

April 2021 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear St. John's Friends and Family,

Sometimes, the Apostle Paul is "wordy" in his letters. (The opening 'sentence' in his letter to the Ephesians is about 240 words long!) And sometimes Paul is wonderfully succinct! Case in point, Romans 12:12 says: *Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer!* Perfect words for these days!

It's been a whole year since the pandemic uprooted plans, routines, the world's health, and our sense of well-being. What are some of the learnings from this past year? *To rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer!*

This last year has been a struggle in both necessary and unnecessary ways. I have grown in my respect for those among us who struggle continuously in life, with difficult things: with depression, with addiction, with cancer, with poverty, with doubts, with fears, with relationships, with shame, with racism, with governing, with aging, with injustice, with sin, with infertility, with alzheimers. (The list is really endless!)

Realistically speaking, this is part of life in this world! This is the struggle of being human-and living with other humans! This is the struggle of the baptized people of God! This is the challenge of faith! I invite you to cling to this concise teaching of St. Paul's: *Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer!*

I also invite you to pause and give thanks that we get to celebrate Easter again! (Actually, remember that every Sunday is a mini-celebration of Easter!) Because Easter is God's biggest surprise, and God's biggest supply of hope in the face of all of these ongoing struggles. The resurrection of Jesus is God's way of showing that "love wins", and that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ! The resurrection of Jesus is also the beginning of God's promise to make all things new!

-Pastor Paul

Holy Week and Easter Worship

On Maundy Thursday, we commune at 11:00 & 7:00 (7:00 also is on Facebook).

On Good Friday, we gather at the foot of the cross at 2:00 & 7:00 (7:00 also is on Facebook).

On Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil is at 5:00

On Easter, we'll worship indoors, with masks, at 7:00 & 8:30 (8:30 will be on Facebook, and you can watch it later!) And we're planning on a Drive-in Service at 10:00. *Should the weather not cooperate, you can sit in your car at 10:00 and tune the service in on your radio, like we did Christmas Eve. OR, you can come inside.*

We do not expect a full house for Easter, and are trusting that 75 or 100 of you will choose 7:00, or 8:30, so we're spread out sufficiently indoors. Reservations are not required. Volunteers to usher and read are appreciated!

When we get a nice, warm Saturday, we'll do Drive-in Service again. A number of you have been looking forward to that!

February 2021 - Year to Date

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 34,280

Expenses: \$ 34,193

Thank you for your regular offerings and to those who have signed up for electronic giving.

+YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 14,138 Expenses: \$ 13,869

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 6,532 Goal for 2021: \$15,000

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 941 Goal for 2021: \$6,000

Building Loan Balance: \$ 132,901

We Are A Learning Church!

+Sunday School Zoom continues at 9am each week. (We'll take Easter Sunday off.)

+Our First Communion Class of 5th graders has just finished up! We'll welcome Tage Siegert, Gabe Lauterbach, Connor Stoecker, Sophie Williams, Emeline Eisenhauer, Mollie Eisenhauer, Kellon Harris, Ben Hollister, and Zach Byrne to the Lord's Table! *Special thanks to Ellen Devoe and Kathy Williams for leading the class!*

+And 3rd & 4th graders have done a "Get to Know Your Bible Class" with Staci Bohling! We'll offer some additional option this spring!

+An Adult Learning Opportunity happens on Thursday, April 15, with an online Zoom book study of the bestseller: *So You Want to Talk About Race?* Our newly formed Diversity Team invites you to join in. The registration link will be in an email (or call Wendy or Pastor for it.) This conversation will include folks from around our Greater Milwaukee Synod!

We Are Also A Church for the Community!

As we seek ways to reach out to and serve the community, we're forming a *Community Engagement Team* and are looking for several of you to join Tracey Jackson (church council rep) and Wendy Wolf on this Team. A first gathering will be on Monday, April 19 at 7pm....maybe Zoom, maybe in person. Would you dare to give it a try?

