for shipment is September 12. This is a very important project, and we need help from EVERYBODY in the congregation. Please be looking for the lists of items we need for each kit in the Visitors and bulletins. Lydia Circle assembles Sewing Kits, Martha Circle-School Kits, Ruth Circle-Baby Kits and Sarah/Mary Circle-Personal Care Kits. We can also apply for \$250 grant from Thrivent for each kit and for the quilts.

In August each Circle usually does something special together. There will be no Bible Study Leaders Meeting for August. We will resume our regular Circle Meetings in September.

The details for all of the kits are listed in this Visitor.

Stock the Schools

In cooperation with the Sauk Prairie community, St. John's is collecting items to be given to Sauk Prairie students in need. Each month we will have different items to collect that will help our local students. July's items are **Athletic Shoes**, all sizes, children's, men's and women's. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations. Thank you.



New Members



On Sunday, June 28, we welcomed our new members, followed by a reception in their honor.

Chad Roelke
Ella Roelke
Brahm Roelke
Briar Roelke

Karen Atz
Paul Pingrey
Linda Larson

Baby Congratulations

Krista Grinde welcomed a boy, Ronan Jon Grinde, born May 31. Proud grandparents are Roxann and Chris Grinde.



Thank you, Mobile Meals Volunteers!

Thank you to the Mobile Meal volunteers for sharing your time and kindness with our neighbors. Without you, this program would not be possible.

God Bless –

PR & Social Concerns Committee



Josie Fentress
Kathy Lovell
Kim Langer
Mary Hallweg
Kris Frey
Marsha Miller
Rodney Key
Everly Soboleski

Josie's grandchildren
Dan Lovell
Mike Langer
Mary Risgaard
Rich Frey
Mateo Ramirez
Marsha Key



Communion Bread

We are looking for some more volunteers to make communion bread. This bread is used on the third Sunday of the month. If you are interested in an easy-to-follow recipe, please contact Angie

(office@stjohnssaukprairie.org or 608-643-2439). Thank you for helping out!

Words fail to capture my gratitude for the lovely celebration of my 20th ordination anniversary. Thank you to all who had a hand in the planning. My heart is full. It is such an honor to be your pastor. Thank you for inviting me and my family into your lives and into your faith journey. I am beyond blessed.

With great joy and gratitude,
Pastor Sally



FREE **Community Meal**

Everyone is welcome!

Third* Sunday of Every Month

4:00-5:30pm

In-house seating, carry-outs and delivery available.

For delivery, please call during meal hours.

** No Community Meal in June (Father's Day)*

CONCORDIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

585 5TH STREET

PRAIRIE DU SAC, WI 53578

(608) 643-6356 www.concordiaumc.org

Community Resources

Maplewood has free resources for the community. Simply come to Maplewood, 245 Sycamore St., Sauk City, during the designated date and time.

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

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Creator God,
In love you have fashioned the human family
in a variety of races, languages, and cultures.
Do not let our diversity divide us,
but help us to welcome the gifts
we can give and receive from one another.
Save us from prejudice, arrogance and fear,
and teach us how to live together
as members of one family,
sharing one home,
as the children of one God.
Amen.

Dear Friends in Christ,



Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a Christian education program offered in partnership with Lutherdale Bible Camp in Elkhorn, WI. It will be led once again with the help of trained, enthusiastic college-age youth ministry staff from Lutherdale, along with staff and volunteers from our congregation. The youth will be involved in Bible studies, recreation, participatory worship, crafts, games, and much more!

The week our church has reserved is August 3 – August 6. The daily schedule for Monday through Thursday is 9am to 2pm. We hope that all our kids that have completed grades K-5 (entering grades 1-6 next fall) will participate in this fun week. Be sure to invite your friends!

The Parish Education Board makes it a priority to cover the entire cost for VBS for all students and friends, therefore VBS is indeed **free!** However, our planning and final fee for Lutherdale depends on accurate participation numbers. So please make every effort to make the commitment to send your students if you register them.

Please email if you would like to register your student(s) and I will send along the required registration and health forms. These are also available in the front office. **Registrations are due July 15.**

I look forward to having a fun week with our students!

