

January 2021 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Friends in Christ,

It would be an understatement to say "we are living in challenging times!" It's more like *very difficult* times. If the pandemic were not enough, just add to that racial inequality, and political chaos, and personal crises for many folks, and we grasp how challenging these times really are!

Back in the little-known Book of Esther (a book that-amazingly-never mentions "God!"), things are *very difficult*. There is a system of racism (targeted at the Jews), there is a king who has been manipulated into misusing his power. There are people whose lives are threatened. And there is young Esther and her cousin, Mordecai.

Long story made short: The Jews are targeted for extinction; but Esther ends up as one of the king's favorite wives. Mordecai begs her to use whatever influence she has to change the status quo: "*For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?*"

"...For such a time as this!" (Esther 4:14) We have faith, we have voices, we have the power of the cross and the Good News of the Gospel for such a time as this!

+*Our trust in God* teaches us that God is still God! That despair and evil are not the last word; That there is hope for this world.

+*A theology of the cross* calls a thing what it really is: Sin is sin. Evil is evil. Good is good. Racism is racism. It saves us from denial and complicity with the things of this world that have no room in God's realm.

+*Our voices matter!* Words matter! Truth matters! In a world of lies, disinformation, and conspiracy theories, we won't set everything straight. But we can do our part!

+*The Good News of the Gospel* is what people always need, and are sometimes ready to hear! God comes to us. Jesus saves (we don't save ourselves!) God is reconciling the world to God's own self in Jesus. God is the God who makes all things new!

For such a time as this we get to be "church". We get to worship the God who still loves the world. We get to speak the truth in love. We get to encourage one another. We get to reflect the light of Christ in the world. We get to strive for justice and peace in all the world. In these very difficult times, we have important work to do! Thanks for partnering in this work. It really is God's Work-Our Hands!
-Pastor Paul

Worship is still on Facebook Live at 9:45 each Sunday. Council and Pastor and Worship Team are in conversation regularly on the virus numbers in Washington County, and are weighing the benefits and risks of gathering in person. We very much look forward to the day we can do that again! In the meantime, special thanks to our Tech Team! We're excited about the upgrade in video equipment and sound! We know that doesn't reach all of you, but we're thankful it reaches many!

November 2020 - Year to Date

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 190,259 (includes PPP loan we received)

Expenses: \$ 187,284

+YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 100,046 Expenses: \$ 98,636

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 10,755 Goal for 2020: \$15,000

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 7,771 Goal for 2020: \$6,000

God is good and generous-and so are you! We ended 2020 on a solid financial note! End of year 'books' are still being 'closed'. You'll see results in the Annual Report, which is to come.

Thank you to all who have been mailing in your offering, dropping off your gifts, or giving electronically. It is a huge blessing that we could meet all our obligations this year! The PPP Loan (from the Covid Relief Bill last spring), was also a big help. We do not expect to be eligible for the next round of those.

Building Loan Balance: \$ 145,259

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Your Choice Dollars do not carry over into the following year. Thank you to all those who directed their choice dollars in 2020. We were gifted just a little over \$5000.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation – Sunday, January 31 at 10:45

Church Council is working on how we can do the essential business of holding elections and adopting a budget. We are planning a Zoom congregational meeting, and will also invite those of you who are not online to participate at church in person. The Annual Report, proposed budget, and slate of candidates will be available by the 24th. And we'll try a trial run on the 24th. Stay tuned!

Sunday School News!

We have Sunday School every week at 9:00 via Zoom. During the Zoom, we will cover the story for the week- it may be in the form of a reading, a video, an experiment, or a Kahoot. Please join us when you can. There is also be a family lesson posted on the church website (<https://stjohnsjackson.net/education/>) that you can do together during the week. Zoom link is <https://us04web.zoom.us/meeting/81100438792>

Family Promise

Family Promise of Washington County was started in 2009 due to a need for housing services in the area. Host congregations normally open their building to provide a safe, hospitable shelter for the families a week at a time. Due to Covid19 churches are not hosting at their facilities, but we can still provide meals for the week. St. John's will host families the **week of February 7-13**. Wendy Wolf will coordinate the meals with Family Promise. At this time they have 2 families in the program. You can make the meals and bring them to church, or you can deliver them to the Family Promise building in West Bend before 3pm. If you can't provide a meal we can always use breakfast grab and go items, (breakfast bars, pop tarts, or other staples for the week, bread, milk, juice, fruit). Please call Wendy at church 677-3176 or email officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com if you're interested in helping out.

What's been happening with our sisters and brothers in this family of faith?

Jean Gardipee is in rehab at: Oak Park Place East, 719 Jupiter Dr, Madison 53718

Marion Holcomb is in rehab at The Lutheran Home, 7500 W North Ave, Wauwatosa 53213

Ed Holcomb is at The Gables in Germantown. His phone is: 262-345-1150.

MaryAnn Ostranger is at The Pavilion Rehab, 1900 American Eagle Dr, Slinger 53086.

Carol Lauterbach is at The Cottages at Cedar Run, 6090 Scenic Dr, WB 53095

Vivian Huggler is receiving hospice care at home.

