

# January 2023 Newsletter

## Pastor's Message:

Welcome to the New Year, Friends in Christ!

Not to start out on a grim note, but 2022 was a difficult year! The war in Ukraine; weather extremes and climate change; divisive politics; inflation; Covid/flu/RSV; a tough Packers' season; and the list goes on. More than once, we have thought and prayed "Come, Lord Jesus-and please make it soon!"

None of us has a crystal ball for what 2023 may bring for us personally, or for the world as a whole. So we begin in trust and hope, that God-Emmanuel, is with us and that God can use us.

About 20 years ago, our then ELCA Presiding Bishop wrote a little book entitled: *A Good Time to Be the Church*. That would be a great motto for us going into 2023. Being the church of Jesus Christ, and being "Church Together", reminds us we are called, blessed, gathered, and sent to share and reflect the light and truth and love of Christ. We do have much of what the world needs! We have truth and love to share. We have compassion and kindness that overflows. We learn and teach servanthood and hopefulness. We breathe and celebrate joy. We need each other, and the world around us needs us to be that kind of church!

I have shared this favorite prayer before, and will again:

*Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* -Pastor Paul

## A New Year is a Gift!

And a good time to imagine what we might do with it-and what God might do with us!

*What can you imagine trying for your own journey of faith in 2023?*

+Is there some study you'd like to try? Or some life-issue we could address together?

+Is there some area of service you could picture helping with? As simple as a reader, usher, greeter, lead-singer, or communion assistant? Or a bit more involved, like Sunday School leader? Someone who can offer rides to appointments? Someone who can grocery shop for a senior? Someone who would be one of our "prayer partners"? Choir or Bell Choir participant?

+Would you welcome some sort of spiritual retreat opportunity?

+Have you ever felt that God is calling you into some sort of ministry?

*And what can you imagine us doing together as a church in 2023?*

+Do you have an idea for something new we could offer as a church?

+Would you welcome the idea of a "servant trip" near or far, to help someone rebuild or recover from a disaster? Could we get more involved with Interfaith Caregivers?

+What if we watched together and discussed an episode of "The Chosen" series on the life of Christ?

+Want to start a Men's Group? Women's study? Couples' group?

*Share some hopes and ideas, please. And always it's good to ponder the question: "Where might God be leading me/us?" Or, "How might God be blessing me/us and using me/us in this New Year?"*

## November 2022 - Year to Date

### +YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 193,716

Expenses: \$ 186,999

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

### +YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 64,777 Expenses: \$ 58,034

### +YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 9,650 Goal for 2022: \$6,000

### +YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 15,571 Goal for 2022: \$15,000

**Building Loan Balance:** \$ 0 (Thanks to God & to All of You) (Gifts are still appreciated for ongoing upkeep & repairs)

Your **2022 Giving Statement** will be enclosed with your February Newsletter on January 29. If you need your statement sooner, please contact Wendy in the church office. 677-3176  
officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com

## Ruth Circle Thanks!

A stylized graphic of the words "Thank you!" in a cursive, handwritten font. The "y" is particularly large and loops around the "o".

The ladies of the Ruth Circle want to thank everyone who donated cookies and baked goods for the annual bake sale! Big thanks to everyone who purchased items too! We raised \$661 to be split between ELCA World Hunger and Crossways Camps.

Got Milk? The congregation responded overwhelmingly to the cookie challenge. We received at least 40 dozen cookies that we packaged up for the Family Promise Christmas Party. And our very own Rick Loehrl was the "big guy" himself at the Christmas party!

St. John's provided 30 gifts for families in Family Promise. Gifts included warm clothing, DVDs, toys, craft kits, and gift cards. We collected a LOT of the basics that Family Promise families need as they transition from homelessness to having a home. Including: 34 various cleaning supplies like dishsoap, paper towels, mops, and cleaners 19 personal care items such as TP, shampoo, lotion, and shaving supplies 7 setting-up-a-home items such as sheets, pillows, and silverware.

Our Winter Warmth Tree was covered from top to bottom with hats for our friends at All People's Church. We collected 54 hats, 44 gloves/mittens, and 27 scarves. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation

### **St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting is January 22 & 29**

Join us at 9:00 each Sunday for a review of the past year, and a look at the new year. We'll share reports and the 2023 proposed budget with you and we'll vote on the budget and various council & committee positions. Reports will be available the 22<sup>nd</sup> for your review. Your participation is valued and needed!

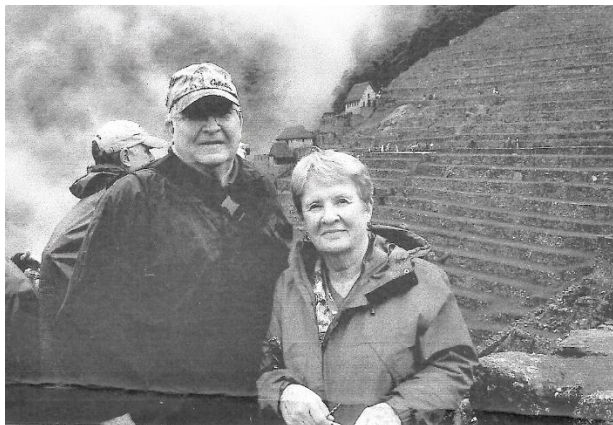
## Christian Education

We'll have another "Getting to Know Your Bible" class on January 22<sup>nd</sup> during Sunday School class. Bring your bibles with you and let us know if you need one!