Peace,

DEADLINE FOR KITS IS SEPTEMBER 12

School Kit Supplies

We are asking for your help in gathering supplies for our School Kits again this year. The kits are sent to Lutheran World Relief each fall. LWR asks that we do not use items with a U.S. flag, military symbols, camouflage or religious symbols on them. Each kit needs:



Four 70-sheet notebooks
One 30 cm. ruler (or one with inches and cms.)
One pencil sharpener
One blunt scissors
Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
Five black **or** blue ballpoint pens
One box of 16 **or** 24 crayons
One 2 ½ inch eraser

Bring items to the church office. Watch for sales and have fun shopping!

****notebooks, pens, rules and crayons are especially needed**



Personal care kit supplies needed

One bath-size towel (not longer than 48" preferred), dark color recommended
 Two bath-size bars of wrapped soap

Baby care kit supplies

Two cotton/cotton-blend t-shirts
 Two gowns or sleepers w/o feet **OR** 2 cotton knit pants and 2 T-shirts
 Two receiving blankets
 Four cloth diapers
 One hand towel, dark color recommended
 One sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket with a hood, or include a baby cap
 Two pairs of baby socks
 Two bath-size bars of gentle soap, in its original wrapping
 Two diaper pins or large safety pins (**NOT NEEDED**)



Sizes 6 months to 24 months are needed. No MICROFLEECE in any items.

*Remember that socks & hand towels (preferably dark towels) are the 2 items that must be **NEW!** Any other items must be in pristine condition- would I give this at a baby shower being the guideline!*

***cloth diapers are especially needed**

Fabric kit supplies



Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric, cut into pieces measuring:
 2 ¼ yards of 60" wide, **OR**
 3 yards of 44" wide, **OR**
 4 yards of 36" wide fabric

Two spools of matching neutral-colored general-purpose thread,
250-300 yards each

Dear St. John's Church Family,

Thank you for the cards, prayers, and support while I am deployed. Your kind words have been a great encouragement and a reminder of the wonderful church family I have back home.

**THANK
YOU!**

I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and prayers. Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts, and I look forward to seeing everyone when I return.

Sincerely,
Jonah Richard

Middle and High School News

Summer Confirmation

Confirmation students should sign-up for at least three Worship Jobs during the "summer" season which is June thru Sept. Online registration is available at <https://signup.com/go/KPPmyrQ>. 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.

Jet Boat Adventure and Cookout

St. John's invites students who are entering 6th Grade and up, to join us for a Jet Boat Adventure in Wisconsin Dells on Thursday, July 23, 2026! Students, families, and friends are invited; Registration required before 7/16/26 at <https://signup.com/go/YTRWdzb>. We're looking for drivers, too, so we can carpool.

On July 23, we'll depart from St. John's at 1:00pm and return about 4:00pm. The cost is \$20 per rider (pay the church that day). Bring a towel, we will get wet! St. John's never wants cost to be a barrier for anyone who wants to participate. If the expense is a concern for you or your youth, please contact email penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org or 608-643-2439.

After the boat adventure, we'll have a cookout at JayCee Park (305 Hemlock St.) in Sauk City. Please sign-up to help at <https://signup.com/go/XsKBzyQ> and all are welcome, including

students, friends, family, and members. We'll have burgers and brats, and plan to eat about 5:00pm. Please join us!

Preparing for Confirmation 2026-2027

The 2026-2027 Confirmation program will resume on Wednesday, September 30, 2025, with a welcome back night for students and their adults. We will have a fellowship meal at 5:30pm and programming will begin at 6:00pm. Students must attend with at least 1 adult. The full confirmation calendar can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/confirmcal>

Cow Chip Parade

St. John's will have a parade float in the Cow Chip Parade at Noon on the Saturday during Labor Day Weekend. Sunday School families, confirmation students, teens, and families are welcome to decorate and/or ride with us! Register at <https://signup.com/go/HhWvrzO>. Tell your friends and family to cheer for us along the parade route!

