

February 2025 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Church,

Years ago, our ELCA Presiding Bishop at the time wrote a little book called "*A Good Time to Be the Church*". His basic premise was that the Church, with all its flaws, still exists to offer the world what it needs, because the Church still has the Good News of the Gospel-which *is* what the world needs!

By my estimation, in those 25 or so years since that book appeared, people in general, and the world at large, are even more in need of Good News! People are confused by all sorts of misinformation, and more in need of hearing the truth that God loves the world-and everyone in it-enough to send the only Son! Many people are lonely and more in need of hearing how much we need one another, and how God has designed for us to live and thrive in community! Many are discouraged and more in need of hearing there is hope for creation, hope for peace, hope for renewal. And people are fearful and more in need of Jesus' promise that "perfect love casts out fear!"

The Christmas angel proclaimed that the coming of Christ into the world is Good News for **all** people! If that is true-and we believe that it is-then this is good news for people who are powerless, and people who are in power. It is good news for rich and for poor. It is good news for old and young. It is good news for people on any continent and on any part of the political divide.

And Bishop Anderson's point in his little book was to say: Now is the perfect time and the necessary time to **be** church! Not just to have a building that's reasonably full of worshippers, or a treasury that's reasonably full of offerings; but people who are empowered by God's Spirit, and who are willing and able to bear the 'fruit' of the Spirit in the form of *Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control*.

I still have to believe that these are the things that people need now, that our nation needs now, and that the world needs now. And we are the ones who get to share and teach and show that! You can call me a 'dreamer', and I will respond "For sure! We're all called to be dreamers for the sake of the Gospel, and for the sake of the world!"

-Pastor Paul

Chili Dump and Game Nite! On Sunday the 23rd at 5pm, we'd like to invite the whole church, young and old, families and singles, to an evening of fun and fellowship. If you make Chili, you'd bring some and we 'dump' it all together! (And of course, we can have mac & cheese for kids or adults who prefer an alternative.) Then, we could have a variety of games going on: a Cribbage table, a Sheepshead table, and board games. Let's get together on a winter evening! *Bring a friend!*

Anyone up for 4 weeks of "**Bible for Dummies**" in February? Or 4 episodes of "**The Chosen**" movie series? We have a core group of folks that could gather on Monday evenings (or possibly Sunday evenings!) Let Pastor know, if you're interested and what interests you most!

And something new for women! Racheal Ziegelbauer would like to start a **Women's Study Group**, meeting time and place TBD. We're hoping this might especially appeal to younger women, and neighbors and friends (who are not part of St. John's) as well. Reach out to Racheal at 262.227.7769 or rmziegelbauer@gmail.com and she'll gather interested persons for ideas, schedule, etc.

Annual Meeting Highlights: We elected Katie Schott, Kassi Wolf, and Scott Moschea to Council; Laura Bartelt to Audit Committee; and Pete Kutzora, Darlene Wanta, and Mary Jost to Mission Endowment Committee. We approved a revised Constitution, and the 2025 Budget.

Thanks to everyone that helped or came to eat at the Culver's fundraiser on January 22. The total raised for the Full Shelf Food Pantry was \$307 "earnings" from Culver's, plus \$62 in the donation jar.

Interested in Fun and Fellowship? Wendy Wolf is looking for people interested in joining a new group to help organize some fun and fellowship activities. Email Wendy at clubwolfy@yahoo.com for more information.

We appreciate Sunday Coffee Hour volunteers! Pick a Sunday to bring baked good or snacks of your choice and then provide some simple set up help in the kitchen. Joel or Skip or Paul will make coffee. Others can help with cleanup. We thank you for labeling items with nuts or peanut butter, and for skipping things like Red Punch! Contact Nancy in the office to reserve a date!

Hand Bells practice on Thursdays at 6:30. If you'd like to join in, talk with Marcia Earl!

"Fitness and Fellowship" continues to meet through the winter at 9am on Wednesdays in the gathering space. Everyone is welcome to join, and friends are welcome too!

Monday Study meets with Pastor at 9:00am every Monday in the Upper Room. Newcomers are welcome and we could include you at home via Zoom as well, if you'd like to participate that way! Let Pastor know.

Grief Support Group meetings continue on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at the new time - 2:00pm. Friends and neighbors are welcome also!

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief continues! No experience is needed. The Quilters meet the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 10am in the lower level. (And we have some who sew 'tops' together at home!)

Registration is open for Crossways Camping Ministries! Young students can try a 'short week' at camp (2 night stay), older students can attend for a full week. Confirmation students will attend the week of July 6-11 (and we'll email you parents exact signup details!) There's also Grandparent/Grandkids' weeks, and Family Camp weekends! And, it would be great to have a 'work crew' up at camp for a day or a weekend this spring. www.crosswayscamps.org

End of Year Financial Summary -We finished strong! Thank you so much!

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$251,640

Expenses: \$238,906

+YTD Building & Grounds Fund:

Receipts: \$30,164 Expenses: \$14,770

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

Receipts: \$10,401 Goal for 2025 \$8,000

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

Receipts: \$19,585 Goal for 2025 \$18,000

+YTD Good Samaritan

Receipts: \$11,658 Goal for 2025 \$8,000



Each month we will highlight different St. John's member's so that we can all get to know each other better.

