



# Spirit Alive!

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2020

## COVID-19 Task Force Update

On Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, the re-opening task force met with Pastor Sara.

Discussions were held about future plans concerning gathering for worship at St. John's due to COVID-19.

At this time, there are no immediate plans to gather for in-person worship. The online worship services will continue.

Some of the task force members and the pastor have been receiving comments from other members about the desire to receive communion. This concern was addressed. It was agreed to begin offering communion via grape juice/wafer kits, by handing the kits out through the car port drive up. Since the communion kits might take some time to receive once they are ordered, it was agreed to start offering this service beginning in October.

**There will be two times when members can obtain the communion kits. Wanda Tucker and Mary Hoppe have agreed to be at the church car port from 9:00 –**

**11:00a.m. on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> to hand out kits. Pastor Sara has agreed to be at the church car port from 9:30 – 11:30a.m. on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> to hand out kits as well.** Members that receive the kits on Saturday can hold onto their kits and during the online service on Sunday, Pastor Sara will instruct members at a certain time to take out their communion kits and receive the sacraments. Members that receive kits on Sunday can partake at that time.

Other areas discussed were confirmation. It was agreed to proceed with confirmation classes adhering to guidelines of no more than 25 people, socially distanced and masks required. These same guidelines will be followed if the need for a funeral arises.

The task force plans to meet again on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00.

Respectfully,  
The task force team: Linda Mielke, Wanda Tucker, Mary Hoppe, Brenda Krueger, Jackie Suehring, Carrie Lenoble



**President—Kelly Trebus**

**V. President — Tom Pamperin**

**Secretary — Liz Fischer**

**Nancy Helms**

**Mary Hoppe**

**Curly Krueger**

**Carol Polzin**

**Shirl Tischauser**

**Wanda Tucker**

**Please contact the council members for any concerns.**



## From the Desk of *Pastor Sara Gorman*

People of St. John's! It is so good to be here with you all. Now as I've mentioned in my sermons, this is not the way I intended for us to meet, but I am hopeful that I will still get to know each and every one of you, even if it takes a little longer! Since I've only been at the church a few days, I don't have much to share with you all, but I'm going to guess that you're really interested in who I am. So, I asked Sherri to interview me, and here is the transcript from that interview:

**Question:** Who are you?

**Answer:** I'm Pastor Sara Gorman, and I moved here from California via Minnesota. I grew up in the Central Valley of California and lived there until I left for seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. While at seminary, I met my husband, Patrick, (although he's not a pastor) and we got married almost a year ago! We lived in St. Paul until our lease was up, then lived in Milwaukee for a couple months, and now live in Clintonville!

**Question:** What do you like to do when you're not doing church-things?

**Answer:** I really love reading. In fact I participate in these things called launch teams where I get the opportunity to read a book before it is published. It's opened up my library quite a bit! I also really love crafting. I mostly knit, crochet, or cross-stitch, but occasionally dip my hands in some other activities.

**Question:** What is something you've cooked/baked recently?

**Answer:** Patrick and I made oatmeal chocolate chip cookies last weekend, and we made enchilada casserole for dinner the other night.

**Question:** Have you always been Lutheran?

**Answer:** Well, some people would call me a cradle Lutheran. I was baptized in the ELCA, confirmed in the ELCA, and had my

first ministry job as a youth director in the ELCA. Then, I went to an ELCA seminary, so the Lutheran blood runs through my veins.

**Question:** What is something you are deathly scared of?

**Answer:** Scorpions. Or things that bite me and I don't even know they're around.

**Question:** If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go, and why?

**Answer:** Guatemala. Or Mexico. Or Slovakia. I'm really open to travelling anywhere. In each of those countries I felt really close to God, I think mostly because I didn't have cell service. I was also able to get to know individuals in each country no matter the language barrier. Each trip was memorable in its own way, and I would love to experience it all again.

**Question:** What do you love about Wisconsin?

**Answer:** The beer and the cheese.

**Question:** What's your favorite food?

**Answer:** I really like anything that falls into the Mexican food category. I like the spices and the flavor of it all, and having grown up in California, I know what the good stuff is!

