

# May 2021 Newsletter

## Pastor's Message:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Hebrews 12:1-2 offers encouragement: "*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross...*"

These 14 months in the pandemic have been like a marathon! It's taking a long time! People are tired. We have lost some dear ones along the way. And the race isn't over! We remember that this journey has been much harder on some. We think of front-line workers who have stayed at it; of parents who have had to juggle work (or lack of) and on-line school for their kids; of those who have been isolated and alone. "*Tis grace has brought us safe this far...*" the song says! Thank God for grace! And for endurance!

We're still in this marathon! And it's not the only one. We are always dealing with the challenges of living and working together as a nation; and of finding hope and common ground with the rest of the world. *Do we look to Jesus? Like the writer of Hebrews says?*

If we would, I'm pretty sure we will find a way to welcome those who are 'outsiders'. We'll hear truths that challenge us and words that comfort us. We'll discover our role of being witnesses and servants. And in looking to Jesus, we'll be able to keep running the race that is set before us-which ultimately leads to life in His name!

Thank you for *persevering* with your church family too! Thank you for coming to worship as you get vaccinated, and for your patience with masking, and for your interest in how we work out Sunday School, and for your prayers, and for every way you pitch-in! This is an important time to be a church which nurtures relationships and connects us with the needs and gifts of the people around us!

-Pastor Paul  
pastorcarguy@gmail.com

## **8:00 Worship Returns May 2nd!**

Worship Committee decided we'd invite folks back to 8:00 worship! This may be a small group for a time-that's fine! We have Mothers' Day (May 9) and Confirmation Day (May 23), so this will help us 'spread out' and stay safe! *This also means we need more volunteers: readers, singers, ushers, Power Point operators! Let Wendy know how and when you can help!*  
officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com

## **Drive-In Worship?**

As the weather warms up, we'll try some Drive-In services again, most likely Saturdays at 5:00. And when summer is here, we'll see about other options! One of the plusses of the past year is that we learned two new ways to worship-on Facebook and in the parking lot!

## March 2021 - Year to Date

### +YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 51,580

Expenses: \$ 50,462

### +YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 21,058    Expenses: \$ 20,638

### +YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 7,618    Goal for 2021: \$15,000

### +YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 1,321    Goal for 2021: \$6,000

**Building Loan Balance: \$ 126,629**

## We Are A Learning Church!

+Sunday School Zoom continues at 9am each week.

+ Confirmation Day is May 23

Erin Anders, Sam Eisenhauer, Lucas Frank, Kenna Lisko, Chloe Lloyd, Liam Mickie, Mason Micksch, Rachel Olafsson, Aubrey Schneider, Evan Seatz, Marshall Singer, Paityn Starzman, and Cole Stoecker are affirming their faith. On Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 we ask you to come and engage them in conversation about their faith and their role in the life and mission of the church!



### Youth Group Exceeded Their Goal!

Thanks to your generous giving the Youth Group was able to exceed their goal of 100 kits. They were able to collect enough items to make 175 kits! That is amazing! LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations. Thank you!

### 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!



### St. John's Veterans Group

St. John's Vet's Group will be having their next meeting at church (Mask & Social Distancing) on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

### Crossways Camps

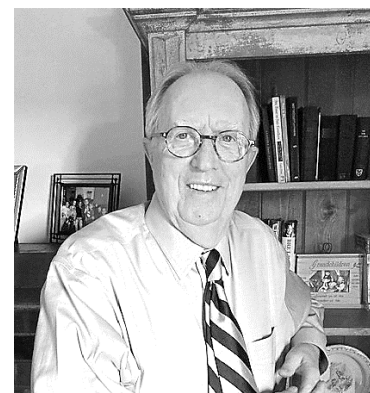
We have some kids going to camp the week of July 5<sup>th</sup>! Talk to Pastor or Wendy if you want to go. There's still time to register!

## Getting to Know You!

Each month we'll feature a St. John's member so we can get to know each other better.

### George Liberatore

Spend any amount of time with our friendly church council president, and you know that family and faith are important to George.



Thanks to his mom (and eventually dad) and grandmother, George was aware of his faith at an early age, weekly attending neighborhood Milwaukee churches. With a family move when he was 9 years old to 62nd and Capitol Drive – [then] “out in the sticks,” as George puts it – they transferred to St. Peter’s Lutheran, where the pastor converted his dad after one home visit, and the rest is history: going to church as a family every Sunday.

