

May 2024 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Representatives of our Living Lord:

I know Easter Sunday was a month ago, but we're still in the Easter season on the church calendar, and we're still in the business of celebrating new life!

Once upon a time, I pictured myself as a potential life-saver. I wasn't a strong enough swimmer to be a lifeguard (an important job to this day!). I did start donating blood as a senior in high school (an important gift still!). Beth and I did CPR training about as soon as it became widely available. (And I'm thankful we haven't had to use that yet! Though my older brother saved a guy who experienced cardiac arrest at the gym about 12 years ago!) I've saved the lives of a few turtles trying to cross the road in the springtime. And actually, I have saved a couple of people from suicide over the years—once by just being there at the right time to call 9-1-1. I thank God I was able to do that!

Come to think of it, *aren't we all—as followers of Jesus and believers in the power of the resurrection—aren't we all called to be life-savers? And life-givers?* In a world where there is so much senseless killing and so many lonely deaths, what do we have to offer?

One thing we do have to offer is the compassion, and the friendship, and the Good News of Jesus! And that was a life-saving and life-giving gift 2,000 years ago when the first apostles went out into the world. And that is a life-saving and life-giving gift today! We can give it in so many ways: There's are growing protests over the war in Gaza (and there probably should be peaceful ones!). But rather than pit one side against the other, can we agree to be pro-Palestinian? Pro-Israeli? And, try this: Pro-Iranian? Aren't all these persons and victims created in the image of God? Isn't war always abhorrent to God's will? Can we be *for* peace and *for* justice in every situation and place?

And the 'lifelines' we get to throw to people can be as simple as a kind greeting to a stranger or newcomer; a phone call to a friend or neighbor; a visit to someone who is lonely or struggling; a meal to someone who eats alone or has too many other things on their 'plate'. *You never know when an invitation to worship, or to a study, or to youth or women's or men's group might be life-giving for someone as well, just to know they would be welcome and might have a change to 'belong' is a gift in itself.*

In the Easter season's scripture readings, we see the work of the early church unfold, and it is life-giving stuff! Peter & John heal a lame man. The community shares its welcome, its food, and its possessions. The good news of a loving God and a living Lord turns people from dead-end paths. The promise that reaches from the last pages of scripture still beckons us: *"See? I am making all things new!"* Thank you for doing the life-saving that you do! Keep your eyes and ears and hearts open for even more opportunities! -Pastor Paul

Our Grief Support Group has begun with a good deal of interest! We'll meet on Mondays May 6 & 20 at 6:30 in the Upper Room. Friends and neighbors are most welcome! Each session, we'll tackle a topic (like 'regret' and 'acceptance'), and encourage one another.

"Bible For Dummies" has also begun on Thursdays at 6:30. You (and friends) are welcome to join in person or via Zoom! See Pastor Paul for one of the yellow "Dummies" books!

Year to Date as of April

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 53,784.61

Expenses: \$ 59,223.82

+YTD Building & Grounds Fund:

Receipts: \$ 7,866 Expenses: \$ 330

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 11,260 Goal for 2024 TBD

Thank you for your regular offerings and to those who have signed up for electronic giving. We sure did generous giving in 2023!

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 2458 Goal for 2024 \$8,000

+YTD Good Samaritan

Rec. \$3480 Dis. \$ 2308 Goal for 2024 \$ 8,000

What's Happening at St. John's

Crossways Camps Registration is still open! Students finishing 6th, 7th, 8th grades are encouraged to come to Confirmation Camp the week of July 7-12. Other ages can sign up for a half-week or full week of camp at Imago Dei Village, Pine Lake, or Waypost camps. *If you have a younger kid who is eager to go, let's find a date and encourage some others to register as well! Campers can start after 1st grade, for a two-night stay! Talk to Christy Abt or Pastor about that.* www.crosswayscamps.org



A "Family Camp Weekend" is planned for June 28-30 at Pine Lake. *Talk to Pastor or Christy to sign up your family and join in a fun weekend of family camping.*

Monday Study at 9am meets with Pastor in the Upper Room. We could include you at home via Zoom as well, if you'd like to participate that way! Let Pastor know.

It's Confirmation Day on May 19th for eight of our 8th graders! We celebrate: Tage Siegert, Zachary Byrne, Audrianna Neumann, Sophie Williams, Ben Hollister, Emmeline Eisenhauer, Mollie Eisenhauer, and Connor Stoecker as they continue to grow in faith and as young adult members of Christ's church!

A Community Engagement Group is forming for those interested in projects and activities that reach out into our area where help is needed, while sharing our message and all we have to offer at St. John's. We'll gather on May 10 at 10am, and you can also talk with Leanne Ports, if you'd like to be part of this!



Work on the Prairie Garden continues. The next step in creating the prairie garden is exciting. With cooperation from the weather, planting will begin in May.

The St. John's Youth Group is selling \$ 20.00 garden certificates that can be redeemed for your choice of beautiful hanging baskets, vegetables for your garden, or your choice of other merchandise at Groth's Country Gardens. The certificates will be sold by the Youth Group between services.



Getting to Know You!

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

Getting to Know You:

Ken and Karen Keel

To say they get around is an understatement. Ken and Kären Keel both grew up in the Swiss Cheese Capital of the U.S. – Monroe, Wisconsin – but from there they spread their wings.