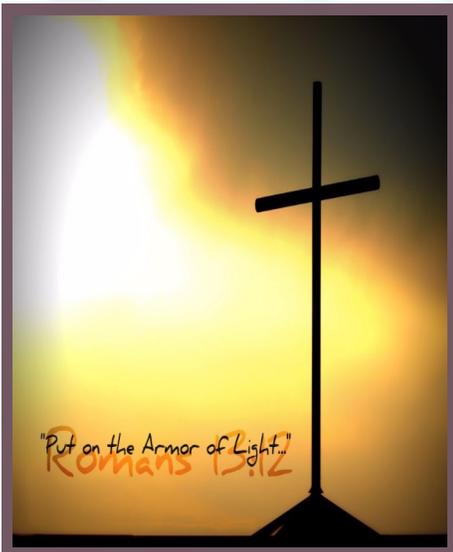
**Question:** What's your favorite season?

**Answer:** I really like fall. It's proof that change can be beautiful, or so says a box I got in the mail recently. I also like fall because the bugs die, and the evenings are crisp and cool.

**Question:** What are you most looking forward to in this call?

**Answer:** Getting to know each and every one of you for who you are, and what your passions are. I'm especially excited to connect with the youth as they don't roll their eyes as hard when I share my jokes. Or maybe they do, and I just don't notice as much.

<>< *Pastor Sara*



## Sunday School

Please watch for videos shared on our Facebook page. You do not need an account to watch. We are working on a Sunday School at home kit. More information to come.

## Confirmation

On Wednesday, September 16, 2020 Confirmation families met together to discuss the 2020-2021 Confirmation year. It was decided those in 9<sup>th</sup> grade this fall would be Confirmed in the springtime with the hope of having an in-person worship service to celebrate. Those in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:15p.m. **Watch for details each week about class being zoom or in-person.**

For families of Confirmation students please be checking your email for updates regarding Confirmation and adult assistance!

## Reformation Day, October 31st

A German scholar and monk named Martin Luther was upset that a representative of the Catholic Church was coming to his hometown of Wittenberg, Germany to raise money for the construction of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The church planned to sell "indulgences"—a way of winning remission from penance in this life or in purgatory, by making a donation to the church. There was a popular saying of the time: "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs." Luther wasn't having that, and he wrote down his reasons—his 95 Theses or grievances against the Pope and the Church. On Oct. 31st, 1517, he nailed them to the door of Castle Church in the center of town.

His main idea was that man enters heaven not through sacraments like baptism or absolution but THROUGH FAITH ALONE - - - "sola fide," in the Latin of the Church. Luther had five "solas" he believed Christians needed: faith, scripture, Jesus, grace and glory.

Luther wrote "all begin to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith." He also wrote "here I felt as if were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open."

Thanks to the newly invented printing press, Luther's theses were printed, translated into different languages and spread around Europe. The protestant reformation was born. About 70 percent of Americans now identify as some sort of Christian.

Luther was excommunicated from the Catholic Church. Luther later married Katharine von Bora, a runaway nun. Luther helped her escape the convent in a fish barrel. He lived a happy, if poor life.

We normally celebrate the Sunday before October 31st. A popular hymn sung on Reformation Sunday is "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" with words and music composed by Martin Luther.

5 Bible Passages to read on Reformation Sunday:

1. Galatians 2:16-21
2. 2nd Timothy 3:14-17
3. Romans 5: 1-2
4. 2 Corinthians 5: 18-21
5. Ephesians 2: 8-9: "For by grace you have been saved by faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."

**Prayer: "Lord, bless our Church. Fill it with truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it, where it is in error, direct it, where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need; provide for it; where it is divided; reunite it; for the sake of your Son. Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.-Amen"**

-Nancy Helms



www.terilynneunderwood.com

---

## **Prayers**

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| * <b>Brian</b>    | * <b>Jayme</b> |
| * <b>Darla</b>    | * <b>Jim</b>   |
| * <b>Deb</b>      | * <b>Ken</b>   |
| * <b>Doris</b>    | * <b>Mitch</b> |
| * <b>Gary</b>     | * <b>Steve</b> |
| * <b>Germaine</b> | * <b>Tami</b>  |
| * <b>Grace</b>    |                |

---

## **Prayers for Those in Nursing Homes & Assisted Living**

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| ◆ <b>Edna Arndt</b>   | ◆ <b>Evelyn Rieckmann</b> |
| ◆ <b>Ken Mielke</b>   | ◆ <b>Doris Aderman</b>    |
| ◆ <b>Carol Hakala</b> |                           |

---

## **For Comfort In Time of Sorrow**

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • <b>Raymond Arndt</b>          | • <b>Joyce Kopitzke</b>  |
| • <b>Gordon "Bud" Papendorf</b> | • <b>Marlea Mikulski</b> |
| • <b>Melvin Hangartner</b>      | • <b>Erma Stevenson</b>  |
| • <b>Edna Hoppe</b>             | • <b>Jeanette Hauser</b> |
| • <b>John Knitt</b>             | • <b>Cy Gruenstern</b>   |

---

## **Memorials**

A special thank you to all those who have given in memory of  
- **Cynthia Noack**

Memorials were given to the Sanctuary fund.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Save the UPC symbol from Best Choice and/or Clearly Brand products. Cut the UPC symbol from labels or cartons. For every 1000 labels saved, St. John's Lutheran Church will earn \$30.



