

# August 2021 Newsletter

## Pastor's Message:

Dear Friends in Christ,

We've spent the last month in the Letter to the Ephesians, which offers both a breathtaking view of God's grace and purposes, plus practical wisdom for living as Christians in a wonderful and crazy world! This is from chapter 4:14f

*We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro, blown about by every wind of doctrine....by deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up into him who is the head, into Christ.*

I look back on the 'culture wars' past and present, and I think of the whiplash many of us feel. Is our greatest enemy Communism? No, must be those protestors! No, must be those feminists! No, it's those flag-burners! No, it's those border crossers! No, it's anyone who voted for....

And these 18 months in a pandemic have done that too: Masks needed? Not needed? Will the vaccines save us? Do we shut down or open up? Do we go out or stay in? There are truly many things and voices that would "toss us to and fro". (And sadly, many who are motivated for one reason or another to do just that to us!)

The antidote for a large portion of these struggles is spelled out in Ephesians: *We're to speak the truth in love, and grow up in every way into Christ!* St. Paul writes how we are "being rooted and grounded in love." How we are "being strengthened in our inner being with the power of the Spirit." The author also instructs us to "put away all wrath and wrangling and anger and slander". And then, get this: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32) What a concept!

There are a lot of hurting people in the community and world right now. Many of them lash out and hurt others. There's plenty of hate and distrust swirling around, tempting us to join in. That doesn't build up anything good, and certainly doesn't help us grow into mature persons or mature Christians!

The way of Christ, the way of Love, is still an option! It's still our calling. And it's still what the nation we live in and the world we are part of-*so desperately need to see!* Don't be afraid to put on your "grown up" eyeglasses, use your grown up heart and mind, and faithfully and steadily and gently and firmly resist all the voices, all the forces, all the short-sightedness that would toss us to and fro! Our lives, our hopes, and the future are safely rooted in Christ!

-Pastor Paul

### Wednesdays are "Church Nights" through August!

Come on over as you are able, and please invite neighbors or friends!

6:00 August 4-Cookout (we'll have burgers/hotdogs, you bring something to share) and Campfire Service

6:00 August 11-Cookout/Activities at Ackerman's Grove County Park (Fish, Swim, Kayak). (This is a 'bring your own' supper.)

6:30 August 18-Game Night at church with refreshments.

6:30 August 25-Orientation/Welcome for New Members!

## June 2021 - Year to Date

### +YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 118,756

Expenses: \$ 100,489

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

### +YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 69,231 Expenses: \$ 60,947

### +YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 3,038 Goal for 2021: \$6,000

### +YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 11,437 Goal for 2021: \$15,000

**Building Loan Balance:** \$ 87,798

## **Building Loan Paydown!**

Thank you to one of our generous members for a \$20,000 gift to pay down our Building Loan. We are 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 \$ 6,675 match!

## **Family Promise – St. John’s Host Week – August 8-15**

St. John’s will provide meals for families the week of August 8-15. We’re still looking for simple meals for our host week. If you can’t provide a meal we can always use breakfast grab and go items. Please call Wendy at church 677-3176 or email [officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com](mailto:officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com) if you’re interested in helping.

Family Promise “Fresh Start” program is under way. A reminder that if you're going on vacation & staying in hotels/motels that we are collecting those little "complimentary" bottles of shampoo, conditioner, mouth wash, etc. to donate to Family Promise. You'll find a basket by the food cabinet for those items. Thanks for helping out our friends in need at Family Promise.



## **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, dads and teens are needed on our staff too!

Last year we started collecting noisy offering for “Kiss the Cow” competition to benefit ELCA Hunger. We plan on continuing donations this summer and will find out what team will “kiss the cow” at our church picnic! The donation jars are located on the table in the Gathering Space or you can mail your donation to the church office. Our teams are #1 Joel Wolf, Travis, Lila, & Mara Prost, Team #2 Staci & Klayton Bohling, Skip Bartelt, & Zach Reinemann, Team #3 is Pastor Paul, (who needs a couple partners!) Load up those jars!

## **Church Picnic**

The church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. We’ll have one service at 9:45 followed by lunch, games, fun & fellowship. Bring a dish to pass if you’re able. We need help with setup and takedown, kitchen help, and people to sell tickets and manage the basket raffle. Sign-ups are located on the desk in the Gathering Space.

We are going to have another basket raffle. We’re looking for gift baskets of all sorts – Gardening, movie, kid’s games, baby, wine/cheese, etc. Baskets must be delivered to church no later than Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at noon. One half of all proceeds will be given to the Good Samaritan fund and one half to our missionaries. If you have any questions talk to Wendy Wolf.

## 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: **Tom Spencer**

As the youngest of six children (the other five being older sisters), you'd think Tom was spoiled, yet he wasn't – at least not from his perspective. But it did make growing up in Wausau “interesting,” with six kids within eight short years. Between a summer cottage in the Tomahawk area and his parents' personal mission to travel as much of the U.S. as possible, there was lots of “bonding” – especially in the station wagon throughout the 40-45 states they covered. But all of that laid the foundation for the close relationships the sibs have now, rallying support for one another in any situation.



Tom's first job at age 16 as a busboy in a Wausau restaurant began his lifelong career in the food business. After college at UW-Eau Claire, he returned to that restaurant for five years, then began as a buyer for a food distributor in Green Bay. His more than 35-year career in foodservice distribution led to many memorable trips in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Tom's current position is with the US Foods corporate headquarters, based in Rosemont, Illinois.

