

Genesis 35:6-8

“Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, and there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because it was there that God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother.”

I have been thinking a lot about what it means to be in the church building. It is where we sing, pray, and gather around the altar together each Sunday. Yet the church is not simply a building.

Recently, I re-read a book by Barbara Brown Taylor titled *An Altar in the World*. In her book, Taylor reminds me that I can encounter God in all kinds of places. Taylor says that the Bible is full of these out-of-building experiences: “People encounter God under shady oak trees, on riverbanks, at the tops of mountains, and in long stretches of barren wilderness. God shows up in whirlwinds, starry skies, burning bushes, and perfect strangers. When people want to know more about God, the Son of God tells them to pay attention to the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, to women kneading bread and workers lining up for their pay.”

It is good to be reminded that God is present in our daily chores, our work, our care for our families, in the mundane, and in moments worth celebrating.

Taylor goes on to talk about the altars she encounters in the world around her, many of them hidden in simple things that are easy to overlook. She writes, “Human beings may separate things into as many piles as we wish—separating spirit from flesh, sacred from secular, church from world. But we should not be surprised when God does not recognize the distinctions we make between the two. Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars.”

Seeing altars in this way can be a journey of learning to live more fully in God's presence and remaining open to possibility.

One of my seminary professors once told me that altars were often built to mark places where people encountered God. As painful as

“cracking our shins on altars” sounds, the image reminds me to look for God's presence in what might otherwise seem ordinary. The trees in my backyard, a seemingly random text from an old friend, the laughter of children playing in the park, or simply talking with you can all become sacred spaces where I encounter God.

As the years have passed, I have also come to realize that not all altars are found in beautiful or peaceful places. Some altars are found in hospital rooms, in the silence after difficult conversations, in waiting rooms where we wait for news we are not sure we want to hear, or beside the beds of those we love as they struggle or say goodbye. Some altars are built in moments of grief, uncertainty, and even conflict.

If God can be found in sunshine, robins, and lightning bugs, then perhaps God can also be found in tears, anxious prayers, and sleepless nights. The God who met Jacob while he was fleeing from his brother is the same God who meets us in our own wilderness places. Sometimes we encounter God in joy and celebration; sometimes we encounter God simply because we have nowhere else to turn. Yet God is there all the same.

When I think about God's presence being this close to the places I see and walk each day, I cannot help but feel a sense of awe. I find myself eager to get outside and notice what is happening in the world around me. I sit behind our house and watch a robin bringing food to its babies. Sparrows dart through the yard, a rabbit nibbles near the church wall, and a squirrel announces its presence from the tree behind the house. I do not want to miss a thing.

Later, I look out into the dark and see the stars overhead or the lightning bugs drifting lazily across the yard. If Taylor is right, it is no wonder my shins should ache from bumping into altars everywhere I go.

It is good to take time to enjoy the world God has provided for us, to walk through it, observe it, and give thanks for its wonders. In doing so, I hope to keep in mind Taylor's advice that you and I can take the time to see God in the world around us, whether on a walk, a car ride, sitting on the front porch, sitting in a hospital room, or talking with friends and family over the phone.

Peace,

Jim





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

Pastor: Sally Williams sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Pastor: Roger Boettcher roger@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Intern: Roger Boettcher roger@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Director of Music: Ruellene Seymour ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Youth Director: Penny Johnson penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Custodian: John Hines john@stjohnssaukprairie.org

Office Administrator: 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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Christ,
our strength
and refuge,
calling us
to serve

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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
- 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 August. The day is in parentheses.



Susan Scherer (11)
1527 Broadway
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Jan Dobrzynski (14)
50 Hemlock St, Unit 1
Sauk City, WI 53583

Don Bohler (17)
N750 Golf Road #3
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Ruth Dresser (22)
1011 Eagle View Court
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578-1049

Bob Kehl (22)
204 Fox Run
Sauk City, WI 53583

Betty Sauer (22)
N750 Golf Rd #66
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Marla Jean Lokken (23)
1253 S. Forest Lane
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Gloria Moles (31)
1605 Locust Lane
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

	Women of the Church News	
	<u>Lydia Circle</u> Thursday, August 13 Shopping for sewing kit supplies and assembling	10:00am
	<u>Martha Circle</u> Thursday, August 6, The Pines, front door Activity Room (have been shopping for & assembling school kits)	9:30am
	<u>Ruth Circle</u> not meeting (working on baby kits as we can)	
	<u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u> not meeting (working on personal care kits)	

In July, we didn't have our regular meetings, but all circles met together for an indoor picnic on July 23. Marian DeGivoanni attended the 2026 Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA July 16-19 and told us about that as our guest speaker. We will have a report on the Picnic Meeting in the September Visitor.

