

Spirit Alive

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 2020

From The Desk of Pastor Roald Hartzwick

It's A Risky Business

I am writing this immediately after participating in a Zoom video conference with over 90 Pastors of our East Central Synod of Wisconsin. Kerri Parker, the Executive Director of The Wisconsin Council of Churches, joined us to discuss phases of reopening up the state and its impact on churches. I am sharing only three aspects of what was shared among many others. I do so understanding the desire of all getting back to "things as normal".

1) It will take 12-18 months before we return to a semblance of the past. Social distancing will continue to be the new norm with us wearing protective masks as a way of caring for ourselves and others. This will also be the norm when, and who knows when, we are able to return to worship as we have known it.

(Continued on next page)



President—Kelly Trebus
V. President — Tom Pamperin
Secretary — Liz Fischer
Sue Conradt
Nancy Helms
Mary Hoppe
Curly Krueger
Carol Polzin
Shirl Tischauser
Wanda Tucker

It's A Risky Business

(continued)

2) What would you say are the two riskiest parts of our worship during this pandemic? Yes, celebrating Holy Communion is one. The other...singing! The voice acts as an aerosol and puts forth "droplets" that spread out even with a mask on. Thus it may be months before we are able to safely share in the Lord's Supper and sing.

3) With numbers of infected people and deaths dropping in some areas the tendency is and will be to relax our protecting of self and others. Do not be fooled. Many medical expert's are predicting a second wave of the COVID-19 virus, which is very infectious and dangerous. It is not like the flu.

I want you to be safe. I want you to take actions that will be protective of others and yourself. It is out of Christ's love that we care for others both near and far.

(P.S.-Should you want to talk with me call St. John's Lutheran Church at 715-754-5201.)

God's Peace is With You.

In Pastoral Care,

Pastor Roald Harswick

Family Sunday

If you have liked St. John's Lutheran Church on Facebook you may have noticed some videos from Sparkhouse being posted. These videos will be posted through June 7th, 2020. Each Sunday episode will present a lesson based on Lectionary readings. This is a great way to continue to grow in their faith and be able to witness your faith too.

Closed

St. John's continues to be "closed". With no worship services, meetings, etc. being held. During this Time, Sheri and Pastor will be in the office during the day Monday thru Thursday 8-4:30p.m. Please call 715-754-5201 if you have questions or an emergency. Please leave a message if no one answers. As has already happened funeral services will be held for family (no more than 10 individuals) only.

Online Worship **Continues**

As we follow the pandemic guidelines to not gather for worship, St. John's will continue to share a "mini" worship service online and Facebook beginning at 9a.m. on Sundays. You can join this worship opportunity by following these links: <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsmarion/> or <https://www.stjohnsmarion.org/services/>. You do not need a Facebook account in order to view the messages. Just click on the video.

Recognition of **Graduates**

Normally at this time of year St. John's holds a baccalaurean service to honor our high school, technical college, and college graduates. While this may happen, it may be different from the past.

With this in mind we are asking for you to provide us with the names and schools of all students graduating at this time.

A memento will be presented by St. John's to each graduate. We need to know "Who"?



A Word from Council

Greetings,

Our world has changed. Our lifestyles have been reined in. It's almost as if we've taken a step back in time. We now eat dinner at home with our family. Our social & entertainment groups are exclusively family & only our closest friends (whom we consider to be family). We know where our people are and who've they've been with. We are home at night. Total strangers are putting themselves at risk to help others. Kindness abounds. Why does it take a pandemic, government rules, and fear of death to bring out these qualities? When this is over and the bans and shortages and fear have all lifted, will our compassion for each other also pass? Will we revert back to the same old hustle and forget to pray for, thank, look out for, or simply to greet each other in passing? Of course there have been the negative Nellies, who feel restricted, doomed, & take advantage of others. They are the minority. Humanity and morals are winning this battle. Let's use this "set back" as our enrichment lesson for the future. And remember, in all things our loving and forgiving God is with us!!

Thank you,
Shirl Tischauser

(A member of church council has been invited to share their thoughts with you via the St. John's Newsletter)



Memorials

A special thank you to all those who have given in memory of

-John Knitt

-Hugo Mielke, Jr.

-Marlea Mikulski

Memorials were given to the General, Building, and Sanctuary Funds.

For Comfort In Time of Sorrow

- *John Knitt*
- *Hugo Mielke*
- *Marlea Mikulski*
- *Marion Tischauser*

*"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."
Jeremiah 29:12*

Prayers

- * *Hayden Krueger*
- * *Deb Mielke*
- * *Tami Osman*
- * *Gary Schuelke*
- * *Mitch Tischauser*

NEW: To be in compliance with HIPPA laws, the church will only be adding names of those who you have asked permission to add to the prayer list.

