

July 2021 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Hope". What a concept! What a gift! What a scarce resource, at times! We've been working through the book of Jeremiah-not exactly a comforting book-and yet in a time of national crisis, judgement, and despair-God, through Jeremiah, issues a word of hope! One of the more treasured verses of Jeremiah reads: *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."* (29:11)

In these times we live in, we have seen hopes dashed and hopes lifted up. Covid dashed many hopes. Vaccines are helping supply hope. We've been through some very rough days and events as a nation. Yet some still dare to hope in this experiment known as 'democracy', and in the possibility of 'liberty and justice for all!'

Where does our hope come from? Is it from optimistic thinkers and dreamers? They might help, but our hope is rooted in God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Our source of hope is Christ, whose love conquers sin and conquers death. Our hope is found in the Good News that God isn't finished with any of us or this world just yet. God is making all things new!

I tend to discourage people from having unrealistic hopes, like of winning the lottery, or that left and right, black and white will have some beautiful "kumbaya" moment, if we all just pray enough. But hope is what followers of Jesus are to 'major' in. This is Christ's gift to us and one of our gifts to the world! And hope is what might keep us praying and imaging and dreaming of a world where all can dwell securely; where all children are clothed and fed and loved; where creation does not cry in pain; where despair and evil do not win the day.

Here's one of St. Paul's great insights on hope: *Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.* (Romans 5)

As long as God is still God; as long as God still loves us and this world; then we have reason to be filled with hope, and we are sent to be agents of hope! -Pastor Paul

Wednesday Night "Church Nights" for the next month:

July 7-Cookout at 6pm, Campfire worship (with a baptism!) at 7pm.

July 14-Pet Blessing: Come anytime between 6:30-7:30, you can stay or go!

July 21-"Christmas in July!" Christmas carols, cookies, maybe Santa?? 6:30-7:30

July 29-(Thursday!) "Story Time/PJs/Snacks" 6:30-7:30

Aug 4-St. John's Olympics-Summer Games!

Please invite friends! This is a way new folks could get a taste of St. John's!

May 2021 - Year to Date

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 103,065

Expenses: \$ 83,789

+YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 38,463 Expenses: \$ 34,177

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 10,416 Goal for 2021: \$15,000

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

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 2,410 Goal for 2021: \$6,000

Building Loan Balance: \$ 114,096

Building Loan Paydown!

Thank you to one of our generous members for a \$20,000 gift to pay down our Building Loan. Last month we included a letter in the newsletter challenging others to match that gift so we can pay off that loan faster! We are very grateful to other generous members who have donated! So far we have a \$ 4,850 match!

Summer Worship!

Our 'normal' schedule continues: Saturday at 5pm (will do Drive-in Worship when possible), Sundays at 8:00 & 9:45 (continues on Facebook Live). When you're away on weekends, remember to join in on Facebook Sunday mornings on later in the day or week!

Wednesday nights are "Church Nights"! Our next Cookout/Campfire is July 14th at 6:00 with Christmas in July, since we didn't get to celebrate Christmas properly last year. We'll offer a game night, a story night, or a study night on following Wednesdays.

Family Promise – St. John's Host Week – August 8-15

St. John's will provide meals for families the **week of August 8-15**. 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.

Congratulations & Blessings to our Graduates!

We want to recognize a couple of our college grads that we missed last month.

Monica Bertucci graduated from UW La Crosse and Hanna Bertucci graduated from Northwestern University. Congratulations! *I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans...to give you a future with hope!* -Jeremiah 29:11

If we missed someone, please let us know!

We are a Learning Church

Our Education Team is looking forward to Sunday School happening in person starting September 12! Will you pray and consider being a teacher? (This need not be an every-Sunday-job!) And, we dads and teens are needed on our staff too!

Remember "Flat" Jesus? Families and kids are invited to take Jesus with you on your summer excursions-to the local park or to the mountains! Then, take a 'selfie' with Jesus and share it with us as a reminder that Jesus is with us wherever we go! (Color "flat Jesus" and maybe laminate.)

Getting to Know You!

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

Getting to Know You: **Ed, Jess, Sam, Mollie, and Emmeline Eisenhauer**

Ed and Jess have been married for over 18 years and have a fun story of how they met ... in Las Vegas! Ed was a captain in the Air Force, stationed at Nellis AFB. Jess had moved to Las Vegas to complete an internship for her degree in occupational therapy and stayed after she got an

OT job with the Las Vegas School District. Ed got an electrical engineering degree from Embry Riddle in Prescott, Arizona, and after being commissioned started working in Air Force civil engineering doing facilities- and construction-related jobs. They dated for three months before Ed moved to South Korea for a year during which they continued a (VERY!) long-distance relationship. Long story short, they decided to get married before Ed moved to his next duty station at Aviano Air Base in northern Italy. Jess finished her Master's in Early Childhood Special Education online while living there, along with learning as much Italian as she could from their "Italian family" who lived below them.