Worship Jobs

Below and on the next page are the Worship Jobs for July. Each student should sign-up for at least 3 Worship Jobs during the "summer" season which is June thru Sept. If your student can help fill an empty spot, please register at <https://signup.com/go/KPPmyrQ>

Date	Task	Who
7/5/2026	9:00 Acolyte	Claire Hansen
7/5/2026	9:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade	Olivia Stephan
7/5/2026	9:00 Usher	Sam Philo
7/5/2026	9:00 Usher	Cooper Renniecke
7/12/2026	9:00 Acolyte	Lyle Opie
7/12/2026	9:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade	Hank Lochner
7/12/2026	9:00 Usher	Lillianna Weittenhiller
7/12/2026	9:00 Usher	Sam Philo
7/19/2026	Communion Set Up	Mason Ramirez
7/19/2026	Communion Set Up - Sixth Grade	Emily Ramirez
7/19/2026	9:00 Greeter	Myla Steinmetz
7/19/2026	9:00 Greeter Sixth Grade	Pria Steinmetz
7/19/2026	9:00 Acolyte	Claire Hansen

7/19/2026	9:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade	Olivia Stephan
7/19/2026	9:00 Usher	Mason Ramirez
7/19/2026	9:00 Usher	Hank Lochner
7/19/2026	Communion Clean Up - Sixth Grade	Hank Lochner
7/19/2026	Communion Clean-Up	
7/26/2026	9:00 Acolyte	Myla Steinmetz
7/26/2026	9:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade	Pria Steinmetz
7/26/2026	9:00 Usher	Nellie Kaderavek
7/26/2026	9:00 Usher	Milo Lueck

Shaping Our Future Together: Where Will St. John's Be in 1, 5, and 10 Years?

As a vibrant community of faith, St. John's is constantly growing, serving, and evolving. To ensure we continue to thrive and meet the needs of our members and neighbors, our Parish Planning Council is embarking on a journey to develop a comprehensive strategic plan. We cannot do this alone—we need your vision, your prayers, and your voice.

Look Ahead: 1, 5, and 10 Years

A successful strategic plan requires us to look beyond tomorrow and imagine the long-term impact of our ministry. As you pray and reflect on the future of St. John's, we ask you to consider three distinct horizons:

- **The 1-Year Horizon:** What immediate steps or short-term goals should we prioritize to strengthen our current ministries?
- **The 5-Year Horizon:** Where do you see our congregation growing? What new programs, community outreach efforts, or structural improvements should be firmly established?
- **The 10-Year Horizon:** What is our ultimate legacy? How will St. John's serve the next generation of believers a decade from now?

Identify Our Highest Priorities

Resources, time, and energy are gifts that must be stewarded wisely. Therefore, a critical part of this planning process is determining what is *most important* to accomplish.

Is it expanding our youth and family ministries? Deepening our local community outreach? Enhancing our worship experience?

Navigating facility updates? We want to know what matters most to you.

Join the Conversation: Open Sessions

Your insights are vital to shaping this roadmap. Nancy, our Executive Director, and Marv, our Assistant Executive Director, will be hosting interactive, open listening sessions to gather your feedback, ideas, and dreams for St. John's.

Please plan to attend one or both of our upcoming sessions:

- **Sunday, August 9th** – Immediately following the 9:00 AM service
- **Sunday, August 16th** – Immediately following the 9:00 AM service

No prior preparation is needed—just bring your love for St. John's and an open mind. If you are unable to attend but still wish to share your thoughts, please reach out directly to Nancy or Marv. Nancy can be reached at nnpassehl@gmail.com and Marv at marvinhupp@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued dedication to our shared mission. Together, let us discern where God is leading St. John's next!

PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: June 2, 2026

Present: Nancy Passehl, Sally Williams, Cathy McAlexander, Marv Hupp, Pastor Tom, Mary Weeks, John Brennan, Josie Fentress, Melani Wheeler, Marian DeGiovanni, Audrey Luetscher

Absent: John Ballweg, James Newman, Anne Klinkner, Charlie Kruchten, Kendra Frey

Call to Order/Opening remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:08pm by Nancy Passehl. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Melani Wheeler, 2nd by Marv Hupp, motion carried. Devotion by Marv Hupp

Secretary Minutes:

The May 5, 2026, minutes were submitted online by Audrey Luetscher. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Marian DeGiovanni and 2nd by Josie Fentress. Motion carried

Treasurer's report John Brennan

John will have a budget update by next month.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Cathy McAlexander, 2nd by Marian DeGiovanni. Motion carried.