Prayers for Those in Nursing Homes & Assisted Living

- ♦ *Ray Arndt*
- ♦ *Edna Arndt*
- ♦ *Jeanette Hauser*
- ♦ *Ken Mielke*
- ♦ *Joyce Kopitzke*
- ♦ *Carol Hakala*
- ♦ *Cy Gruenstern*
- ♦ *Evelyn Rieckmann*
- ♦ *Doris Aderman*

St. John's Finance Report

Month end: **March 2020**
Year to Date

General Fund:
Revenue \$ 44,483
Expenses \$ 52,830

Benevolence:
Revenue \$2,760
Expenses \$ 420

**Financial Condition-
Balances as of March 2020:**
General Fund \$ 22,173
Building Fund (22,550)
Church Improvements 44,211
Benevolence Fund 2,340
Special Funds 96,242
Check EFT 453
Total \$ 142,869

Current Loan Balances Due:
Endowment \$ 93,496
Student Fund 2,263
Sanctuary Remodel 148,699
Total Debt \$ 244,458

Loan Payments:
Endowment \$ 1,719
Student Fund 494
Sanctuary 9,445
Required Payments \$ 11,658

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Financial Secretary: Mandy Malueg
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Phone: 715-754-5201

Website: www.stjohnsmarion.org
Email: churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org
Finance Email: accounting@stjohnsmarion.org

Offerings Needed

During these days when regular worship times have been suspended, St. John's continues to function. This means we continue to have bills to Pay and financial obligations to meet. Please continue to support St. John's by getting your offering to us on a regular basis.

We know that some may have been laid off, etc. and are out of work with limited, if any, income. We understand this and do not seek to put any pressure upon you.

During this time, **St. John's will continue to be in need of your offerings.** Please consider one of the following ways:

1) Sign up for online giving through filling out the application on our website under:

Publication>Information&Forms> Stewardship and click on online giving or if you are able, click on the link below for the application: <https://www.stjohnsmarion.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Online-giving.pdf>. After you fill out the application email to stjohnsfinance@gmail.com.

2) Use the offering envelopes assigned, put a stamp on it, and send it in the mail.

3) Set up Bill Pay through your Financial Institution.

4) Donate on the website on the Home page scroll down past Church Events to Donate. Enter the amount to donate and under which Fund is desired.

A Flower For Mom

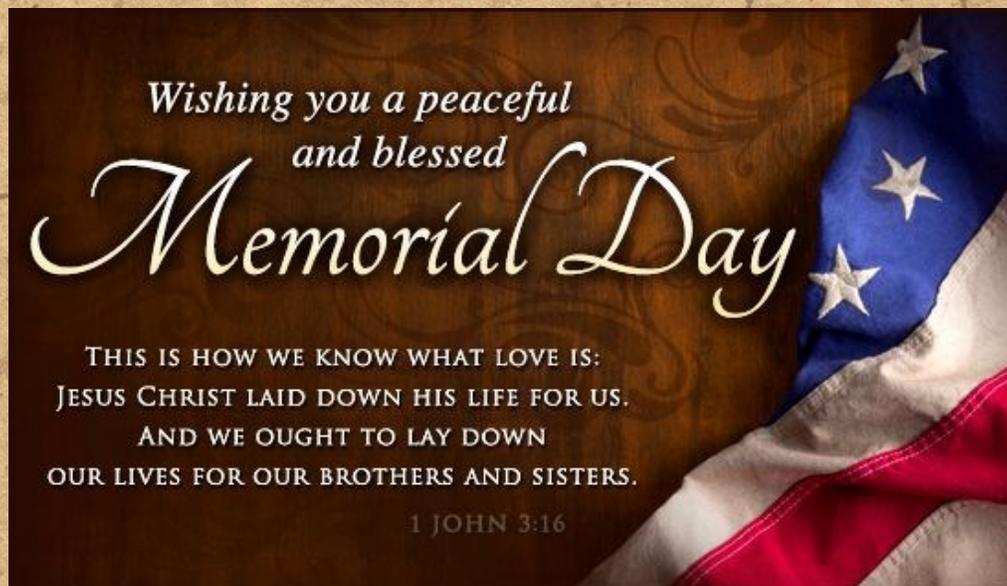
On Mother's Day, May 10th, St. John's will be sharing a flower with moms. This will be done as we did with palm crosses on Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion. We invite you to use the car port to do this from 9:30a.m. to 11:30a.m.

Please please please – enter the church parking lot from East Ramsdell St/ County Road S, drive over to the car port-lower your window-and a flower will be given to you. When you have received your flower, please drive away. Due to the current pandemic we will not be engaging in conversation at this time.

A blessing to all moms (and dads, and all families) on this special day.



Veterans, thank you for your service!



TOMBSTONE PIZZA

THE OFFICIAL PIZZA SPONSOR OF THE RESURRECTION



Our Family® Labels

The Sunday School is collecting *Our Family®* barcodes. For each barcode collected 5¢ is earned. Cut out the *bar code* from *Our Family®* products. Baskets are placed in the *Great Room* and *Car Port*.



May needs are the following:

- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Tuna
- Soup

The Food Pantry is still accepting donations in the drop box outside. For more information or questions call Pat Leach at 715-754-2665.

Econo Foods Receipts

Remember to keep your *Econo Foods* receipts. Drop them in the basket in the *Great Room* or by the *Car Port*. Please make sure when you turn your receipts in they are in-tact. Any money collected goes to our Building Fund. Ask your friends and family if they are willing to collect their receipts too. We receive 1% of the total.

Church Bells

Perhaps you have heard St. John's Church Bells ringing at noon times. They are ringing to remind all of us that during these trying times God remains faithful in His promise to be with us. When you hear them ringing, if able, offer up a short prayer for health and healing for all throughout our community and world.

Worship Text

Sunday, May 3, 2020-Fourth Sunday of Easter

Prayer of the Day

P: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Sunday, May 10, 2020-Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 17, 2020-Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 24, 2020-Seventh Sunday of Easter

Prayer of the Day

P: O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Gospel: John 17:1-11

Sunday, May 31, 2020-Day of Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Gospel: John 20:19-23



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
318 E Garfield Ave • Marion, WI 54950

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