After Italy, Ed separated from the Air Force, and they moved back to Vegas. When Jess was pregnant with Sam, timing was right to go "home" to Wisconsin, where amazingly *both* of their families were from. Ed found a job at the VA Hospital in Milwaukee, where his current position is an occupational safety & health specialist. Jess decided to enjoy being a mom to the fullest and stayed home with the kids until they were school aged. She currently works as a classroom assistant in a 3K program, and also enjoys tutoring children with dyslexia.

Sam will be a freshman in high school and likes spending time with his friends, playing on his Xbox, and playing volleyball and baseball. Emmeline and Mollie will be in 6th grade. Although they look different and have very different personalities – and don't always want to be twins – they both enjoy all types of farm animals, especially horses, as well as art and photography.

The Eisenhauer family loves to take long and short road trips, and discover new places. They're always looking for lesser-known places of interest and fun adventures. They like to camp and visit national parks, or just have campfires in their backyard.

Ed and Jess came to St. John's not long after they moved back to Wisconsin. The kids enjoy being involved with various church activities, and they're all happy to call St. John's their church home.

"Fun" Facts:

- What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas – except for what the Eisenhauer's want to share about their life there. All you have to do is ask!
- Ed and Jess like to say they enjoyed a three-year honeymoon while stationed in Italy, traveling as much as they could throughout the country and Europe.
- All in the family: Jess' great-uncle Ray Wiechman was a longtime member of St. John's.



St. John's Veterans Group

St. John's Veterans Group will be having their next meeting at church on Tuesday, July 13th at 9:00am. Our meetings are open to both St. John's Veteran members and non-members, so bring a friend.

Called to Serve

Readers

(8:00 Service)

7/4 Brennan Family
7/11 Laura Bartelt
7/18 Amy Reid
7/25 Jackie Gauger

(9:45 Service)

7/4 Reuben Heidtke
7/11 Scott Dechant
7/18 Sharon Boldt
7/25 Susan Heidtke

Ushers

(8:00 Service)

7/4 Brennan Family
7/11 Skip Bartelt
7/18 George Liberatore
7/25 Mary Bukovic

(9:45 Service)

7/4 Kelly Strnad
7/11 Keith Heidtke
7/18 Dave Williams
7/25 Duane Plath

We are in need of more PowerPoint operators for both 8:00 & 9:45 service. Talk to Wendy Wolf if you might be interested. Training will be provided!



July Anniversaries!

July 7 Ken & Janet Hansen – 65 years
Jason & Jamie Stoecker – 14 years
July 9 Skip & Laura Bartelt – 38 years
July 12 Gary & Sue Kielisch – 46 years
Paul & Beth Mittermaier – 41 years
Bryan & Laura Scheunemann – 34 years
July 13 Jared & Elizabeth Kison – 2 years
July 22 Jack & Lindsey Stern – 4 years
July 24 Butch & Sue Callum – 56 years
July 30 Scott & Mary Novotny – 27 years
July 31 Ken & Carol Jacobs - 50 years

July Birthdays

July 4 Amy Meyers
July 7 Connor Stoecker
July 8 Dave Gardipee
Chuck Heer
Susan Hollister
July 10 Ty Brennan
Randall Hellesen
Kierta Siegert
July 11 Rick Corlett
July 12 Janelle Lisko
Samantha Pietenpol
Kristy Young
July 13 Kathy Hansen
Ella Pickart
Owen Pickart
July 14 Samuel Eisenhauer
Dennis Heider
July 15 Staci Benz
Mary Glocke
Pete Kutzora
July 18 Natalia Haltner
July 19 Hanna Bertucci
Monica Bertucci
Betsy Lauterbach
July 20 Warren Dhein
Robert Glorioso
Robert Hertzfeld
Olivia Micksch
July 21 Sharon Adametz
July 22 Bob Bernau
Clint Corwin
Mike Starzman
July 23 Dennis Liebl
Nadea Oestreich
July 24 Samantha Kreis
Alayna Dorow
July 25 Karlie Binversie
Laurie Matthews
July 28 Heather Anders
Sue Schroeder
Nicole Seatz
Isabella Weninger
July 29 Dennis Leist
Jamie Stoecker
July 30 Barb Miller
Lona Skyles
July 31 Heidi Kressin
Tracy Weninger

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

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 8 & 9:45 am with Holy Communion

Facebook Live at 9:45 am on Sunday