In August each Circle will be doing something different, and we will be meeting to work on our various Lutheran World Relief Kits at various times. Quilters have been making many beautiful quilts all year. Deadline is September 12 for having all the quilts and kits into Madison ready for shipping. Drop-off site has changed to Good Shepherd Lutheran at 5701 Raymond Rd., Madison. Hours 7:00-11:00am. There no longer is an ingathering drop-off site at the WI SO railroad yard.

Each Circle makes requests for a \$250 Thrivent grant which is tremendous help. Since everything is very expensive and we always make a lot of kits, we ask for help from the congregation as well. Lists for the kits will be in the Visitor and Sunday bulletins.

There will be a Synodical Fall Retreat at Lutherdale October 3-4, 2026. Details are on the kiosk. The theme is "Discovering the Sacred in Creation: A Nature Specialty Retreat" with Larry Harpster. It sounds very interesting and if we didn't want to stay overnight, we could probably go just for one day and would miss the Sunday morning part of the Retreat.

Ruth Circle visited Special Friends in June and July. Marth Circle will be visiting them in August and September. The Bible Study Leaders Meeting for September will be on Tuesday, August 25 at 9:00am.

We will resume our regular Circle Meetings in September.

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 **School Supplies:** pencils, pens, colored pencils, washable markers, sharpies, folders, 3-inch binders, divider tabs for binders and washable glue sticks. Look for the red bin in the gathering area by the church office to drop off your donations. Thank you.



With Sincere Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the following families this month.

- Bryce and Nadine Lauer on the death of Bryce's brother, Bruce
- Cathy and Larry McAlexander and Chris and Jennifer Stephan and family on the death of Cathy and Larry's son, Jason
- Nancy and Jerry Kaufman on the death of Nancy's brother, Tom
- Amy & Aaron Halverson and family on the death of Amy's mother, Karen
- Ellie Maynard and family on the death of Ellie's husband, Roger.

Baby Congratulations

Michael and Amanda Kindschi welcomed twin boy, Jonathan Thomas and Maxwell George, on June 25. Proud grandparents are Steve and Holly Kindschi

Jordan and Alecia Robertson welcomed a new baby boy, Wesley Jordan, on July 1. He is the fourth boy to join the Robertson clan.

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to make Pastor Sally's 20th Anniversary celebration a success.

The Adult Education skit was fun and the flying chickens were spot on! The food-what can I say-you came forth with a great potluck assortment. I want to thank the fellowship committee for all your work, especially Donna Nelson, Gayle Straw, Kim Diehl, and Dale Clason. And a big thank you to Nicole Nelson, Doug Nelson and Larry McAlexander.

~Cathy McAlexander

*thank
you*

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)



Volunteers Needed

Are you a High School Student or Adult interested in bringing the Sunday St. John's Zoom service to residents at The Pines. The Zoom service is shown on the activity room large TV. Volunteering involves turning on the service (it is easy, just a few clicks) and helping to open the prepackaged communion kits during the service also. High Schoolers-This is a time that can be counted toward your Silver Cord Award. Questions? Contact Mary Weeks at 608-370-4999 or Penny Johnson. Sign up for this opportunity is here:

<https://signup.com/go/ejcrgeA>

SPECIAL PRAYER

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

Lord, I know You are the author of peace, love and goodness. Yet we see so much hatred, chaos and instability around us. God, I just pray for peace and unity in our nation, in my state and in my town/village/city. Please temper minds and reach hearts; please reach people in their deepest need and help them to feel the profound peace only You can offer. Lord, we need revival and peace. Please shower our land with it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dear Friends in Christ,



August has a way of feeling like a bridge. Summer isn't quite over, but a new school year is beginning, routines are returning, and many of us are wondering what the months ahead will bring, especially as Fall can feel like chaos!

