

### 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.



Have you ever woken up in the morning and wondered how you made it to this point in your life?

Karen and I are celebrating the birth of our first granddaughter. Wow, did time go fast! It seems like not that long ago that I was a little kid. It seems like not that long ago that Katie was born, and we were taking trips to the zoo, going to Disney World, and doing all the things young families do. Now our baby has had a baby.

Emma is coming into a complicated world, but a new birth always seems to bring with it new hope for the future.

Emma was born a month early. She is small, but as all grandparents say, she is a beautiful, perfect baby. Now we get to enjoy the privilege of being grandparents and watching this baby grow into an adult. We get to watch her successes and her stumbles, but most of all, we get to love her unconditionally.

Isn't that pretty cool—unconditional love?

I guess that is the beautiful part about having a God who loves us despite our flaws. No one person is greater than another; we are simply loved.

I thank God for another day, another birth, another love. Amen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim". The letters are stylized and connected.

## **FALL CHOIR SCHEDULE**

Singers and ringers - choir rehearsals will begin soon! **New members are welcome to ALL groups:**

- Senior Choir rehearsals begin Sept 9. Rehearsals are every Wednesday from 6-7pm. Senior Choir typically sings 3 times each month. This group is full of energy and is a fun way to praise our amazing God! Come check out this great group! We rehearse in the balcony.
- Kids of the Kingdom, children's choir for grades 2 and up (actually mostly through 6<sup>th</sup> grade), will begin Wednesday, September 16. This choir meets weekly from 5:00-5:45pm and typically sings for services twice a month. If your child is unsure of whether he/she would like to join, please come and "try us out" for a few weeks, and then decide. Please let me know if your child will be coming so that I can prepare a folder for them. We look forward to seeing some new faces!
- The Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, Sept 10. Rehearsals are every Thursday from 6-7pm. If you have not rung before, but would like to try, please let Ruellene know by Sept 9 so she can plan accordingly.

Questions? Contact Ruellene Seymour, Director of Music,  
[ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:ruellene@stjohnssaukprairie.org) c. 608-459-5074

## **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 to distribute from either Cathy McAlexander or a Fellowship committee member.

## **Parish Education Staff Installation**

We will install our 2026-2027 educational staff on September 27 at the 8am and 10:30 services. Included in this group are our Sunday school teachers, librarians, adult education teachers, confirmation teachers and aides, directors of music and education board members. Please join us as we rejoice in God's gifts made manifest in these individuals.



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

(608) 577-4851

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

(608) 643-7810

**Intern:** Roger Boettcher [roger@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:roger@stjohnssaukprairie.org)

(608) 553-1454

**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**

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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 (smaller bottles of dish soap, please)
- 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 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 September. The day is in parentheses.



Fay Rentmeester (5)  
930 Prairie St., Apt. 203  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Ellie Maynard (7)  
7429 North St.  
Sauk City, WI 53583-9723

Benny Stenner (10)  
415 Brigham Lane  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Mary Risgaard (17)  
507 Lake Wisconsin Drive  
Merrimac, WI 53561

Joyce Kinnamon (18)  
2031 Broadway  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Hank Elsing (21)  
2020 Hanksfield Pl  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578-1159

Janet Anderson (22)  
1020 Monroe St.  
Sauk City, WI 53583-1641

Dick Yanke (26)  
S9080 Meadowdale Rd.  
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

|  | <b>Women of the Church News</b>                                                                |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                 | <b><u>Lydia Circle</u></b> Thursday, September 10 at Darlene Holl's, 418 Lueders Rd, Sauk City | 1:00pm                                                                           |
|                                                                                 | <b><u>Martha Circle</u></b> Thursday, September 3, St. John's Fellowship, packing school kits  | 9:30am                                                                           |
|                                                                                 | <b><u>Ruth Circle</u></b> Monday, September 14, St John's Library                              | 9:00am                                                                           |
|                                                                                 | <b><u>Sarah/Mary Circle</u></b> Tuesday, September 8, St. John's Library                       | 9:30am                                                                           |

In September, we will begin a 3-session Bible study title, "Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey" written by Rev. Tiffany Chaney. This study will explore the paths of faith into wilderness and unfamiliar lands through the stories of Hagar, Ruth and Mary. In September, Darlene Holl, Marian DeGiovanni and Kathy Lester will be leading th study. (Martha Circle will be packing school kits.) In August, all circles met but we didn't have studies because of working on our various kits. The deadline for having all kits packed and ready for shipment is September 12 and this year they will go to 5701 Raymond Road, Madison between the hours of 7:00-11:00am. (There is no longer a drop-off site at the WI SO railroad.)