St. John's is still collecting *Our Family*® barcodes for Sunday School. Each barcode collected 5¢ is earned.



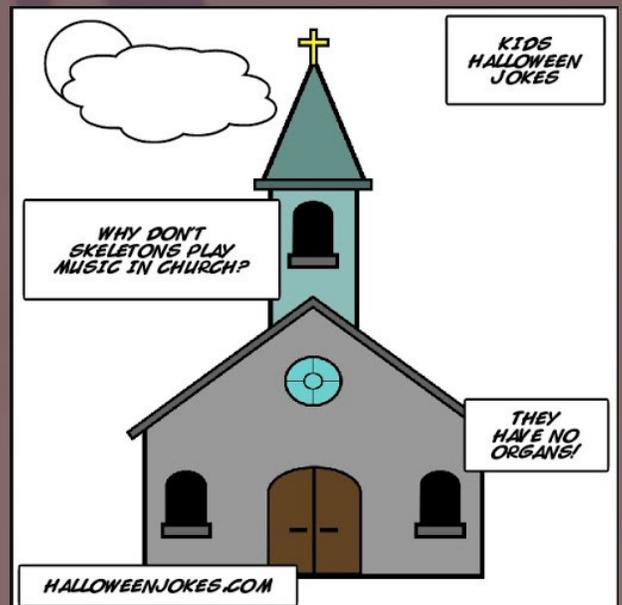
Remember to keep your *Econo Foods* receipts. Drop them in the basket in the *Great Room* or by the *Car Port*. Please make sure when you turn your receipts in they are in-tact. Any money collected goes to our Building Fund. Ask your friends and family if they are willing to collect their receipts too. We receive 1% of the total. St. John's received \$501.62 from the receipts collected this first half of this year.



October needs are soup, tuna and cereal. For more information call 715-754-2665.



For questions about Mama's House of Hope call Bev or Clara at (715) 754-6262.





# OCTOBER 2020

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	15	16	17
9	10	11	12	13	14	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

# St. John's Finance Report

Month End: September 2020  
Year to Date

## General Fund:

Revenue	\$ 105,537
Expenses	\$ 120,512

## Benevolence:

Revenue	\$ 6,847
Expenses	\$ 4,564

## Financial Condition-

### Balances as of September 31

General Fund	\$ 29,668
Building Fund	(21,456)
Church Improvements	51,711
Benevolence Fund	2,428
Special Funds	105,117
Check EFT	<u>228</u>
Total	\$ 167,696

### Current Loan Balances Due:

Endowment	\$ 84,918
Student Fund	(222)
Sanctuary Remodel	126,771
Payroll Protection Prog.	<u>15,212</u>
Total Debt	\$ 226,679

### Loan Payments:

Endowment	\$ 2,000
Student Fund	500
Sanctuary	<u>5,000</u>
Required Payments	\$ 7,500

## Contributions

If you would like to make a contribution to St. John's Lutheran Church, please scan the QR Code to be directed to PayPal.



# Offering

giving back to God

## How can I give an offering?

- 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 [https://www.stjohnsmarion.org/hp\\_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Online-giving.pdf](https://www.stjohnsmarion.org/hp_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Online-giving.pdf). After you fill out the application, email to [stjohnsfinance@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## St. John's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 235

318 E. Garfield Ave.

Marion, WI 54950

Pastor: Rev. Sara Gorman

[pastorsara@stjohnsmarion.org](mailto:pastorsara@stjohnsmarion.org)

(920) 710-2881

Office Manager: Sheri Fuhrman

Janitor: Brenda Krueger

Maintenance: Tom Kraeger

Financial Secretary: Mandy Malueg

[stjohnsfinance@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsfinance@gmail.com)

Phone: 715-754-5201

Website: [www.stjohnsmarion.org](http://www.stjohnsmarion.org)

Email: [churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org)

Finance Email: [accounting@stjohnsmarion.org](mailto:accounting@stjohnsmarion.org)



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

**Non Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Marion, WI**  
**Permit No. 13**



*Electronic Service Requested*

*Dated Material Please Do No Delay!*