Our faith reminds us that God is present in every season—not just the exciting ones or the easy ones. Whether August finds you soaking up the last warm days of summer, preparing children or grandchildren for school, returning to work after vacation, or simply taking life one day at a time, God walks with you.

In the book of Lamentations we hear these hopeful words: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." (Lamentations 3:22–23) What a wonderful promise to carry into a new month. Every morning is a fresh opportunity to receive God's grace, to offer kindness to a neighbor, and to trust that Christ is making all things new in our lives.

As August unfolds, may you find moments to pause, breathe deeply, and notice God's blessings—in the laughter of children, the beauty of late-summer gardens, shared meals with family and friends, and the quiet assurance that you are deeply loved by God.

May this month be filled with hope, gratitude, and the peace of Christ.

In Christ,

Worship Time Change



Beginning Sunday, **September 13** (the Sunday after Labor Day), we will transition to **8:00am and 10:30am worship services** with the ZOOM option available at both services.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive in St. John's fellowship hall on Monday, September 21 beginning at 10am. Go to redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Appointments do tend to fill up quickly, so check it out today!



Dear Friends,

May the peace of our risen Christ and Savior
be with you always.

Hello
My name is

Intern

Thank you all for the warm welcome. As I
begin internship at St. John's. I look forward to meeting each one of
you as I learn what it means to be to be a pastor.

I live in rural Dodgeville with my wife, Janice. We will have been
married 25 years this December. We have a small farm where we
manage prairie, savanna, and woodland. We have two boys;
Nicholas 47, and Timothy 44. We also have two adopted
granddaughters, Nikki and Tori.

I retired nine years ago as a Middle School and High School
science teacher in Fennimore, WI. Teaching chemistry and biology.
I particularly love the outdoors and have led numerous field trips
and courses at our farm and around the state.

I was born and lived my early years in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.
My faith journey has been a long one. I first considered the ministry
when I was in confirmation class. That was nearly... well... it was a
long time ago. My church was Zion Lutheran in Chippewa Falls.

I began teaching confirmation and Sunday School while attending
First Lutheran Church in Eau Claire in 2002. I was also the Youth
and Education Director and on Church Council. Since 2007 Janice
and I have been active members of St. Peter Lutheran in
Fennimore, WI. I have taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible
School, and Confirmation. Janice and I sing in the choir and help as
readers, sacrament assistants, and worship leaders. I have served
on various committees including education, outreach, council and
call committee.

I have always felt a strong feeling of peace, love and joy through
meeting God's people in worship and other church events. After
about 7 years of comfortable retirement, the Holy Spirit came
calling, and I sensed a surprisingly strong call to ministry. After
many prayers, discussions, and wrestling with pros and cons, I
decided to enter a Master of Divinity program at Wartburg
Theological Seminary. I decided that perhaps a 'deep dive' into
Bible study might be just the thing—and so it has been! Seminary
has been a true labor of love for me—though at times, it can be
overwhelming!

One of my favorite Bible verses is about the fruit of the spirit as outlined in Galatians 5:22-23. “...*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*” These are words I seek to live by.

The welcome, warmth, and well-wishing have been wonderful. I pray that our time together will be blessed.

Peace, Love, and Joy, be yours now and always.

Roger Boettcher, Pastoral Intern

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:

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!



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

Volunteer Appreciation Meal

To show our appreciation for all that our volunteers do, we are having a volunteer appreciation breakfast on Sunday, September 13 at 11:30am. Committee chairs can obtain invitations from either Cathy McAlexander or a Fellowship committee member.

Parish Education Staff Installation

We will install our 2025-2026 educational staff on September 27 at the 8am and 10:30 services. Included in this group our Sunday school teachers, librarians, adult education teachers, confirmation teachers and aides, director of music and education board members. Please join us as we rejoice in God's gifts made manifest in these individuals.

Adult Education News

Adult Education Schedule

The schedule for adult education opportunities this Fall is currently under construction. Please keep an eye out in bulletins and Friday Notes emails for more information coming soon!

Sunday School News

Sunday School & Back to School Blessing

Mark your calendars for Rally Day (Sunday School registration) for Sunday, September 20 at 9:15-10:30. Get your students registered for Sunday School, receive important handouts and have some fun! You will receive more information in August and September.