We were very pleased that there were 27 ladies at the All-Circles Picnic on July 23. The offering total was \$204. We started with a very delicious brunch served by the Martha Circle consisting of breakfast casseroles, coffee cake and even served food of patriotic colors with watermelon, blueberry muffins and a U.S. flag cake. The tables were beautifully decorated in red, white and blue. Marian DeGiovanni recruited her grandson Elio and two of his show choir friends who did a wonderful job of leading us to sing some patriotic songs and Marian accompanied all of us on the piano. Marian attended the Triennial Convention in Des Moines July 18-19 and gave us a wonderful PowerPoint recap of that. We are very grateful to Marian for attending the meeting and giving us this report: The I AM WORTHY theme based on Psalm 139:14 "I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" was enhanced in inspiring worship, Bible studies & workshops. Workshops topics included "The Transgender Experience" and "I Don't Want to Be Political! But I am Called to be Political." There were opportunities for service in the Servant Event Space. The Quilting Corner invited women to sew or tie quilts and assemble baby kits. Another area welcomed blood donors. The 1,100 registered women also could participate in a 5K Run, Walk & Roll on Saturday morning or a Late-night Bold Café

and Dance Party. Yes, Lutheran church ladies have stretched the boundaries of Jello salads and brewing coffee! Our opening worship included the prayer that God would hold us in Your care. When the world feels heavy, steady us. When we lose our way, gather us back to You. Meet us here and shape us for what lies ahead. Bishop Yehiel Curry, our presiding bishop gave the final blessing reminding us that we are loved, to live from that truth, and become bearers of that love in every place we go.

On October 3-4 there will be a retreat entitled "Discovering the Sacred in Creation: A Nature Spirituality" with Larry Harpster. None of us from St. John's are able to attend that retreat.

Martha Circle is visiting Special Friends in August and September. Sarah/Mary will visit them in October and November.

Bible Study Leaders meeting for September will be August 25 at 9:00am. The Leaders Meeting for October will be September 29 at 9:00am.

### **With Sincere Sympathy**

We offer our condolences to the following families this month:

- Paul and Sherrie Nurkala on the death of Paul's father, August.
- Gary and Connie Tomter on the death of Connie's sister, Donna Karafek.

### **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. September's items are **Hygiene Products-Full Size**: shampoo/conditioner, body wash/bar soap, deodorant-men's/women's, toothbrushes-adult/child, toothpaste, tampons, pads, pantyliners. Look for the display in the gathering area to drop off your donations. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 3-4pm)
2. Caretakers Alzheimer/Dementia support group (every 4<sup>th</sup> 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. (Maplewood would love volunteers too.) 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>

## 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](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment.

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



## SPECIAL PRAYER

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

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.  
Amen

Dear Friends in Christ,



How do you feel about fog? It's a bit unsettling, isn't it? I drive to Madison enough that I could drive with my eyes closed (I won't, I promise!), but with the fog I suddenly feel like everything is unfamiliar. I find myself slowing down, paying closer attention, and trusting that the road is still there – even when I can't see it.

Sometimes life can feel like that. A new school year is beginning, the rhythm of the church season is changing, people are starting new chapters of life in new homes, apartments, or nursing home facilities. Babies, marriages, divorces, and all sorts of life events can make life feel both magically and painfully foggy. We may know where we're going at times, but we don't always know what the next few weeks will look like. And perhaps that's okay.

As people of faith, we are not promised that we will always be able to see what is ahead. We are promised that **God is with us along the way**. Scripture reminds us, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). Notice that it says *lamp to my feet*—not a giant spotlight showing us the entire road ahead.

Sometimes God gives us just enough light for the next step. (To be honest, I'd sometimes like the giant spotlight).

As we begin this new season and settle into new routines, may we remember that we don't have to see the whole road. God is already there—in the uncertainty, in the changes, in the ordinary routines, and in whatever comes next. **One step at a time. One day at a time. And always with God beside us.**

Blessings as you begin this new season. May God guide your steps, calm your worries, and give you the grace to trust the road—even when you can't see very far ahead.

In Christ,

## Autumn is in the air:

I'm noticing that the Black Walnut trees are beginning to show yellow leaves. Goldenrod is flowering and wild Asters are not far behind.