Current Month Income	Current Month Expenses	Current Month Balance	Year-to-Date Income	Year-to-Date Expenses	Year-to-Date Budget
\$31,941	\$38,173	(\$6,232)	\$202,338	\$212,091	\$239,431

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: No report

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander

- On May 17 we celebrated our high school seniors with a reception during coffee time
- We are working on our celebration of Pastor Sally's 20th anniversary of her Ordination, which will be held on June 21 with a potluck brunch
- A reception for new members will be held on June 28
- July 19 we will welcome our new intern with a reception
- We are determining a date to hold our Volunteer Appreciation meal

Lay Ministry: Josie Fentress

- Lisa Van Landuyt will replace Linda Michaels as Communion set-up/clean-up chair
- Red geraniums (for Pentecost) were set up in the sanctuary on May 23
- Ruellene is looking for special music for the summer
- Other chair members continue to work on scheduling for ushers, readers & greeters. All which is easier in summer with only one service
- Our new intern, Roger Boettcher, a student of Wartburg will be starting July 13 with a welcome reception on July 19
- Pastor Sally's 20th Ordination Anniversary will be celebrated June 21
- Linda Michaels has some training in repairing the hymnals which will be done with the \$250 grant from Thrivent. We will be reaching out to the congregation for a few volunteers with this project

- Plans are for setting up a tutorial for the Communion set-up/clean-up & stations for other volunteer positions. This would coordinate with Rally Day September 20
- Reminder to have Visitor articles in by (or before) the 20th of the month. Email to office@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Parish Education: James Newman, Parish Ed met by email this month

- Affirmation of Baptism & Graduation Sunday have passed for our high school students
- All confirmation teachers have been secured for the 2026-2027 school year
- Confirmation students do not take a summer break but rather they complete their worship jobs, sermon notes & get a jump-start on their required Acts of Kindness
- All Sunday School teachers & helpers have also been secured for the 2026-2027 school year
- Still looking for a Singspiration leader
- Adult Ed finished the study of Acts on May 17
- VBS is scheduled for the first week of August. Watch for announcements & sign-up in June
- Parish Ed will review current safety policies & procedures later this summer

Properties: John Ballweg

- After a return visit, the two taller toilets, installed by Badger Excavating & Plumbing are now working properly
- We supplied Laforce with all the required documentation to move ahead with replacing the push bars on six exterior doors- four front doors on Oak St. and two side doors facing the parking lot. Quoted lead time is 7-10 weeks. Thanks to everyone for your patience while we wait for these repairs
- We have an updated price for materials to replace the South end of the storage shed. Once a date has been agreed upon, the Properties Board & other St. John's members will do the work
- The initial meeting with Ever Ready Electric, to discuss the sanctuary ceiling fans, included a referral to one supplier of the fans. The bid for those fans was cost prohibitive, so we are now looking at other options.
- We will buy additional LED bulbs for the library & other rooms/spaces around the church & swap out the bulbs that are not working

PR & Social Concerns: Melani Wheeler

- Safe surrender gun event was discussed
- Just Bakery is now on summer break
- Mobile Meals still have an open time slot for June
- No changes to the Food Pantry collection
- Of interest is that Sauk County is one of the most served when it comes to food security. There are many options available if assistance is needed
- Community spaghetti dinner was discussed again, with thought to supporting other churches vs. doing it here

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner

- The board reviewed the March & April 2026 financial statements
- Electronic donations via Vanco & Simply Giving are increasing
- Our cash position is excellent as of April 30, 2026
- Our expenses are under budget year-to-date through April 30, 2026
- The Ministry Theme for June 2026 is Adult Education and Leadership Ministry. No changes are needed to the write-up & can be forwarded for the June Visitor
- The board discussed the timeline for the 2027 budget
- In June, the Stewardship board will start brainstorming ideas for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign, with the end goal to have it fully developed by the September 2026 meeting
- Pastor Tom & Cathy Yanke are still reviewing the "Funding Our Future" book. The topic of legacy giving will be presented to the board in Juen. There is interest in presenting this topic to the congregation in the future
- The Administrative Manual will be forwarded to Pastor Tom & Angie Updike for review. The Stewardship Board will start the annual review of the manual at the June 2026 meeting

Women of the ELCA : Ruth Dresser

- 24 ladies attended Circle meetings in May
- On April 25 we hosted the Spring Gathering for the Sauk/Columbia conference with 37 in attendance from 7 area churches
- John Ramthun, from 6:8 was our guest speaker. He shared the early beginnings, 16 years ago, to the expanded programs they now offer
- Plans are to hold our indoor, All Circles picnic at 10am on July 23. Martha Circle will host & bring brunch items. Marian