George majored in telecasting and earned his degree at MATC. Over the years, he’s had jobs producing and directing live television (“still the best!”) programs including Bucks and MU Warriors basketball games, the news, and Romper Room. As the production manager, he helped plan the new WITI-TV6 studios at the current Green Bay Ave. location. In 1980, George struck out on his own to form Midland Video Productions, where he produced and directed videos for national and regional brands, and nationally aired PBS documentaries, one for which he (producer) and son Joe (director) garnered a Midwest Emmy nomination. But it all comes back to family, so when he was ready to hang it up in 2014, he sold the business to Joe.

George attributes his career and family success to the support of wife Dianne, whom he met while they were both working at WVTM Channel 18 and married in September 1972. Together they have three children – Joe, Jenny (Trick), and Amanda (Reinemann) – daughter- and sons-in-law, and eight grandchildren ranging in age from 4-19 (all of whom attend St. John’s and take up more than one pew on any given Sunday). With a clan of 16, family vacations aren’t quite so easy, but they’ve managed to take smaller group ones to Great Britain, Ireland, France, and Italy (an ancestry story you can ask George about) and enjoy attending the grandkids’ local soccer, cross-country, track, and baseball events every week.

Serving others brings joy to George and is how he lives his faith. He has served on numerous boards and non-profits locally, regionally, and nationally, and currently serves on committees for the Milwaukee Co. Department on Aging and volunteers at Kathy Hospice – and, well, our very own St. John’s church council for six years. After surviving his cardiac arrest four years ago, George figured that God was telling him to get back out there and help people. And, boy, are we glad he did (God and George)!

#### “Fun” Facts:

- George isn’t embarrassed to say that he passed out in the delivery room when daughter Jenny was being born. The doctors paid him no attention.
- His favorite song is “26 Miles [Across the Sea].” If you know it, you’re in good company!
- He has been an Uber driver for 5 1/2 years, “going the distance” over 7,500 rides.
- George has had just 18 ½ official birthdays! (Born on February 29!)



## Outdoor Spring Clean-up Day – Saturday, May 1

Join us for a day to take care of God's house! This is not only God's house, it's our house too! And just like your own home, it needs tender loving care, and regular maintenance and cleaning.

It's time to do some deep cleaning outside the church. We have projects for all ages! Come Saturday, May 1 from 8am to noon. Come when you can and leave when you must.



## May Anniversaries!

May 6	Roger & Kathy Hansen, 49 years
May 7	Ed & Donna Dahly, 14 years
May 8	Gerald & Darleen Wanta, 22 years
May 14	Dennis & Cindi Hankes, 44 years
May 15	Duane & Linda Plath, 50 years
May 19	Matt & Eden Luedtke, 9 years
May 20	Kevin & Melanie Gierach, 15 years Jesse & Dawn Seltrecht, 21 years
May 21	Randy & Susan Hollister, 27 years
May 24	Bob & Kelly Luce, 35
May 25	Johnathan & Danielle Friess, 8 years
May 27	Gordon & Karen Kraemer, 54 years
May 28	Tim & Kendall Pfeifer, 2 years
May 29	Sean & Lisa Brennan, 22 years
May 31	David & Jessica Frank, 18 years

## May Birthdays (cont'd)

May 28	Ray Fischer Sean Brennan
May 30	Marshall Singer
May 31	Greg Canard Scott Trick



## May Birthdays!

May 2	Dan Bartelt
May 3	Steve Hanke Lexi Dyson
May 4	Val Heidtke Darleen Wanta
May 6	Lee Anne Runnells
May 7	Ann Glorioso Sharon Ziemer Steve Korneli Christy Abt
May 8	Heidi Hellesen
May 9	Romelle Worth Darrel Counard Laura Scheunemann Kassi Wolf Veda Inchaurregui Aiden Owens
May 10	Doug Sharpley
May 11	Melissa Staller
May 12	Alex Parchim Will Strnad
May 13	John Dyson Allegra Groth
May 15	Ellen DeVoe Laura Bartelt Abigail Dalton Kassidy Bohling
May 16	Eduardo Inchaurregui Charlie Parchim Sarah Corlett
May 17	Michelle Schneider Noah Abt
May 18	Jenny Brandt Rich Uhlig
May 19	Ken Parchim Sue Kerr Grady Lauterbach
May 20	Linda Susnik Amelie Foth
May 21	Pam Stahl Josh Kasubaski
May 22	Eric Olafsson
May 23	Scott Adams Lee Goodman Jake Brennan
May 25	Cheryl Toll
May 27	Heidi Hellesen Jessica Eisenhauer

If we missed your special day please let us know.

**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](http://www.stjohnsjackson.net)

Like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/stjohnsjackson](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsjackson)

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**Worship Services: Saturday 5:00 pm & Sunday 8 & 9:45 am with Holy Communion**

**Facebook Live at 9:45 am on Sunday**



**ST. JOHN'S**  
WELCOME • WORSHIP • WITNESS