Soon, evenings will be cooler; the little spiderwebs are showing up with dew on them in the morning lawn. Fall is in the air. Winter will soon follow.

Do you think about the leaves changing and falling? The last flowers of summer are coming into bloom? Soon it will be the end of another growing season. Tuesday is August 25th...four months 'til Christmas.

The trees seem to be dying. They are **not** dying however but going dormant for the winter. New leaves will unfurl in spring. Other signs of the season are the birds; hummingbirds are at our feeders in flurries of feeding frenzy. Most birds are done raising their young, and many will soon fly south for winter. Then the trees will be resplendent in glorious colors; red, orange, and yellow. Not just a few colors but look closely, and there are all the colors of the rainbow; purples, magentas, pink, golden, russet, and many still green... The evergreen pines, junipers, spruce and firs.

This doesn't last long. Soon the skies will turn gray and then the white of our first snow will arrive—I love watching the seasons. Daylight is getting shorter. Before we know it the frigid winds of December and January will have us snuggling around a fire and bundling up when we go out.

I find the falling of the leaves and promise of rebirth in spring to be reminiscent of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It was necessary for Jesus to embrace that ultimate self-sacrifice to fulfill God's plan to defeat death and the grave. It is only through dying and his glorious resurrection that Christ brought us the promise of salvation. Jesus did not attack his enemies, Jesus took the hurt upon himself...in doing so, he overcame all the powers of evil. As the trees and flowers will burst forth in glorious colors in the spring, so has Jesus beautifully, gently, and tenderly won our freedom from sin, and death. Now he brings us together in planting the seeds of the kingdom of Heaven here on earth. At the end of this age, God's kingdom will come to its full realization. A new season of glory.

Leaves may fall, but God is forever.

Roger Boettcher, Pastoral Intern

Hello  
My name is

*Intern*

### **3 Year Old & 3rd Grade Bible Presentation**

On Sunday, October 4, at the 8:00 & 10:30am services we will present Bibles to our 3-year-olds and third grade youth. In our Baptismal liturgy we promise to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of our candidates. An email invitation was sent at the end of August with more details. If you did not receive this email and would like your child (grandchild, neighbor, and friends!) to receive a Bible, please contact Pastor Sally at 608-643-2439 or [sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org](mailto:sally@stjohnssaukprairie.org).

## **Adult Education News**

### **Adult Education Schedule**

We will start our educational year with a focus on stewardship. What does the bible teach us? What are different forms of stewardship? What are some opportunities here in the church and in daily life? These are just some of the questions we'll talk about for several weeks. Please join us in the church library beginning on Sunday, September 27 at 9am. All are welcome!

## **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**

### **Confirmation Classes**

Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, Sept 30! All confirmation students and at least one guardian per family should plan to attend Welcome Back night on 9/30/26. Our fellowship meal starts at

5:30pm, and the Welcome Back program begins at 6:00pm. Meet our confirmation teachers, complete the required paperwork, pick-up your students' workbooks and get to know the other confirmation families that make this a great program. You can find the full confirmation calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/ConfirmCal>

### **ELCA Youth Gathering 2027**

Next Summer, St. John's will be traveling to Minneapolis for the ELCA Youth Gathering. The Gathering's mission of faith formation in young people is the hub from which all things come. Our goal is to create environments and opportunities for faith formation through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service and fellowship. Participants come together for music, speakers, worship, interactive learning, and experiencing God's work.

This is a powerful and transformational ministry if you are brave enough to let your guard down long enough for the Spirit to enter in, if you can be quiet long enough to listen to someone different from yourself, if your prayer is to be open to what God is calling you to, if you realize the strong roots of a community will ground you no matter the strength of life's storms, if you imagine yourself as part of something bigger than you. **All students who are currently in grades 8 thru 11 are invited to join us. If you want to join this amazing trip, register before September 15, 2026, with a non-refundable deposit of \$150.00. Penny can answer any questions - schedule a meet-up for more info.**

### **Youth Trip to the Corn Maze**

St. John's Middle and High School students and friends (chaperones needed too!) will travel to the Treinen Farm Corn Maze on Wednesday, October 28, 2026. We'll gather at St. John's parking lot no later than 5:00pm – that's when the bus leaves to the Corn Maze. We'll return approximately 7:15pm. Register at <https://signup.com/go/aPcbtAM> before 10/10/26.

