

February 2021 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been just about a year since the pandemic hit home; our routines and plans were upset; and our shared vulnerabilities were exposed. There have been many losses, especially in terms of lives, opportunities, jobs, connections, peace of mind. And there have been some gains: more time at home; new ways of doing worship and work and being connected; and maybe a new appreciation for 'essential workers', for science and for vaccines.

Did any of us think it would last this long? Haven't we all hoped things might just "get back to normal?"

Have we pondered how God might be working in the midst of all this uncertainty and suffering?

With the whole human family, we've been in something of a "wilderness" experience. (There are plenty of those moments for the people in the Bible!) "Wilderness" is where and when things aren't fully under our control. It's when and where we discover our dependence on God and on one another. It's when and where we have to find new ways to move forward. It's when and where we have to let go of the past, and yet we can't fully take hold of the future.

For our Lent theme this year, we're going to focus on "**The Wilderness**". We'll face our disappointments, our losses, our doubts, our questions, our fears, our loneliness. And we'll see how God provides, accompanies, sustains, strengthens, and guides us through the experiences of life in this topsy turvy world.

February 17 is Ash Wednesday. We plan to have a small 11 AM and 7 PM in-person service. We'll also do Facebook Live. And we'll invite you from 5:00 to 6:30 to the parking lot for Drive-up Ashes; maybe a Campfire; and a chance to pick up Lent-At-Home kits. (Watch for details).

Here's a request: I'm looking for 40 of you to share a simple devotion (one for each day of Lent), preferably a few thoughts and maybe a prayer, on one of your "wilderness experiences" in your life; and how God saw you through it; and even what you learned from it. These can be 'anonymous' or with your name attached. The struggles you have endured are real and important and can encourage someone else. It can be anything: depression, rejection, job-loss, infertility, cancer, addiction, grief, failure, shame, Covid, illness/incapacity, divorce, a loved one's dementia or mental health issue, a humbling experience, a frightening experience. Any of these and more mean you are someone who has survived a wilderness time of testing. That makes you qualified also to speak of doubts, of faith, of learnings, and of grace. Shoot me an email if you'd dare to write or share a bit of that in a devotional way. I'll share more ideas on what our Lent theme will touch on!

Count on God's presence as we continue to find our way through this pandemic, and as we begin the journey of Lent!

-Pastor Paul

December 2020 - Year to Date

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 214,596 (includes PPP loan we received)

Expenses: \$ 205,655

+YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 103,516 Expenses: \$ 110,147

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 11,866 Goal for 2020: \$15,000

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 8,108 Goal for 2020: \$6,000

Building Loan Balance: \$ 145,259

Thank you for your regular offerings and to those who have signed up for electronic giving. We finished well in 2020!

Please find your 2020 Giving Statement enclosed. Contact Wendy in the office if you have any questions.

Annual Meeting Update

Council Members: We elected Dan Johnson, Jennifer Binversie, and Tim Kiernan. They serve with George Liberatore, Pam Stahl, Scott Dechant, Tracey Jackson, Scott Kinter, LeeAnn Runnells (Joel & Wendy Heidtke serve as Co-Financial Secretaries, and Jenny Brandt will continue to serve as Treasurer.)

Audit Committee: Elected Pam Stahl, who joins Pete Kutzora and Pat Micksch

Mission Endowment Committee: Elected Mike Miller and Sharon Boldt, to serve with current members Robin Kutzora, Steve Korneli, and Tracey Corlett.

Nominating Committee: Elected Donna Lamberg to join Barb Miller. (Council selects a third person)

We adopted a budget that is very close to last year's budget, with a salary freeze for staff. (St. John's does not appear to be eligible for the new round of Covid stimulus \$\$\$ in the form of the Paycheck Protection Program.)

Many thanks to all outgoing members of Council and other committees! We appreciate your dedication and willingness to serve!

We are looking for additional members to join our Education Team. The Education committee is responsible for supervising the Sunday morning Sunday school program along with the Christian Education Coordinator, planning the adult education program along with Pastor, and other educational programs for the congregation. Please talk to Staci Bohling or Pastor if you are interested. They meet once per month.

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/join/81100438792> Watch for First Communion class for 5th graders and a "Get to know you Bible" class for 3rd graders.



A Few Notes from St. John's

+We give thanks for the life of Joan Milde, one of our dear shut-ins (Carl Radloff's sister), who was born to eternal life on January 21. The family is having a private memorial service on the 13th.