## 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: **Roger & Donna Lamberg**



Food for thought: Imagine the time before Instacart and other convenient grocery shopping services, when slower-paced life enabled not only a weekly shopping trip but chatting there was a social activity; when friendly full service was the desired grocery shopping experience. Enter Red Owl grocery stores. They may be a thing of the past but once played an important role in Roger and Donna Lamberg's life together.

Donna grew up in Milwaukee and Roger in the U.P. At age 16, they both worked for Red Owl grocery stores in their respective hometowns. After graduating from high school, Roger joined the U.S. Navy, and when his tour of duty ended he again worked for Red Owl. He was transferred to several stores and ended up in Milwaukee at the store Donna worked at. They married, had three children, and moved to Brown Deer. But the story doesn't end there.

They decided to buy not only groceries at Red Owl but the entire Brown Deer store! Donna, Roger, and the kids worked there as a family until the Lambergs eventually sold it. They wanted to remain in the grocery business, though, so they worked in a Cedarburg store until retirement.

Roger and Donna moved to Jackson 25 years ago and joined St. John's, where they remain active and content in their retirement. They have traveled to many countries, going on trips to Europe and on various cruises with Roger's brothers and sister. But the trip Donna loved the most was to Tanzania with fellow St. John's friend Bonnie Puestow. Donna and Bonnie went as guests of Pastor Elias and Elly, and stayed for a month to get the most out of the cultural experience and serve Christ in the world.

### Fun Facts:

- When Roger was a teen, he and his buddies would tie a rope to the back of a vehicle and ski on the roads while being pulled – the frozen version of water skiing.
- Keeping the work in the family, part 2: both sons – one a carpenter and one an electrician – built Donna and Roger's Jackson house.
- On their trip to Peru, not only did they get adventurous visiting Machu Picchu in the Andes Mountains, Roger and Donna ate Guinea pig, a common meat of the Incans – so much so that it's the food served on the platter in front of Jesus in Marcos Zapata's "Last Supper" painting on display in the Cusco Cathedral.

## **Something to Look Forward to - Camp!**

Young people can attend Crossways Camp this summer (the week of July 9), and families/adults can attend Family Camp or Grandparent Camp! Check the date on your calendar! We have scholarship funds to make camp affordable and available! And this is still one of the most fun, faith-boosting, friendship-building things we can do! Talk to Pastor or Wendy for more details. Confirmation families will receive a mailing on signing up for camp - July 9-14.

## St. John's Veteran's Group

Our next St. John's Vet's Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10th at 9:00am at St. John's Church. We encourage both St. John's members and friends to attend our meetings. This is a great way to get together and share our experiences with other Veterans'.

### Called to Serve

#### **Readers**

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

One service at 9:45  
1/8 Lee Anne Runnells  
1/15 Eileen Mack  
1/22 Jake Williams  
1/29 Brennan Family

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

1/1 Reuben Heidtke  
1/8 Scott DeChant  
1/15 Joel Wolf  
1/22 Jackie Gauger  
1/29 Arianna Reinemann

#### **Ushers**

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

One service at 9:45  
1/8 Mary Bukovic  
1/15 Skip Bartelt  
1/22 Dave Williams  
1/29 Brennan Family

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

1/1 Keith Heidtke  
1/8 Judy Henrichs  
1/15 Joel Wolf  
1/22 Jim Kurtz  
1/29 Duane Plath

In February we'll add back our greeters and communion assistants to the schedule! Thank you all for volunteering!



### January Anniversaries!

Jan. 2 Ken & Linda Wills – 19 years  
Jan. 4 David & Barbara Pueringer – 54 years  
Jan. 20 Greg & Jennifer Holt – 27 years  
Kevin & Jamie Reidy – 5 years

### **January Birthdays!**

Jan. 3 Marlene Duchow  
Wes Rauen  
Jan. 4 Jamie Reidy  
Jenny Trick  
Jan. 5 Julie Ostranger  
Jason Pickart  
Peter Ziegelbauer  
Jan. 6 Kristin Dhein  
Sharon Kreis  
Louie Lloyd  
Jan. 7 Elijah Ziemer  
Jan. 10 Tom Spencer  
Jan. 11 David Pueringer  
Marlene Waugus  
Jan. 12 Carrie Schoner  
Jack Ziegelbauer  
Jan. 13 Sue Callum  
Nancy Kinter  
Mary Moschea  
Jan. 15 Aletha Masbruch  
Jan. 16 Kyle Binversie  
Ben Brandt  
Nick Singer  
Jan. 17 Christopher Dechant  
Jan. 19 Jackson Liberatore  
Jan. 21 Michaela Mack  
Jan. 22 Jason Boesch  
Travis Dhein  
Oliver Stern  
Jan. 23 Julie Ayers  
Jan. 24 Matt Hauser  
Kai Henrichs  
Jan. 25 Leah Lemberger  
Jan. 26 Adelynn Guslick  
Jennifer Holt  
Mike Kraus  
Sophie Williams  
Shad Young  
Jan. 28 Jane Christianson  
Jan. 30 Roy Glocke  
Rachel Olafsson  
Benny Ziegelbauer  
Jan. 31 Donna Dahly

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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[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