### **Sauk Prairie Pack Event**

The 2026 Pack Event is at Grand Avenue Elementary School. This event contributes to the work of Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) a Christian non-profit feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. Nutrition allows children to grow, thrive and develop to their full potential. Volunteers will hand-pack the meals which are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, so that kids are fed and lives are saved! St. John's members, including confirmation students, are invited to join our St. John's Team at the "Sauk Prairie Against Hunger" event, Friday October 30, 3:30-5:30 PM.

This team of volunteers will work to turn hunger into hope by packing nutritious meals for hungry children around the world, and each volunteer packs about \$50 worth of food! Register at <https://signup.com/go/ZWNqxbO> before 10/10/26.

Our hands are only half of the equation. Donations are needed to purchase the food that we will package into meals. Please add your donation to the collection plate with a "Pack Event" note or drop off donations at the office. "For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability..." 2 Corinthians 8:3(NIV) If you are called to donate, please drop off any amount to the church office with a "Pack Event" note.

### September Worship Jobs

| Date      | Task                        | Who             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 9/6/2026  | 9:00 Acolyte                |                 |
| 9/6/2026  | 9:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade  |                 |
| 9/6/2026  | 9:00 Usher                  | Jaelyn Sorg     |
| 9/6/2026  | 9:00 Usher                  |                 |
| 9/13/2026 | 8:00 Acolyte                |                 |
| 9/13/2026 | 8:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade  | Andrew Ryan     |
| 9/13/2026 | 8:00 Usher                  | Jaelyn Sorg     |
| 9/13/2026 | 8:00 Usher                  | Nadia LaVigne   |
| 9/13/2026 | 10:30 Acolyte               |                 |
| 9/13/2026 | 10:30 Acolyte - Sixth Grade |                 |
| 9/13/2026 | 10:30 Usher                 | Quinn Goetsch   |
| 9/13/2026 | 10:30 Usher                 | Claire Hansen   |
| 9/20/2026 | Communion Set Up            | Molly Williams  |
| 9/20/2026 | Communion Set Up            | Hank Lochner    |
| 9/20/2026 | 8:00 Acolyte                | Lucas Muehrer   |
| 9/20/2026 | 8:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade  | Hank Lochner    |
| 9/20/2026 | 8:00 Communion Assistant    |                 |
| 9/20/2026 | 8:00 Usher                  | Hank Hart       |
| 9/20/2026 | 8:00 Usher                  | Hank Hart       |
| 9/20/2026 | 10:30 Acolyte               | Briggs Ludowitz |
| 9/20/2026 | 10:30 Acolyte - Sixth Grade | Brantley Dean   |
| 9/20/2026 | 10:30 Communion Assistant   | Briggs Ludowitz |
| 9/20/2026 | 10:30 Usher                 | Landon Pape     |
| 9/20/2026 | 10:30 Usher                 | John Brennan    |

|           |                             |                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 9/20/2026 | Communion Clean Up          | Brantley Dean   |
| 9/20/2026 | Communion Clean-Up          | Briggs Ludowitz |
| 9/27/2026 | 8:00 Acolyte                | Jace Schultz    |
| 9/27/2026 | 8:00 Acolyte - Sixth Grade  |                 |
| 9/27/2026 | 8:00 Usher                  | Mylee Schultz   |
| 9/27/2026 | 8:00 Usher                  | Andrew Ryan     |
| 9/27/2026 | 10:30 Acolyte               |                 |
| 9/27/2026 | 10:30 Acolyte - Sixth Grade |                 |
| 9/27/2026 | 10:30 Usher                 | Quinn Goetsch   |
| 9/27/2026 | 10:30 Usher                 | Graham Roloff   |

## PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES

**DATE: August 4, 2026**

**Present:** Nancy Passehl, Pastor Sally, Cathy McAlexander, Marv Hupp, Melani Wheeler, John Ballweg, Kendra Frey, Mary Weeks, John Brennan, Josie Fentress, Marian DeGiovanni, Intern Roger Boettcher, Audrey Luetscher

**Absent:** Anne Klinkner, Pastor Tom, Charlie Kruchten, James Newman

Call to Order/Opening remarks:

Meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Nancy Passehl. Nancy P asked for approval of the agenda. Motion to approve was made by Marian DeGiovanni, 2nd by Melani Wheeler, motion carried. Marian DeGiovanni gave the devotion.