+Congrats to Breanne Cameron on graduating from college!

+US Marine Kylie Schneider expects to be transferred from a base in Okinawa, to southern California soon!

+We learned of the death of Pastor Elias' dear, elderly mother in Tanzania. (She had no birth records, but family estimated that she was close to 120 years old!)

+We rejoice with Amy Canard and Lisa Brennan and their families, as their dad, Skip, finally came home from the hospital, more than 2 months after receiving a heart transplant!

+Ed & Marion Holcomb have moved to The Gables, N109 W17110 Ava Circle, Apt. 113 Germantown.

+Crossways Camps is looking for a good, used minivan! If anyone is trading one in, or you know someone who is giving up driving-let Pastor know, please!

+Tracey Jackson, Angela Bins, and Cheri Noll participated in a "Faith Partners Team Ministry" training event last weekend, sponsored by our Greater Milwaukee Synod, to help congregations address the subject of addiction, and be a resource to individuals/families dealing with addiction. Watch for more from this team!

Time to Sign Up 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).

Jackson Elementary Backpack Food Needed

The Jackson Elementary School, with the help of area businesses, have a "Jackson Backpack Friday" food pantry. Children of families in need of food for the weekend are able to take a backpack of food home on Friday and bring the backpack back to school on Monday. They are able to help feed their family for the weekend. Food items needed are individual serving size mac n cheese, soup, spaghetti, Goldfish, and snack bars. There are paper bags at the food pantry shelf with a list stapled to the bag of items needed as well. Bring your items and place on the food pantry shelf and we'll make sure they get to the school! Thank you so very much for your support!

Family Promise

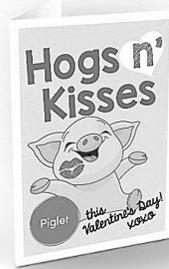
Thank you to all those who volunteered to make meals for our host week in February! If you are interested in helping out we can always use breakfast grab and go items, (breakfast bars, pop tarts, or other staples for the week, bread, milk, juice, fruit). Bring those to church at any time. Please call Wendy at church 677-3176 or email officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com if you're interested in helping out.

St. John's Veterans Group

St. John's Vet's Group will be having their next Meeting at Church (Mask & Social Distancing) on Tuesday, February 9th at 9:00am.

Ready to share a smile with someone special this Valentine's Day?

Give honeybees (\$20), a fruit-tree seedling (\$10) or a piglet (\$30) in honor of your valentine and help someone around the world overcome hunger and poverty. Each gift provides a sustainable source of food, income or both to help a family in need. This Valentine's Day, you can share the love of Christ far and wide!



February Anniversaries!

Feb. 20 Bill & Dorene Rudd – 60 years
Dale & Laura Reisinger – 27 years

If we missed your special day please let us know.

February Birthdays!

Feb. 1	Peggy Krueger
Feb. 2	Julie Korneli Leo Haddorff
Feb. 3	Carol Messner Tage Siegert
Feb. 4	Kevin Bukovic Jim Meyers
Feb. 5	Bill Stephan
Feb. 6	Christian Meyers Lauren Pelisek
Feb. 7	Sarah Schaus Danielle Priebe Brock Siegert
Feb. 8	Mason Micksch
Feb. 9	Raelynn Dorow
Feb. 10	Barb Pueringer Caitlin Reisinger
Feb. 11	Dianne Liberatore
Feb. 12	Sarah Murray Tasha Wagner Cole Stoecker
Feb. 13	Louis Ayers
Feb. 14	Robin Kutzora Dakota Garbade Brayden Byrne
Feb. 17	Randy Groth Josh Staller Jayce Liberatore
Feb. 18	Todd Seatz
Feb. 19	Carey Cameron Pat Micksch
Feb. 20	Kelly Lloyd David Frank
Feb. 21	Sharon Boldt Sean Mickie
Feb. 22	Carol Cler Rachel Corwin Lilia Gierach
Feb. 26	Annette Quevy Dale Dhein Paul Stahl Kathy Dalton Peter Uhlig Angela Priebe
Feb. 28	Lynda Tomaz
Feb. 29	George Liberatore

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

NOTE: 2020 GIVING STATEMENT ENCLOSED!

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: Saturday 5:00 pm & Sunday 9:45 am with Holy Communion
Facebook Live at 9:45 am on Sunday

