

January 2024 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Church,

It's a New Year! The old one wasn't so great. What will 2024 bring? There are so many 'unknowns' in the nation and world right now; and in our lives too! Ecclesiastes 3 offers that great poem to end and to begin a year: *For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven...*

Instead of focusing on what we cannot control (like politics, climate, war in Gaza and Ukraine), let's focus on what we can do something about! We can: ground our hearts and attitudes in the Word-who is Jesus! We can center ourselves in regular times for worship and study and prayer. We can serve! (And we want to find some new ways to serve in our community!) We can be people who display the 'fruits of the spirit' (Galatians 5) such as: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, generosity, and self-control*. And we can be people who speak the truth, in love!

A New Year is always a time to ask: *What could we be doing differently or better as a church?* A new "Fitness & Fellowship" group has begun meeting on Wednesday mornings. We're seeking to reinvigorate our Youth Ministry. We have the technology to do Zoom and in-person studies. *What kind of learning conversations would you like to try?* We're exploring the feasibility of a solar project, and two Eagle Scout candidates have some great ideas for our grounds!

And let me start the New Year with a word of thanks: for all our staff and volunteers; for you who faithfully bring your kids to Sunday School and worship; for all those who send cards and make calls to our shut-ins; and for those of you who may not be actively involved right now, but who still hold this congregation and pastor in your prayers! Asante sana (Swahili for Thank you very much!) as we enter into the Year of our Lord 2024.

-Pastor Paul

The Annual Meeting of St. John's happens in two parts: On January 21 at 9am we'll go over reports and nominations. On January 28 at 9am we'll take care of voting items (budget, elections, other new business.) Thank you for participating! Remember all 'confirmed' members are voting members, so your 15 year olds are included in that. *Our Nominating Committee (Donna Lamberg, Scott Novotny, Pete Kutzora) is reaching out to some of you to serve on Council, Audit, Mission Endowment, and next year's Nominating Committee. If you'd like to suggest a name to them, please do so!*

And an invitation: I (Pastor) have been involved in many funerals and memorial services the past couple of years. The best ones have always been where people planned ahead! End-of-life planning is not an easy subject to embrace, but we can talk about it! We have a nice planning sheet you can use and share with us (to keep on file). I'm happy to discuss these things. And, we can have one of our local funeral directors do a session with us on "things to think about" and answer questions. *Let me know if you're interested in either option!*

Year to Date November 2023

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 203,557

Expenses: \$ 209,355

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

+YTD Building & Grounds Fund:

Receipts: \$ 44,442 Expenses: \$ 16,617

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 10,185 Goal for 2023: \$6,000

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 16,846 Goal for 2023: \$15,000

+YTD Good Samaritan (Needs some help!)

\$ 10,743 (We've had some significant needs)

Bob's Under the Bridge

Mr. Bob's still needs men's winter coats in all sizes, either new or in good condition. Coats or other donations may be left in the bin at the top of the stairs.

The next St. John's Veteran's Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday January 9th at 9:00am at St. John's. We encourage both St. John's members and non-members to attend our meetings. This is a great way to get together and share with other Veterans'.

Fellowship & Fitness Group meets Wednesdays from 9-10am in the lower level. If your New Year's resolution is to get more exercise, this group will welcome and encourage you!

Something to Look Forward to - Camp!



Young people can attend Crossways Camp this summer (the week of July 7), 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 Nancy for more details. Confirmation families will receive a mailing on signing up for camp.

Crossways is looking for authentic, impactful, creative, and faithful world changing Young Adults to join their 2024 Summer Staff. Visit CrosswaysCamps.org/employment to learn more or recommend a young adult in your life. (Those who will be 18 as summer starts, preferably with a year of college experience, are encouraged to apply! Summer staff are very important to our Lutheran Outdoor Ministries!

Thrivent \$\$\$ Those of you with Thrivent Financial investments get a certain number of \$\$ to direct to the charity of your choice each year. Thank you for doing that! St. John's or Crossways Camps would be grateful to have you so designate your "Thrivent Choice" dollars!

Born to Eternal Life

+ Larry Hillyer 12/21 + Arleen Ziemer 12/27

January Anniversaries - Congratulations!

January 2 Ken & Lynda Wills 19 years
 January 4 David & Barb Pueringer 54 years
 January 20 Greg & Jennifer Holt 27 years
 January 20 Kevin & Jamie Reidy 5 years

January 2024 Those Who Serve

Readers	8:00	Laura Bartelt	Brennan Family	Lee Anne Runnels	Amy Reid
	9:45	Susan Heidtke	Rueben Heidtke	Laura Hahn	Mary Jost

Communion Assistants	8:00	Laura Bartelt	Brennan Family	Lee Anne Runnels	Jenny Brandt
		Staci Bohling	Brennan Family	Joel Wolf	Eileen Mack
	9:45	Sarah Stoecker	George Liberatore	Jim Hahn	Kelly Strnad
		Joel Wolf	Dianne Liberatore	Laura Hahn	Will Strnad