With another school year just beginning, we want to celebrate and bless the beginning of the school year with a special back to school blessing also on Sunday, September 27 at both services. We invite students of all ages, teachers, principals, administrators, school office personnel, cooks, librarians, custodians, bus drivers...anyone that plays a role in our school systems...to come, be blessed, and affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work. Join us for this Milestone Ministry event!

Middle and High School News

Parade Float

St. John's will have a float in the Cow Chip Parade. Sunday School students, confirmation students and teens are invited to help decorate and/or ride with us. Register at <https://signup.com/go/HhWvrzQ>, or email penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org with any questions. Tell your friends and family to cheer for us along the parade route!

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes start next month! On Wednesday Sept 30th at 6:00pm, we invite all confirmation students and families to attend Welcome Back Night. *Each family must have an adult present.* Come meet our confirmation teachers, learn the requirements of the program, and get to know the other confirmation families.

Worship Jobs in Summer

The "Summer" season for Worship Jobs goes *thru September*. We are asking each student to participate in 3 Worship Jobs during this period. If your student is struggling to complete their worship jobs, as a requisite part of the Confirmation Program, please contact Penny (penny@stjohnssaukprairie.org) for help. You can sign-up for the available spots in September at <https://signup.com/go/KPPmyrQ>.

Date	Task	Who
8/2/2026	9:00 Acolyte	Claire Hansen
8/2/2026	9:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade	Hank Lochner
8/2/2026	9:00 Usher	Myla Steinmetz
8/2/2026	9:00 Usher	Sam Philo
8/9/2026	9:00 Acolyte	Myla Steinmetz
8/9/2026	9:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade	Pria Steinmetz
8/9/2026	9:00 Usher	Brantley Dean
8/9/2026	9:00 Usher	Lucas Muehrer
8/16/2026	9:00 Greeter	Mylee or Jace Schultz
8/16/2026	9:00 Greeter Sixth Grade	Emily Ramirez
8/16/2026	Communion Set Up	John Brennan
8/16/2026	Communion Set Up - Sixth Grade	Hank Lochner
8/16/2026	9:00 Acolyte	Mylee Schultz
8/16/2026	9:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade	Brantley Dean
8/16/2026	9:00 Usher	Mason Ramirez
8/16/2026	9:00 Usher	Hank Lochner
8/16/2026	Communion Clean Up	Sam Krueger
8/16/2026	Communion Clean Up	Emily Ramirez
8/23/2026	9:00 Acolyte	John Brennan
8/23/2026	9:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade	Brantley Dean
8/23/2026	9:00 Usher	Lillianna Weittenhiller
8/23/2026	9:00 Usher	Nellie Kaderavek

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 nnbpassehl@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: July 14, 2026

Present: Nancy Passehl, Pastor Sally, Cathy McAlexander, Marv Hupp, Pastor Tom, Anne Klinkner, James Newman, John Ballweg,

Kendra Frey, Mary Weeks, John Brennan, Josie Fentress, Marian DeGiovanni, Intern Roger Boettcher, Audrey Luetscher

Absent: Melani Wheeler, Charlie Kruchten

Call to Order/Opening remarks:

Intern Roger Boettcher was introduced & welcomed into the meeting. Meeting was called to order at 6:09pm by Nancy Passehl. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Marian DeGiovanni, 2nd by Marv Hupp, motion carried. Devotion by Mary Weeks

Secretary Minutes:

The June 2, 2026, minutes were submitted online by Audrey Luetscher. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Anne Klinkner and 2nd by Mary Weeks. Motion carried

Treasurer's report John Brennan

We had a great month, highlighted by exceptional gifts and a few well-attended Sundays, especially Pastor Sally's Anniversary party. Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Marv Hupp, 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
\$82,225	\$42,895	\$39,414	\$284,564	\$255,486	\$287,535

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism: No report

Fellowship: Cathy McAlexander

- June 21 we celebrated Pastor Sally's 20th anniversary of her Ordination with a potluck brunch and program
- June 28 we held a reception for our new church members. St. John's bakers supplied the cookies
- July 19 we will hold a reception for our new intern
- September 13 will be our Volunteer Appreciation meal to be held after the 10:30 service
- In October we will honor our church members who are 90 yrs of age or older. We will also honor our pastors (past & present)

Lay Ministry: Josie Fentress

Member reports:

- Ruellene-ukulele group is being formed. Karen Atz, harpist, is returning to our congregation
- Gina, Patty, Donna, Kim-nothing to report

- Pastor Sally is looking at a special service for July 5

Old Business:

- Continue linking online sign-ups in the future
- Safety & risk management continues to meet
- Will continue to recruit for different volunteer positions, especially on Rally Day, Sept. 20
- All pink slips need to be signed when submitted for payment
- Visitor Articles due on or before the 20th of the month.