### **Secretary Minutes:**

The July 14, 2026, minutes were submitted online by Audrey Luetscher. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Josie Fentres and 2nd by Mary Weeks. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** John Brennan

| Current Month Income | Current Month Expenses | Current Month Balance | Year-to-Date Income | Year-to-Date Expenses | Year-to-Date Budget |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| \$37,754             | \$36,090               | \$1,752               | \$322,318           | \$291,538             | \$348,308           |

- Stewardship is looking into options for investments paying better rates.
- Budgets are being worked on & committees need to have theirs turned in to Anne by 8/26/26.
- VBS refund should be returned soon.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by John Ballweg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cathy McAlexander. Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Evangelism:** No report

**Fellowship:** Cathy McAlexander

- We held a welcome reception for Roger on July 19.
- We will serve our Volunteer Appreciation meal on Sunday, September 13, following the 10:30 service. I will distribute invitations to committee chairs for distribution at our PPC meeting.

**Lay Ministry:** Josie Fentress

No July meeting. Will resume in August.

- Vacation Bible School canceled due to lack of minimum registrants.
- Sept 20 Rally Day

**Parish Education:** James Newman

- Parish Ed met by email this month.
- VBS cancelled due to lack of enrollment this year.
- Intern Roger will be teaching 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation
- Penny is building lessons for the upcoming confirmation school year.
- Confirmation & Sunday School teachers will have an orientation meeting on September 13.
- Current safety policies & procedures to be a discussion point in August.

**Properties:** John Ballweg

- Carpet cleaning & painting in progress this month.
- Waiting for installation of the door push bars.
- Working on eradicating the bat problem in the education wing.

**PR & Social Concerns:** Melani Wheeler, No meeting in June or July. Will resume in August.

**Stewardship Board:** Anne Klinkner

- Intern Roger Boettcher was introduced, welcomed and educated on the purpose of the Board meeting.
- Bob Lange is moving back to TN, so this is his last Stewardship Board meeting.
- St. John's Evangelical Church continues to maintain a strong cash position.

Review of June 2026 Financial Statement:

- Thanks to a large donation & excellent current giving in June 2026, we had a Net Revenue of \$39,414.07 resulting in a YTD Net Revenue of \$29,565.02. This is ahead of last year at this time.
- Monthly Theme-August 2026 is Facilities & Maintenance Ministry

#### Timeline for Budget:

- Budgets have been sent to the Committee Board Chairs & are due back to Anne by August 25, 2026.
- The Stewardship Board will review the budget at the September meeting & forward the final version to the PPC for review & approval at the October meeting.
- The congregation will review and be asked for their approval at the November 2026 Congregational Meeting.
- Work continues on the Admin Manual updates.

#### **Women of the ELCA:** Marian DeGiovanni

- There were no regular circle meetings in July, but we had the All Circle Picnic on July 23. Marian was the guest speaker sharing her experience at the Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA. The theme of the gathering was "I am Worthy". 1100 registered women had many opportunities to attend workshops covering various topics. There was an interactive quilt corner & a blood donation area. On Saturday many participated in the 5K run, walk & roll. There was a late night Bold Café & Dance party. Bishop Yehiel Curry, our presiding bishop gave the final blessing reminding us that we are loved in every place we go.
- In August each circle will meet to work on various Lutheran World Relief kits. Each circle makes a request for a \$250 grant from Thrivent to help with the cost of the kits.
- October 3-4, 2026, will be the Synodical Fall Retreat at Lutherdale. Details are posted on the kiosk. The theme will be "Discovering the Sacred in Creation: A Nature Specialty Retreat".
- Ruth Circle has been visiting Special Friends in June & July. In August & September Martha Circle will visit them.
- The Bible Study Leaders meeting will be Tuesday, August 25 at 9:00am.
- Regular circle meetings resume in September.

#### **Youth Committee:** Charlie Kruchten-no report

#### **Member at Large:** Mary Weeks-no report

#### **Youth Member:** Kendra Frey

- This week is Show Choir Camp. It's a very exciting time as we get to know each other, sing, dance & learn show introductions

### **Pastor Tom's report:**

- TDS update: We received an email from TDS with an update regarding our managed IP service. A site Verification appointment has been scheduled to ensure our location is ready for the upcoming installation. We will continue to keep everyone informed as we move through this process.
- Internship: Intern Roger began July 13. We are meeting weekly on Mondays. I greatly appreciate the Internship Committee, as well as Pastor Sally's guidance as we work together during Roger's internship.
- New Members: We have had several more people inquire about joining St. John's, which is encouraging. If interest continues, we may plan another new member class in the fall or early winter.
- 2027 Budget: I have been working on the 2027 administrative budget & staff salary proposals. I will be meeting with the Executive Team & after that, proposals will be ready to present to the Stewardship Committee.
- Memorial Committee: In early July, I met with the Memorial Committee & the Stewardship Team to discuss how to move forward with memorials. Those conversations were put on hold because of personal circumstances affecting several members. I plan to resume those discussions in August after the budget.