Russ Schilling is receiving hospice care at The Samaritan, 531 E. Washington, WB 53090

Joan Milde is moving into assisted living.

Eduardo Inchaurregui is dealing with some serious health issues.

Paul & Katie Ziemer are the proud parents of Elijah James, born on 1/7!

Danielle Piering graduated from UW-Milwaukee! Congrats!

Michael Novotny is applying to work at Sky ranch Lutheran Camp for a 3rd summer! (And rumor has it, he's convinced a couple more of our young adults to apply there too!)

Anna Frey is applying for early admission to medical school!

Arleen Ziemer is doing all right in her assisted living apartment at Lasata!

Kylie Schneider (USMC) is looking forward to being assigned to a base in California, from her current stationing in Okinawa.

Nadea Oestrich is training with an Air Force medical team in San Antonio.

Ava Kielisch is part of the National Guard group that will be in D.C. for inauguration week.

Phil Cler, Pastor Kert Lauterbach, and Bob Brown have been born to eternal life, and we pray for comfort for their loved ones.

Ty Brennan is one of 3 Wisconsin students selected for the National Association of Music Education All National Honor Ensembles!

Time for Camp!

Crossways Camps is making plans to welcome campers this summer at 50% capacity, with a host of precautions (from the State Health Department and the American Camping Association) in place, to keep campers and staff safe.



Pastor hopes that Confirmation students can attend Crossways Village Camp the week of July 11. There are other weeks available for younger campers, and we encourage you to consider the options! Camp could be a welcome addition to the things we can do as church this year. And of course, this will depend on the actual conditions when summer comes around. (Don't worry about losing any deposit \$\$). Camp will be very good about dealing with changes-of-plans.)

Also, for our High School Youth: Camp Amnicon (on Lake Superior) did canoe trips safely last summer, and is offering them this summer! Talk to Michael Novotny, Cassidy Bohling, or Pastor Paul if you could imagine getting away on a great adventure this summer! (Probably a Sunday-Friday in July).

Thanks for your prayer support and financial support of Crossways, after a most impossible year! Perhaps we can get a work crew of volunteers up there this spring or summer also!

St. John's Veterans Group

Our veteran's group has suspended meetings at this time. Roy will keep in contact with the group. Watch for further updates.

2020 Giving Statements

Your 2020 Giving Statements will be included in your February newsletter. Please let the office know if you need it sooner.

Greetings from Ulong'a Parish

Here's a Christmas/New Year's Greeting from our sisters and brothers at Ulong'a parish in Tanzania:

Dear Pastor Mittermaier and friends in Jesus Christ. We are happy to bring you heartfelt greetings from our families and members of Ulonga Lutheran Parish, we join hands with our friends at St. John's Lutheran Church to thank God for his guidance and protection throughout this year. Our special message to our friends is this "May the Light of His love shine upon you and make this Christmas a season of joy". We thank you so much for your continuous support to our Parish, May the Lord's Blessing abide with you. Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

*Peace and love,
Pastor Elineema Kyungai
Dr. Rishiael Nanyaro*



January Anniversaries!

Jan. 2 Ken & Linda Wills – 17 years
Jan. 4 David & Barbara Pueringer – 52 years
Jan. 20 Kevin & Jamie Reidy – 3 years

If we missed your special day please let us know.

January Birthdays!

Jan. 2 Linda Corlette
Jan. 3 Marlene Duchow
 Wes Rauen
Jan. 4 Jamie Reidy
 Jenny Trick
Jan. 5 Julie Ostranger
 Jason Pickart
Jan. 6 Kristin Dhein
 Sharon Kreis
 Louie Lloyd
Jan. 10 Tom Spencer
Jan. 11 David Pueringer
 Marlene Waugus
Jan. 12 Carrie Schoner
Jan. 13 Sue Callum
 Nancy Kinter
Jan. 15 Aletha Masbruch
Jan. 16 Kyle Binversie
 Ben Brandt
 Nick Singer
Jan. 17 Christopher Dechant
Jan. 19 Jackson Liberatore
Jan. 20 Jean Gardipee
Jan. 21 Michaela Mack
Jan. 22 Jason Boesch
 Travis Dhein
Jan. 23 Julie Ayers
Jan. 26 Adelynn Guslick
 Jennifer Holt
 Mike Kraus
 Sophie Williams
 Shad Young
Jan. 28 Jane Christianson
 Russ Schilling
Jan. 30 Roy Glocke
 Rachel Olafsson
Jan. 31 Donna Dahly



St. John's Lutheran Church
2881 Division Rd.
Jackson, WI 53037

At St. John's we're privileged and challenged to *Welcome, Worship, and Witness* in Christ's name. Thank you for being part of this faith community and for the serving you do to the glory of God!

Visit us at www.stjohnsjackson.net

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stjohnsjackson

Pastor Paul Mittermaier – pastorcarguy@gmail.com

Office hours: M-F 9:00am-1:00pm 262-677-3176

officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com

Worship Services: Sunday 9:45 am Facebook Live