Getting to Know You:

Kevin and Melanie Gierach

"All God's critters got a place in the choir ...," including the cows and steer and goats and dogs that have lived on the farm run by Kevin and Melanie. Kevin is a third-generation dairy farmer on the Gierach homestead—his grandparents purchased the farm in the 1940s and ran it, his parents farmed it, and he took it over in 2002; a country guy through and

through. By contrast, Melanie grew up in Elm Grove/Brookfield and worked for many years as a veterinary med tech after graduating from Carroll College. Kevin and Melanie met through a mutual friend while playing volleyball at Libby Montana in 2005. Melanie loved the Jackson area and Kevin's family—and, most importantly, Kevin!—and so they married in May 2006. The instant family they had with Melanie's two children, Jacob and Kerewyn, was expanded with the birth of Lilia in 2007.

There was a bit of culture shock for Melanie after moving to the country and working with large animals, but she quickly learned as she went and especially thanks in large part to the Farm Bureau. Melanie and Kevin are Farm Bureau members; Kevin served on the board, and Melanie was on the Ag in the Classroom committee. When the children were young, Melanie became involved with 4-H, and held the position of county goat leader and supervisor. Now, Kerewyn mentors two 4-H youth in raising and showing the five goats on the farm, including teaching them tricks like spinning (the goats, not the youth). It's really a Class at the county fairs—no "kid"ding!

Over the course of 18 years, Kevin and Melanie continued the business of milking cows until April 2024 when they sold them. While chasing after loose cows might sound like a fun family activity, nobody misses that. Kevin still raises steer for beef, which the couple began selling to family and friends five years ago. Crops are also a mainstay of the farm, which Kevin's nephew Christian helps raise.

Despite the long, hard hours spent running a farm, Kevin and Melanie kept up with their volleyball league until COVID hit. As a substitute activity, they started playing trivia via Zoom, which morphed into playing America's Pub Quiz with their friend group at local bars. A gifted bunch, Melanie has acted in nine plays with theater company Spotlight Productions and rings handbells at church, Kerewyn was in school choir and plays, Jacob played viola, Lilia played violin, and Kevin was in adult church choir. Proving it's not just the critters on the farm that have God-given talents.

Fun Facts:

- Playing favorites: Melanie's fave role was Mrs. Sowerberry in "Oliver." Being that cranky, mean woman really stretched her acting abilities!
- No more 5 a.m. wake-up moos. Ever since the cows were sold, Kevin gets to sleep in. Not a bad gig if you can get it.
- Gaming galore! Trivia, card, and board varieties aren't the only games the family's into. Lilia and Melanie like to switch it up and play Zelda, Kirby, Mario Kart, and Minigolf with each other on their Nintendo Switch.



*February Anniversaries
Congratulations!*

February 4, 1967 Jim & Barb Hanke 58 years
 February 20, 1993 Dale & Laura Reisinger 32 years
 February 20, 1960 Bill & Dorene Rudd 65 years

+ Born to Eternal Life +

*Geraldine Michalski December 20, 2024
 Cheryl Toll January 7, 2025
 Carol Messner January 12, 2025
 John Chowhan January 19, 2025*

February Birthdays

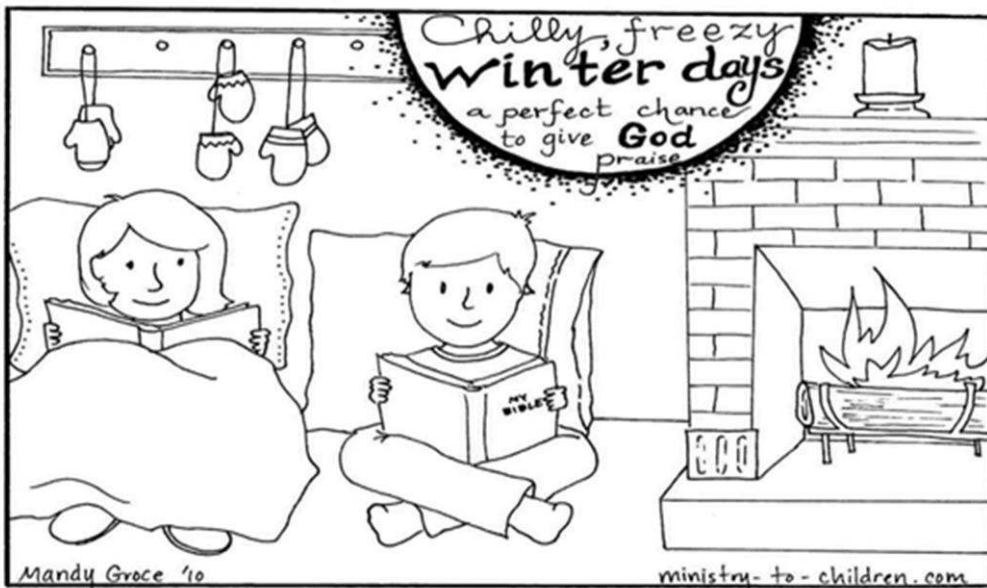
Happy Birthday!



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

Those Who Serve February 2025

		Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 23
Reader	9:00	Kim Guslick	Renee Liberatore	Amy Reid	Jim Gries
Communion Assistants	9:00	Steve Kusch	Dianne Liberatore	Brennan Family	Jim Hahn
		Darleen Wanta	George Liberatore	Brennan Family	Laura Hahn
Ushers	9:00	Kelly Strnad	Staci Benz	Tim Kiernan	George Liberatore
		Will Strnad	Judy Henrichs	Skip Bartelt	Zack Reinemann
Greeters	9:00	Nancy Kinter	Mason Hein	Brennan Family	Joel Heidtke
Power Point	9:00	Scott DeChant	Wendy Wolf	Ed/Sam	Wendy Heidtke
Facebook	9:00	Scott Kinter	Jenny Trick	Ed/Sam	Scott Kinter



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

2024 Giving Statements are 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 9:00 am with Holy Communion

Facebook Live at 9:00 am on Sunday



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WELCOME • WORSHIP • WITNESS