

February 2023 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear People of God,

Do you know what an *elevator pitch* is? It's referring to the amount of time that a salesperson might have to 'pitch' their product or company with a stranger, riding up or down in an elevator. That adds up to about 30 seconds to introduce yourself, state your beliefs, and make your point.

As Christians, we would do well to have an *elevator speech* ready. Jesus asked his disciples "Who do you say that I am?" Peter had a good, quick answer: "You are the Christ!" We might tell someone: "I am a Christian," or "Jesus is my Lord and Savior," or "I believe Christ died for me." But, *what does that mean to someone who knows little about Jesus or about the Christian faith?*

So we need to say *more*-not a lot more-but more. *What does it mean to say "Jesus is my Lord and Savior?" Am I trying to say "I live because of Him? I trust Jesus. And I live to serve Jesus?"* What do we mean when we say "Christ died for the sins of the world?" I don't think we can explain to the average person this somewhat questionable tenet that somebody had to pay the price for human sin, and Jesus-the perfect Son of God-did that on the cross. Are we trying to say "I believe that we have forgiveness and life in Jesus' name?" Or "For me, the cross and resurrection are the strongest evidence for the love of God and the power of God?"

Sometimes the words of scripture give us a perfect start for an elevator speech, like "I believe Jesus is *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*. He leads the way. He reveals the truth about God and people. He's the source of life and joy and purpose and hope!"

In a culture where fewer and fewer people have a working knowledge of Christian teachings, much less a connection with Jesus or with the Church, we are called to be witnesses by what we say and by how we live. "Actions may speak louder than words", but words are still important. How about working on that 30 second "elevator speech"? Try it out on a few people. Share it with me! It helps a great deal if we all learn how to speak the language of faith clearly and concisely! I wish I had this all perfected by now, but I'm still working on it too!

-Pastor Paul

Winter is the perfect time to Sign-up for Crossways Camps!

We have some 4-6th graders attending a Build Youth Group Retreat the weekend of March 17-19. You can still sign up, and it may be possible to invite a friend!

Confirmation students (current 6th-8th graders) are strongly encouraged to come to Camp the week of July 9-14. *It will be the best week of your summer! We'll email registration details soon!*

And we're trying again this summer for a St. John's Weekend at one of our camps, for families, kids, grandparents. We'll put a date out there soon!

And any young adults/college students who could consider working at Crossways or SkyRanch or any of our Outdoor Ministry sites are going to discover a great summer job opportunity! They need you!

December 2022 - Year to Date

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 229,460

Expenses: \$ 204,550

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

+YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 77,116 Expenses: \$ 61,501

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 11,820 Goal for 2022: \$6,000

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 18,018 Goal for 2022: \$15,000

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

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Login to your Thrivent account and direct your Choice Dollars to St. John's again this year. Your Choice Dollars do not carry over from previous years. Thank you to all those who directed their choice dollars in 2022. We were gifted just a little over \$2,300.

St. John's Week to Host Family Promise is Feb. 13

St. John's will provide meals for families the **week of February 13-19**. Wendy Wolf will coordinate the meals with Family Promise. You can make a meal 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.

We are still collecting toiletries for our "Fresh Start" program for Family Promise. If you stay at a hotel and don't use the free toiletries they offer you, we'd like you to donate them. Family Promise will use them to make up small care packages for their clients. Please place the items in the marked container found on the Food Pantry shelf.

Kid's Clothing Drive

Thank you for all the donations of kids clothing so far! Donations of socks and underwear are needed now. If you are unable to donate items please consider donating \$10. The confirmation class is going to visit "Our Kid's Closet" on February 27th to do some work and would love to take a check along to donate. You can donate through your offering. (Mark your envelope with "Kid's Closet") **Our Kids' Closet (OKC)** is a Germantown-based charity that provides clothing to low income families in Washington, Ozaukee and Waukesha counties.



Ash Wednesday

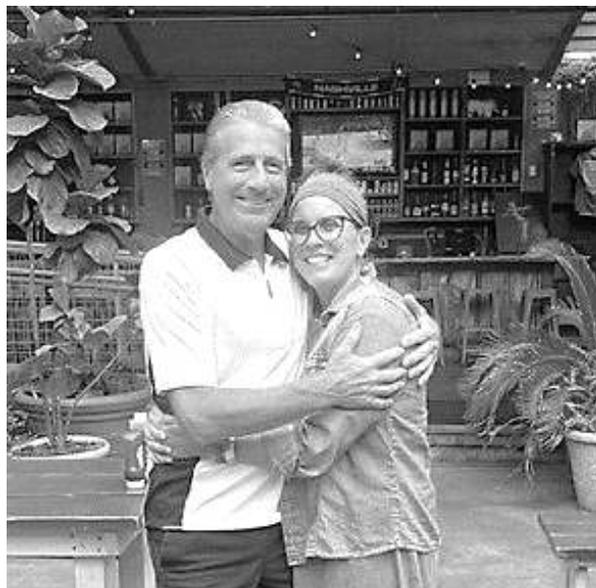
Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. We'll have worship at 11am and 7pm. Ruth Circle is going to prepare a simple supper that evening at 6pm. We'll start Lenten lunches the following week too. Please sign up in the Gathering Space if you or a group would like to host a lunch or dinner.