New Business:

- Rally Day is Sept. 20 focusing on volunteerism
- The \$250 grant from Thrivent is being used to buy supplies to repair our hymnals. Linda Michaels is spearheading the project. The work day for this will be July 13 at 9:00am. Lunch will be provided.
- Washing robes that are in need
- Our long altar cloth needs cleaning

Upcoming dates:

- June 22 Pastor Sally's 20th Ordination Anniversary
- June 28 new member reception
- July 19 Welcome reception for Intern Roger
- August 2 Lutherdale Counselors
- August 3-6 VBS
- Sept 20 Rally Day

Parish Education: James Newman

- VBS signup is happening now via email
- VBS to be held the first week of August (**Please note, this has been cancelled**)
- Sunday School Rally Day tentatively set for September 20
- Sunday School offering for the 2026-2027 school year will be going toward baby kits for Lutheran World Relief
- At our July & August meetings we will be reviewing our current procedures regarding safety & staffing for our programs involving children

Properties: John Ballweg

- Repair company for the push bars came to fix & found the cylinders need replacing also. Original bid was \$6,500. Unsure how much the cylinder replacement will add to the cost
- Angie is calling for bids to clean carpet & paint in 6 rooms
- Volunteers will clean the carpet in front of the rail in the sanctuary

PR & Social Concerns: Melani Wheeler, No meeting

Stewardship Board: Anne Klinkner

- The Stewardship Board reviewed the current month, May 2026, and year-to-date financial results. We are under budget for 2026 in our expense categories
- Our cash position remains strong
- Monthly theme-July 2026:
The Stewardship Board reviewed the monthly theme for July 2026. Pastor Tom will have Pastor Sally review it as well.

Timeline for Budget:

- Reports to Chairs with 12 months of data by 7/7/26
- Budgets to Stewardship Board by 8/25/26 for approval at our 9/8/26 Stewardship Board meeting
- Approval by the Parish Planning Council at their 10/6/26 meeting
- Congregational Meeting in November 2026
- Pastors Tom and Sally will review dates and let the Stewardship Board know the date of the Congregational Meeting

Timeline and Ideas for Stewardship Campaign:

- The Stewardship Board discussed ideas for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. After some discussion, the following plan and additional information sharing opportunities was developed
- The Stewardship Campaign will include a letter that will be either emailed or sent via US Postal service
- The campaign will have a two-pronged approach:
 - The first prong will be an emphasis on increased electronic giving. The ease of giving and the consistency of the donations will be emphasized
 - The second prong will be a Temple Talk on Legacy giving. Many people cannot make a major contribution while they are living, but legacy gifts can make you a large donor after death
- There are other options for current lifetime giving that are available to people who are financially able to give larger gifts during their lifetime
- Bob Lange, a Stewardship Board member, will present a Temple Talk on Stewardship Sunday on the topic
- Pastor Tom will check with Pastor Sally to see if we can dedicate a month of adult education to Stewardship
- The topics discussed were:
Stewardship in the Bible,
Different forms of Stewardship,

Opportunities to serve on a board,
Presentation on electronic giving by member(s) of the
Stewardship Board

Pastor Tom will look into new member packets to see if we can add information on electronic giving and include a form for that as well. Once Pastor Tom and Angie have finished reviewing the Admin Manual they will share their thoughts with the Stewardship Board.