Though all that pales to meeting Melody Hettinga in 1978, at that same Wausau restaurant where Tom began, when he was home for Christmas break from college. After dating for about eight months, he proposed to her on New Year's Eve, they married in May 1980, and started their life together in Green Bay. Moving was not one of Melody's favorite things to do, but job changes over the years landed them in nine different residences – everything from a one-bedroom apartment to houses.

Tom and Melody didn't have children of their own, but they were blessed with eight nieces and nephews, and five godchildren – and spoiled every one of them while enjoying time together. Travel highlights include a very memorable trip to France, Germany, and Great Britain with Melody. Another favorite nearly annual summer spot was Monterey and Carmel on the California coast. Their dream was to be able to retire and spend some time there each year.

But after almost 40 great years together and countless priceless memories, Melody passed away in November 2019. Their families and the St. John's church family, as well as Tom's faith and trust in God, have helped him through, and he's at peace knowing Melody is enjoying eternal life with Jesus. Tom looks forward to retiring in a few years, followed by travel and potentially a move to a warmer climate, where he'll be able to enjoy playing golf more often. But as a lifelong Wisconsin sports fan, he'll continue to wear his Packers colors proudly, as well as the Brewers, Bucks, and Badgers!

#### “Fun” Facts:

- Tom and Melody moved to Jackson the first time in 1996 – they loved it so much they just had to be back, not once more but twice.

- Joining St. John's in 1997 was an easy decision after a personal visit from the church's passionate, self-appointed resident ambassador Fred Heidtke, as well as Pastor Paul and welcoming church members.

- Tom has joyfully used his time and talents to serve on various committees at STJs, including the Endowment Committee; 150th Anniversary committee; various capital campaigns; and on Council, where he was president for four years.

## St. John's Veterans Group

Our next St. John's Veterans Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday August 10th at 9:00am in Church. We encourage both St. John's members and nonmembers to attend our meetings. So bring a friend, neighbor, relative, etc. This is a great way to get together and share our experiences with other Veterans'.

## Called to Serve

### **Readers**

#### **(8:00 Service)**

8/1  
8/8 Joel Wolf  
8/15 Pete Kutzora  
8/22 George Liberatore  
8/29 Dave Williams

#### **(9:45 Service)**

8/1 Reuben Heidtke  
8/8 Amy Reid  
8/15 Susan Heidtke  
8/22 Sharon Boldt  
8/29 Joel Wolf

### **Ushers**

#### **(8:00 Service)**

8/1 Joel Wolf  
8/8 Irv Brandt  
8/15 Jim Kurtz  
8/22 Staci Bohling  
8/29 Joel Heidtke

#### **(9:45 Service)**

8/1 Keith Heidtke  
8/8 Dave Williams  
8/15 Joel Wolf  
8/22 Duane Plath  
8/29 Joel Wolf



## August Anniversaries!

August 1 Steve & Brittany Stockhausen – 6 years  
August 3 Matt & Lauren Krajcik – 2 years  
August 4 Don & Erma Meyerpeter – 59 years  
August 6 Ray & Viola Fischer – 66 years  
August 12 Joel & Wendy Heidtke – 32 years  
Kevin & Mary Bukovic – 26 years  
Travis & Stefanie Prost – 4 years  
August 17 Lucas & Katie Nelsen – 3 years  
August 18 Austin & Kara Prost – 3 years  
August 21 Steve & Judy Henrichs – 39 years  
August 22 Don & Cindy Driebel – 34 years  
August 24 Alan & Char Schweiger – 9 years  
August 26 Joel & Wendy Wolf – 32 years  
August 27 Ryan & Kimberly Byrne – 16 years  
August 28 Garry & Shelly Basing – 45 years  
Don & Dawn Artz – 28 years  
Jim & Sherri Schwefel – 28 years  
Greg & Amy Hennings Canard – 21 years  
August 31 Scott & Jenny Trick – 8 years

If we missed your special day please let us know.

## August Birthdays

August 1 Amber Singer  
August 2 Keith Heidtke  
August 3 Kevin Gierach  
Linda Plath  
August 5 Marlene Blank  
Heather Boesch  
Austin Garbade  
Carl Krueger  
Diane Thomas  
August 6 Joann Berholtz  
Michelle Jones  
August 7 Marcia Earl  
August 8 Liam Anders  
Dale Reisinger  
August 9 Reuben Heidtke  
August 10 Sue Kielisch  
August 11 Greg Holt  
August 12 Emily Kraus  
August 14 Kathy Hauser  
Ken Jacobs  
August 15 Gabe Lauterbach  
August 16 Gary Hainer  
Kevin Reidy  
August 17 Kären Keel  
Erma Meyerpeter  
Scott Novotny  
August 20 Lucas Frank  
William Haddorff  
Charlie Haddorff  
August 22 Dawson Young  
August 23 Dawn Artz  
Sylvia Fields  
Dominic Reidy  
Wendy Wolf  
August 25 Rod Legate  
August 26 William Goodman  
August 27 Kenna Lisko  
August 28 John Chowhan  
Sandy Turbin  
August 29 Vernon Prost  
Tanner Toll  
August 30 Henry Ayers  
Bill Berholtz  
Angel Bialk  
Rose Hamlin  
Keri Kraus  
August 31 Sharon Counard  
Dorene Rudd

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
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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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[officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com](mailto: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**