While their paths didn't cross during their youth activities – Ken was a track star and a Boy Scout; Kären was active in 4-H, Girl Scouts, and Luther League – it was Ken's lifeguard job at a park in their hometown where he caught Kären's eye. Following graduation, Ken served in the U.S. Navy aboard the *USS Pocono* in the Mediterranean, and letters flew back and forth between the *Pocono* and Monroe during that time. After Ken's Navy stint was done in 1960, he and Kären became engaged and got married.

Ken graduated from MSOE in engineering. His career was in the foundry business and as a salesman of resin products for HA International for which he traveled to Europe. Kären worked as a legal secretary, and as an office manager for an outdoor advertising company and for an OB/GYN medical clinic.

Come September, they'll be married 64 years! They've raised a daughter and a son, and enjoy two granddaughters and one great-grandson; as well as had two rough collie dogs: Molly and Duchess of Wheaton (nicknamed Duchess Doolittle). Six different cities have been home to the Keels throughout their marriage: Milwaukee; West Allis; New Berlin; Eau Claire; Wheaton, Illinois; and Slinger. And with six different locales came six Lutheran churches – the last one, St. John's, serving as their home church for 34 years! Together, Ken and Kären were involved as church secretary, Sunday school teacher, cleaning crew, stewardship leader and committee, altar guild, council president, usher, and in Bible studies and small groups.

Kären and Ken earn the proverbial prize for having traveled to all 50 states, plus Canada and Australia. Besides going on adventures with Kären, Ken enjoys hunting, fishing, sports, and woodworking. Kären has been a member of a book club for 32 years and enjoys corresponding with her precious friends from around the world.

Fun Facts:

- Ken, his father, and grandfather all worked together at an auto parts store.
- Kären was riding a horse across Custer's battlefield in South Dakota when it suddenly decided to return to the corral at lightning speed as though the ghost of Custer himself was in the saddle. She hung on for dear life, and both horse and rider made it back safely.
- Mowing neighborhood lawns got Ken from footin' it to purchasing his first car – a 1937 Chevy – for \$50. Subsequently, he paid \$125 for his 1946 Ford and \$250 for his 1949 Ford.
- Just for the halibut, Kären caught a 138-lb one while fishing in Alaska!

Happy Anniversary

<i>Roger & Kathy Hansen</i>	<i>52 Years</i>
<i>Ed & Donna Dahly</i>	<i>17 Years</i>
<i>Gerald & Darlene Wanta</i>	<i>25 Years</i>
<i>Kevin & Melanie Gierach</i>	<i>18 Years</i>
<i>Jesse & Dawn Seltrecht</i>	<i>24 Years</i>
<i>Randy & Susan Hollister</i>	<i>30 Years</i>
<i>Bob & Kelly Luce</i>	<i>38 Years</i>
<i>Johnathan & Danielle Friess</i>	<i>11 Years</i>
<i>Sean & Lisa Brennan</i>	<i>25 Years</i>
<i>David & Jessica Frank</i>	<i>21 Years</i>

Happy May Birthdays!

<i>May</i>	1	Carmen Stockhausen
	2	Dan Bartelt
	3	Lexi Dyson
	4	Val Heidtke Darleen Wanta
	6	Lee Anne Runnels Samantha Schwefel
	7	Christy Abt Ann Glorioso Deliah Hauser Steve Korneli Sharon Ziemer
	8	Hannah Hellesen
	9	Darrel Counard Veda Inchaurregui Aiden Owens Laura Scheunemann Kassi Wolf Romelle Worth
	10	Ava Moeller Doug Sharpley
	12	Mark Brodesser Darrick Prost Will Strnad
	13	John Dyson Allegra Groth
	15	Laura Bartelt Kassidy Bohling Abigail Dalton Ellen Devoe
	17	Noah Abt
	18	Jenny Brandt Rich Uhlig
	19	Susan Kerr
	20	Brandon Bukovic Linda Susnik
	21	Josh Kasubaski Pam Stahl
	22	Eric Olafsson
	23	Scott Adams Jake Brennan Lacey-Young-Beine
	25	Cheryl Toll
	26	Greg Grosser
	27	Jessica Eisenhauer
	28	Sean Brennan Ray Fischer
	30	Marshall Singer
	31	Scott Trick

Those Who Serve May 2024					
		5/5/2024	5/12/2024	5/19/2024	5/26/2024
Readers	8:00	Laura Bartelt	Brennans	Lee Anne Runnels	Kim Guslick
	9:45	Sue Heidtke	Rueben Heidtke	Laura Hahn	Mary Jost
Communion Assistants	8:00	Laura Bartelt	Brennans	Lee Anne Runnels	Joel Wolf
		Staci Bohling	Brennans	Jenny Brandt	Eileen Mack
	9:45	Sarah Stoecker	George Liberatore	Jim Hahn	Dan Johnson
		Peter Uhlig	Dianne Liberatore	Laura Hahn	Darleen Wanta
Ushers	8:00	Skip Bartelt	Brennans	Joel Heidtke	Bukovics
		Staci Bohling	Brennans	Tim Kiernan	Bukovics
	9:45	Keith Heidtke	George Liberatore	Jamie Reidy	Kelly Strnad
		Duane Platt	Joe Liberatore	Staci Benz	Will Strnad
Greeters	8:00	Lamberg's	Brennans	Pam Stahl	Wendy Wolf
	9:45	Darlene Wanta	Dianne Liberatore	Perry Benz	Dee Johnson
Power Point	8:00	Wendy Heidtke	Wendy Wolf	Wendy Heidtke	Sharon Kiernan
	9:45	Ed & Sam	Scott DeChant	Scott DeChant	Ed & Sam



St. John's Lutheran Church
2881 Division Road
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