Women of the ELCA: Marian DeGiovanni

- In June, 22 ladies plus one guest attended circle meetings. Darlene Holl, Mary Weeks, Marian DeGiovanni & Kathy Lester are leading the Bible Study "We are Worthy"
- In July there will be no circle meetings. Thursday, July 23 there will be an all-circles picnic brunch starting at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Martha Circle is in charge of furnishing & serving the meal. Marian DeGiovanni will be the guest speaker sharing details of the Triennial Convention she attended in Des Moines, July 16-19
- The deadline for the Lutheran World Relief kits & quilts is early September. Lydia Circle assembles sewing kits, Martha Circle does school kits & Sarah/Mary does personal care kits. We will apply for a \$250 grant from Thrivent for each kit & the quilts.
- August each circle usually does a special activity together
- There will be no Bible Study Leaders meeting for August. We will resume our regular Circle meetings in September

Youth Committee: Charlie Kruchten-see Youth trip information below under New Business

Member at Large: Mary Weeks

- Working with John Ramthun of 6:8 to bring together area churches (an St. Vincent DePaul) to discuss coordination of drop-in financial assistance requests.
- Contacted Tammy at Concordia United Methodist and now Angie will include information about Concordia's monthly Community Meal in our newsletter
- Checked with United Church of Christ & they are not having the Tuesday night, 30 minute Peace services during the summer

Youth Member: Kendra Frey

School is officially out for the summer. No report at this time

Pastor Tom's report:

- Following up on phone system
- Intern Roger Boettcher started Monday, July 13

Pastor Sally's report:

- Thank you, PPC, for the generous gift in celebration of my 20th ordination anniversary. I am beyond humbled and so very thankful! Thank you, Fellowship Board, for all of the hard work you did to make the day great! Thank you to our staff who put up with my shenanigans and make this church an incredible place to work. It was the perfect day.
- Working on VBS registration. Please pass the word around! Volunteers are secured.
- Thank you to Peter & Susan Heide who led adult study for the month of June
- The PPC needs to address the amount we want to put aside for the Youth Gathering now through June. Our goal is to pay half of the participants cost and all of the chaperones cost

Old Business:

- RIC update from James-No meeting in June. Will meet next week
- Phone system update—Pastor Tom contacted TDS & they are waiting for a newer model coming 7/21
- Budget for 2027
- Visionary update/strategic plan coffee talks-upcoming reminder

New Business:

- Youth trip-Looking ahead to the next trip in 2027. Currently \$3,000 in savings for that and possibly will need \$15,000 per Penny's calculation. This includes paying full amount for 5 chaperones & half for each student up to 25 students. A motion was made by James Newman to put \$1,500/month into the Youth Board account for the next 10 months. Mary Weeks seconded the motion. Motion carried

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by James Newman and 2nd by Audrey Luetscher. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Motion by Mary Weeks, 2nd by Marian DeGiovanni to go into closed session. Motion carried. Discussion began at 6:42pm by Executive Director, Nancy Passehl. Discussion complete and a motion was made by James Newman to send the session, 2nd by Anne Klinkner. Motion carried. Closed Session ended at 7:20pm.

Prayer was given by Pastor Tom at 7:23pm. Next meeting will be August 4, 2026 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Audrey Luetscher



Happy August Birthday!

The day is in parenthesis.

Our Youngest:

Briar Wytttenbach (14)

Our Sunday School Students:

Ellen Krueger (1)	Rayne Kruchten (4)
Marli Fisher (7)	Eldin Nelson (9)
Violet Carlson (10)	Elsie Orris (11)
Odessa Wolfe (13)	Rhett Kruchten (14)
Graham Goodwin (15)	Grayson Sailor (15)
Cameron Ayers (16)	Laila Steinmetz (17)
Natalie Schulenburg (17)	Elliot Herbrand (18)
Khloe Perry (18)	Isaac Sailor (22)
Dominic Travis (23)	Grace Handson (24)
Cameron Ayers (16)	Andrew Kraus (25)
Rosemary Nolden (27)	Giselle Plescia (28)
Bellamy Romero (29)	

Our Youth:

Ella Stephan (1)	Samuel Patterson (2)
Natalia Kelley (4)	Chesney Braund (4)
Hana Smith (8)	Cashton Suchla (9)
Emelia Osgood (12)	Quinn Goetsch (13)
Brayton Bahe (14)	Dylan Walker (24)
Violet Richard (25)	Janie Kinney (26)
Oliver Harms (28)	Olivia Thorne (30)
Natalie Nurkala (31)	

College and Career-age Young People:

Addison Douglas (10)	Josie Frey (18)
Chase Urban (22)	