Ushers	8:00	Skip Bartelt	Darleen Wanta	Joel Heidtke	Skip Bartelt
		Staci Bohling	Joe Liberatore	Paul Stahl	Staci Bohling
	9:45	Keith Heidtke	George Liberatore	Jamie Reidy	George Liberatore
		Duane Plath	Joe Liberatore	Keith Heidtke	Kaden Kasubaski

Greeters	8:00	Bohling Family	Brennan Family	Pam Stahl	Wendy Wolf
	9:45	Nancy Kinter	Duane Plath		Nancy Kinter

Power Point	8:00	Wendy Wolf	Wendy Heidtke	Wendy Heidtke	Scott DeChant
	9:45	Darleen Wanta	Sam & Ed	Scott DeChant	Wendy Wolf

Recording	9:45	Scott K.	Sam & Ed	Jenny	Scott K.
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January Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

January 2 Maggie Hauser
 January 3 Marlene Duchow
 Wes Rauen
 January 4 Jamie Reidy
 Jenny Trick
 January 5 Weston Hauser
 Julie Ostranger
 Jason Pickart
 Austin Skenandore
 Peter Ziegelbauer
 January 6 Kristin Dhein
 Sally Honeck
 Sharon Kreis
 Louie Lloyd
 January 7 Elijah Ziemer
 January 10 Tom Spencer
 January 11 David Pueringer
 Alyssa Schuster
 Marlene Waugus
 January 12 Carrie Schoner
 Jack Ziegelbauer
 January 13 Sue Callum
 Nancy Kinter
 Mary Moschea
 January 15 Aletha Masbruch
 January 16 Kyle Binversie
 Ben Brandt
 Nick Singer
 January 17 Christopher DeChant
 January 18 Zachary Meyers
 Jacob Schwefel
 January 19 Jackson Liberatore
 January 22 Jason Boesch
 Travis Dhein
 Oliver Stern
 January 23 Julie Ayers
 January 24 Matt Hauser
 January 25 Leah Lemberger
 January 26 Adelynn Guslick
 Jennifer Holt
 Mike Kraus
 Sophie Williams
 Shad Young
 January 28 Jane Christianson
 Rick Honeck
 January 30 Roy Glocke
 Rachel Olafsson
 Benny Ziegelbauer
 January 31 Donna Dahly



Getting to Know You!

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

**Getting to know you:
Dee & Dan Johnson**

It is a small world after all. And one that Dee and Dan Johnson help make closer by their actions across the globe and in their corner of it. The AFS program first played a part when Dan went to Australia his senior year at Brown Deer HS. Dee being three years behind Dan didn't know him, but serendipity prevailed (or, "small world"), and they ended up meeting at UW-Eau Claire while Dee was a freshman and Dan was a transfer from UW-Platteville. Dating, Dee graduating from UWEC, and Dan graduating from Palmer Chiropractic College paved the path for them to marry in 1988, and they lived in Port Washington for a decade before moving to Jackson. Simultaneously for a number of those years Dan owned a chiropractic practice in Port until 2000 when two rotator cuff surgeries ended that career. He went back to school for education, and taught anatomy and physiology, and chemistry at Cedarburg HS until he retired in 2020. While Dee held positions at various financial companies in the area, she remained true to the communications/marketing sector and retired from Northwestern Mutual in 2022.

The couple welcomed their first daughter, Melissa, in 1994, and second daughter, Anna, became part of their family through adoption in 2000 when Dan and Dee traveled to China to bring her home. Melissa is an illustrator/art director for Made by Things and works remotely from Tucson, where she and husband Josh live with their three chihuahuas. Anna's degree in environmental engineering landed her a project engineer position for Curtin Marine, and she travels extensively in her free time.

Dee and Dan's AFS involvement added to their family five times over through their love of hosting – and that's just counting the students; their global extended family and the lives they've touched is immeasurable, and in turn their lives are all the richer. Dee is currently the regional AFS orientations coordinator, which has her planning large student events and welcoming new students to Milwaukee every summer, and Dan works with volunteers to ensure Dept. of State standards are met.

Since Dee's retirement, the couple has unofficially put into action AFS's motto "Walk Together, Talk Together" by learning Spanish and immersing themselves in the Mexican culture through winter months-long stays in non-touristy areas where they live like locals, speak Spanish daily, and get to know the people and customs. *Muy bueno!* Some Fun Facts -

- Dee has long wanted to be a barista and fulfilled that dream by volunteering at The Hub in West Bend – a gig through the Volunteer Center of Washington Co.
- Dan also knows "some" Italian (or is that Spanish in disguise?) – welcoming guests as Victor at STJ's annual Italian dinner. And, of course, you've heard him on lead vocals and guitar with the praise band, but his other audio talents include IT, where he's been tweaking the church sound system into its enhanced state.
- Biking, camping, kayaking, hiking, and pickleball are favorite summer playtime activities with their friends; their solo interests are watercolor painting for Dee and being involved with Scouts for Dan, who himself is an Eagle Scout.

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

Happy New Year!

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