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: **Steve and Leanne Ports**

Fate, destiny, the hand of God ... the latter being what Steve and Leanne Ports believe is the reason their family ended up here. With no intent of moving from their Illinois home of 20 years, there's nothing else that could possibly have led them to a village named the same as Steve's mother's maiden name: Jackson.



Transplants among the Midwestern states, between the couple they've now lived in five of them! Steve was born in Ohio and grew up in western suburban Illinois. He graduated from the University of Arizona in Tucson with an accounting major. Leanne was raised on a farm in Iowa and graduated with a business management degree from Central Missouri State University. And then there's Wisconsin (saving the best for last!).

Steve and Leanne have been married for 25 years, and became residents of Jackson 2-1/2 years ago when Steve was unexpectedly transferred. Steve works in purchasing at Vistar. Leanne was previously in sales for various food/vending companies and is now a homemaker. Children Olivia (22) is a singer/songwriter and gymnastics coach, and Nick (20) is a business student at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

The family enjoys annual summer vacations, including North Carolina beaches and Nashville. Travels for the couple with Steve's parents have also included Paris, which held special memories being the final trip before his mother's passing.

Steve and Leanne are new members to St. John's but have attended for a year, also watching online prior. Steve enjoys golfing and music in his spare time; Leanne loves to cook and read. Together they enjoy bird and wildlife watching, and just being Wisconsinites in general. All praise to God for His plans!

Fun Facts:

- Vroom, vroom! Steve was fortunate enough to drive a NASCAR car on the Chicagoland Speedway even before NASCAR races were held there.
- Leanne used to love raising and showing sheep in 4-H, and to this day refuses to eat lamb.

St. John's Veteran's Group

Our next St. John's Vet's Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14th 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)

2/5 Laura Bartelt
2/12 Jake Williams
2/19 Jackie Gauger
2/26 Kim Guslick

(9:45 Service)

2/5 Sarah Murray
2/12 Reuben Heidtke
2/19 Sharon Boldt
2/26 Susan Heidtke

Ushers

(8:00 Service)

2/5 Skip Bartelt/Staci Bohling
2/12 Dave & Jake Williams

(9:45 Service)

2/5 Keith Heidtke
2/12 George & Joe
Liberatore
2/19 Jim Kurtz
2/26 Duane Plath

2/19 Tim Kiernan/Joel Wolf

2/26 Paul Stahl/Lee Anne Runnells

Communion Assistants

2/5 Laura Bartelt/Staci Bohling

2/5 Sarah Murray/Laura
Hahn

2/12 Brennan Family

2/12 Diane Liberatore/
Amanda Reinemann

2/19 Jenny Brandt/Joel Wolf

2/19 Jim & Laura Hahn

2/26 Darleen Wanta/Sandy Lippold

2/26 Duane Plath/Jamie
Reidy

Greeters

2/5 Roger & Donna Lamberg

2/5 Darleen Wanta

2/12 Brennan Family

2/12 Dianne Liberatore

2/19 Irv Brandt/Jenny Brandt

2/19 Joel & Wendy Wolf

2/26 Staci Benz

2/26 Dave Williams



February Anniversaries!

Feb. 19 Larry & Barb Hillyer – 57 years

Feb. 20 Bill & Dorene Rudd – 63 years

Dale & Laura Reisinger – 30 years

February Birthdays!

Feb. 1 Peggy Krueger
Feb. 2 Julie Korneli
Feb. 3 Tage Siegert
Feb. 4 Kevin Bukovic
Jim Meyers
Feb. 5 Bill Stephan
Feb. 6 Christian Meyers
Feb. 7 Brock Siegert
Feb. 8 Mason Micksch
Savannah Christenson
Feb. 10 Barb Pueringer
Caitlin Reisinger
Feb. 11 Dianne Liberatore
Feb. 12 Sarah Murray
Tasha Wagner
Cole Stoecker
Feb. 13 Louis Ayers
Feb. 14 Robin Kutzora
Dakota Garbade
Brayden Byrne
Aubree Benson
Feb. 17 Randy Groth
Jayce Liberatore
Feb. 18 Gary Earl
Todd Seatz
Feb. 19 Carey Cameron
Pat Micksch
Feb. 20 Kelly Lloyd
David Frank
Feb. 21 Sharon Boldt
Sean Mickie
Feb. 22 Carol Cler
Rachel Corwin
Lilia Gierach
Feb. 26 Annette Quevy
Dale Dhein
Paul Stahl
Kathy Dalton
Peter Uhlig
Feb. 28 Lynda Tomaz
Feb. 29 George Liberatore

If we missed your special day please let us know.

St. John's Lutheran Church
2881 Division Rd.
Jackson, WI 53037

2022 Giving Statement is enclosed

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