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

- Staff is working on emptying offices to prepare for carpet cleaning & painting this week & next. Our offices are now spread around the church, so we ask for your patience over the next week.
- The collaborative learner who was serving Leland/Zion has resigned & I am on call for them in case of pastoral emergency/funerals while they are without a pastor. This is a common practice among colleagues. My colleague from Portage is also on call. Please pray for these churches in this transition time.
- August is a busy month as we prepare for education programming. We are grateful for Penny, James and Dale for all their work these days.

### **Intern Report:** Roger Boettcher

- Internship began on July 13. There has been a very warm welcome here at St. John's Lutheran. My wife Janice and I are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support.
- There was a special welcome for Janice and I during fellowship after service on July 19. THANK YOU ALL!
- I joined the Ukulele group and had great fun meeting new friends and learning to play this musical instrument.
- The Internship Committee met and shared stories of our faith journeys and set a schedule for upcoming meetings.
- I meet at least weekly with my supervisor, Pastor Tom. We have begun to write my internship goals.
- There have been many first for me: first staff meeting, first Parish Planning Committee meeting, first time reading during worship, and preaching my first St. John's sermon.
- Janice and I went with the youth and mentors on the jet boat ride at Wisconsin Dells. It was an exciting ride and beautiful scenery. We all got wet! A great time was had by all.
- Other visits include quilters, WELCA, Stewardship, RIC, men's and women's fellowship and Bible study.
- This month I will join Pastor at the Pines and Maplewood.
- On the horizon are confirmation and adult education.

### **Old Business:**

- RIC Summary James Newman continuing with step 2
  - Discussion of St. John's decision-making process both formal & informal
  - Step 3 is having one on one conversations with people in the congregation about what we are doing. As part of step 2 we are discussing who we initially must have these conversations with.
  - Discussion of the good & bad aspects of conflict
- Phone system update-New phones have arrived. See Pastor Tom's report for details.
- Budget for 2027-Due to Anne by 8/25/26
- Visionary updates/strategic plan, coffee talks scheduled in the library for 8/9 and 8/16 during coffee time.

### **New Business:**

- Carpet cleaning scheduled for August 6. Office will be closed as there will be no access to offices.
- Painting August 10

A motion was made by Marian DeGiovanni to adjourn and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Weeks. Meeting ended at 6:48pm. Closing prayer given by Roger Boettcher.

Next meeting will be September 1, 2026, at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Audrey Luetscher



# Happy September Birthday!

*The day is in parenthesis.*

## Our Youngest:

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Charles Troeller (1) | Rosie Schroeder (2) |
| Oliver Lovell (10)   | Skye Paque (18)     |
| Waylon Sweeney (26)  |                     |

## Our Sunday School Students:

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Metta Opie (1)        | Ira Opie (3)                 |
| Olin Frey (4)         | Raegen Roessler-Hamilton (5) |
| Ryan Bakken (7)       | Tate Neubacher (10)          |
| Teddy Rosenstiel (13) | Vinny Meyer (15)             |
| Max Nelson (15)       | Hayden Ballweg (23)          |
| Mckayla Peterson (24) | Caleb Anderson (27)          |
| Nicole Scott (27)     | Owen Robertson (29)          |

## Our Youth:

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Audrey Sandberg (3) | Malania Hitchcock (4) |
| Claire Hansen (5)   | Gavin Sawyer (9)      |
| Olivia Stephan (9)  | Lucas Muehrer (12)    |
| Austin Urban (12)   | Corbin Colby (13)     |
| Cannon Esser (15)   | Brooke Braund (17)    |
| Callie Lohr (17)    | George Colby (18)     |

## College and Career-age Young People:

|                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Ramona Blau (2)     | Emma Rhyner (2)          |
| Josey Thomas (5)    | Masen Schmidt (8)        |
| Claire Hartman (15) | Lauren Endres (18)       |
| Micah Boerger (19)  | Malea Schonenberger (28) |