Youth Group Challenge

We'll collect items for the Lutheran World Relief personal care kits through Easter. Thank you for your generous giving! We have collected enough supplies to make 75 full kits so far! We are hoping to meet our goal of 100 kits! Thank you to Owen & Ella Pickart for heading up this project!



Pastor is thankful to be vaccinated and available for more in-person visits!

Let him know when you'd welcome a visit! Monday morning bible study resumes in April!

Also, if you're eligible for a Covid vaccine and waiting for an appointment, the Facebook Group- Wisconsin Vaccine Hunters and Angels is doing a great job of connecting people with shots! If you don't use the internet, call Pastor, Wendy, or Staci for a phone number you can try! Let's help stop Covid and keep ourselves and our neighbors well!



COMING NEXT MONTH ...Getting to Know You

Each month in the newsletter we'd like to highlight a member of St. John's with a little write-up and photo as a way to get to know our fellow members, including something interesting or unique about their life, a favorite song or memory, hobbies, volunteer work, a cherished Bible verse, or the like. If you would like to be featured, please email Wendy Wolf at officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com, and she'll send a short survey and request a photo of you. We hope everyone looks forward to learning more about our church family!

St. John's Veterans Group

St. John's Vet's Group will be having their next meeting at church (Mask & Social Distancing) on Tuesday, April 13th at 9:00am.

Family Promise – St. John's Host Week – April 25-May 1

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 April 25-May 1**. Wendy Wolf will coordinate the meals with Family Promise. 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.



Youth Plant Certificates

Our youth group will be selling plant certificates to Groth's Country Gardens for a spring fundraiser. Certificates are \$10 and will be sold after services. Start thinking warm planting weather!

April Usher Schedule

April 4 – 7:00 Paul Stahl 8:30 Duane Plath
10:00 – Joel & Kassi Wolf
11 – Keith Heidtke
18 – Irv Brandt
25 – George Liberatore

If there are other previous ushers that are comfortable coming back to usher please contact the office.
Thank you for serving!



April Anniversaries!

April 1 Warren & Roswitha Scheunemann – 61 years
April 5 Dennis & Maryrose Leist – 46 years
April 11 Ron & Pam Dhein – 57 years
Rick & Tracey Corlett – 29 years
April 12 John & Cindy Breest – 35 years
April 16 Robert & Ann Glorioso – 33 years
Randy & Hope Groth – 10 years
Scott & Angela Bins – 5 years
April 20 Carl & Ann Radloff – 36 years
John & Lisa Dyson – 30 years
April 22 Matt & Sarah Murray – 5 years
April 23 Sean & Kristen Mickie – 16 years
April 24 Dave & Kathy Williams – 28 years
April 28 Gregg & Brittany Rathke – 3 years
April 29 Steve & Julie Korneli – 32 years

If we missed your special day please let us know.

April Birthdays!

April 1 Lily Canard
April 2 Don Artz
April 4 Roger Hansen
Jacob Bukovic
April 5 Jaxon Schweiger
April 6 Laura Reisinger
Hallie Stockhausen
April 7 Andy Jones
April 8 Eileen Mack
Chelsea Thomas
April 10 Scott DeChant
Jeremy Bohling
April 11 Ryker Luedtke
April 12 Noah Seatz
April 13 Tim Pfeifer
Scott Lang
April 14 Hank Dieringer
Brenda Parchim
April 15 Nick Abt
Molly Kiernan
April 17 Elliott Groth
Ellery Groth
April 18 Don Meyerpeter
Aubrey Schneider
April 19 Rick Loehrl
Matthew DeChant
April 22 Matt Cefalu
Mary Novotny
April 23 Richard Boldt
Deann Abel
Travis Prost
April 24 Sandy Bernau
Sean Brennan
JJ Rustad
Breanne Cameron
Alexa Pietenpol
April 25 MaryLynn Prost
Craig Dhein
Hannah Micksch
April 26 Nicole Dueno
April 27 Pat Wichmann
Johnathan Friess
Cade Wills
Cassidy Goniu
April 28 John Breest
Irv Brandt
Finnegan Stern
April 29 Chris Ayers
Kelly Strnad

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