DeGiovanni will give an update on the Triennial Convention to be held in Des Moines, IA on July 16-19. The theme is "I Am Worthy" also the topic of our summer Bible study

- Preparations are under way for the Lutheran World Relief kits & quilts with the shipment deadline in September
- Lydia Circle has been visiting Special friends during April & May. Ruth Circle will continue the visits in June & July

Youth Committee: Charlie Kruchten-No report

Member at Large: Mary Weeks-No report

Youth Member: Kendra Frey

- We have been preparing for finals with many projects & tests
- The seniors' last day of school was Thursday, May 28
- On May 30 there was an assembly for all the senior awards, followed by graduation that night
- May 20, we had an assembly featuring a hypnotist. We got to enjoy a fun experience with many laughs.
- The "Sources of Strength", all school campaign has continued with many fun activities, like destressing seas (study hall) activities & a golf putting activity
- Last day of school is June 9

Pastor Tom's report:

- TDS phone contract has been signed, working with TDS on implementation & training plan
- Attended Internship/Supervisor meetings at Wartburg Seminary, June 1 and 2. I met with our new intern in-person & went through some goal planning
- We have a busy summer of celebrations, looking forward to Sally's 20th & a host of other things to celebrate
- We have a change in leadership of our Internship Committee; John & Ellen Mast will be leading in 2026-2027
- Coordinated with Pastor Jennifer from Lutheran Social Services to come visit & preach on June 7
- Met with Pastors from the UCC & Methodist churches as we continue to look at ways of working together.

Pastor Sally's report:

- May was filled with graduation, a wedding, nursing home visits & some home visits. If parishioners haven't seen their pastors for a while & would like a visit sooner than later, please encourage them to reach out. Sometimes we get behind & a kind reminder someone wants to see us is helpful!
- This summer we start to prepare for the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. This charge will be led by Penny & all students going into 8th grade through 2027 grads are eligible to attend
- VBS is the first full week in August. We will need people to host counselors 4 nights/5 days,

Old Business:

- RIC update from
 - We are currently in step 2 of 11 from the Building an Inclusive Church toolkit
 - Most RIC members have submitted & discussed our congregational survey that determines the readiness
 - The average result puts us in the category of the slowest pace. However, we were right at the cutoff point between slow & moderate. So, we will be using the slowest, most cautious timeline with the understanding that we can probably push it just a little faster if we choose
 - We will be remaining at step two for a couple meetings to make sure we complete discussion of our surveys, as well as discussing how changes happen in our congregation, with a focus on challenges & conflicts
- Phone system update—See Pastor Tom's report
- Synod Meeting update-James, Sally, Tom
 - Bishop Joy Mortensen was re-elected
 - 2027 guidelines were passed
 - Climate change was discussed
- Visionary update/strategic plan coffee talks-Nancy & Marv
 - Topic to be continued at next meeting

Next meeting is Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 6:00 pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Melani Wheeler and 2nd by Marv Hupp. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 7:25 pm. Closing with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Audrey Luetscher



Happy July Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis.

Our Youngest

Maya Schwarz (1)	Morgan Jones (7)
Amelia Carpenter (9)	Rosalind Nelson (26)

Our Sunday School Students:

Claire Ryan (1)	Vivian Coy (6)
Gibson Sweeney (6)	Amelia Ziehlsdorf (7)
Haylee Williams (11)	Paige Williams (11)
Beau Keller (14)	Bennett Steinmetz (15)
Marla Robarge (17)	Amy Weittenhillier (21)
Cameron Johnson (22)	Addison Breunig (23)
Gabbi Argall (27)	Lennon Stuetngen (27)
Cole Haffemann (30)	Avery Jorgenson (31)

Our Youth:

Jaret Buckles (1)	Kenley Burke (2)
Jaelyn Sorg (2)	Beckett Stoffels (3)
Ethan Anderson (4)	Briggs Ludowitz (4)
Madyn Ludowitz (6)	Emelynn Miller (9)
Brock Esser (14)	Clark Keller (15)
Pria Steinmetz (17)	Lillyann Nurkala (18)
William Sandberg (24)	Aubree Deuman (28)
Jace Schultz (30)	Mylee Schultz (30)

College and Career-age Young People:

Isabelle Kolnik (6)	Kennedy Colby (18)
Anna Bruckert (19)	Dylan Sawyer (25)