



APRIL NEWSLETTER 2023 – ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## *Influence.*

At a recent gathering with a larger group of people, we were asked to think about that word and someone in our lives who had been a big influence on us. We were then asked to write down on 3 separate post it notes, 3 characteristics of that person. We were seated at tables of 6 and once we were done writing down those 3 characteristics, we were asked to share with the person across from us. I had chosen my mom and wrote down the 3 words "Smile, Joy, and Happiness" as she certainly portrayed all those to me and so many others. When it came time to share with the other person, I went first, shared the word and who it was that had influenced me. Then the person across from me, who was mainly known to me just by name, shared their 3 words. Their words were "Grace, Mercy, and Love" and they went on to say it was our Lord, Jesus Christ. I was so humbled and touched that 1. This person chose Jesus as the one that had influenced them and 2. That they were openly willing to share that with someone they really didn't know. It was truly a huge God moment for me that day. As I thought about it more, I thought, "What a wonderful testament to the ways God works in our lives and those around us and those we don't even know." And, yes, God's grace, mercy and love is given to us all in abundance and more!! (in those brief seconds comprehending what this person had just shared with me, my quick reply was "He's that and more") At that moment, I would have liked that conversation between us to continue, but that moment is what God gave me that day. As we prepare to celebrate the joy of our risen Lord at Easter, I ask you to think about the many ways He has influenced your life. He is risen!! Alleluia!! Blessings, Linda Mielke



**President—Amy Bazile**  
**V. President —Ron Krueger**  
**Secretary —Mandy Malueg**  
**Pat Breitenfeldt**  
**Mary Hoppe**  
**Melissa Pfeiler**  
**Linda Mielke**  
**Brian Sawall**  
**Shirl Tischauser**  
**Kelly Trebus**  
**Wanda Tucker**  
**Please contact the council members for any concerns.**

## Pause Ponder Pray

About 15 years ago I was attending the afternoon Good Friday service. You all know the setting. The altar was stripped of all adornments. The cross with the black shroud draped over it was in the corner. The music was reflective, sad, and mournful. The readings from the lectern recited the horrible last couple of days our Savior endured before hanging on the cross, a slow excruciating death.

For all the years I've attended this service it has never been easy. Tears blur my eyes as I am reminded what Jesus had done for us.

That particular Friday service I was seated behind a young Mom and her little girl. Towards the end of the service the young Mom was overcome with sadness as the scripture reading recited again the ultimate death of our Savior in a horrible, painful manner.

The young mother had her head down; and though I couldn't see her eyes I knew they were blurred with tears.

Her young daughter, at that moment, touched her mom's arm and whispered, "It's okay Mom, he's coming back."

Fortunately for me, I heard that assurance as well from that wise child.

It's important to walk the Lenten journey every year. It is important to be reminded of the ultimate sacrifices God has made to redeem us from our sins. It is important to be reminded His sacrifice made everlasting life possible for us all.

The journey brings us to Sunday. Maybe **SONDAY** is more appropriate.

The Fridays of our lives can often seem overwhelming. We need to hang on, **SONDAY'S COMING!!!**

**Sunday** gives us Hope-**Sunday** gives us Life-**Sunday** redeems US.

As my young friend so aptly said:

HE'S COMING BACK-HE IS BACK-HE IS BACK-HE IS BACK!!!

My everlasting thanks to that little girl who reminded me of the rest of the story.



# Light or Night

*Whoever says, "I am in the light," while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. (1 John 2:9)*

A rabbi asked his pupils how they could tell when the night had ended and the day had begun. "Could it be," asked a student, "when you see an animal in the distance and know if it's a sheep or a dog?" "No," said the rabbi. "Is it when you see a tree in the distance and you can tell if it's a fig tree or a peach tree?" asked another. The rabbi said, "It is when you can look on the face of any man or woman and see that it is your brother or sister. If you cannot see this, it is still night."

Judgements come easy for us. Race and gender differences, or the neighbor's unkept yard next door, can easily bring judgements and accusations. Charlie, a farmer, explained to the pastor why he didn't attend church: "I only have overalls to wear and wouldn't feel comfortable." Jesus would say, welcome, Charlie! How often do we dismiss those who Jesus would accept? Do I find myself in the light or still in the dark?

**Loving Christ, give me a caring and unbiased heart. Amen.**

***Prayer concern: Those who feel alienated from the church***

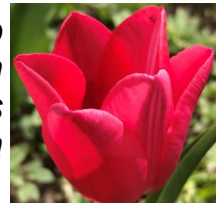
***Psalm 119: 1-8; Leviticus 26: 34-46***

Bradbury, Gene G. *The Word in Season. Large Print Edition. January, February, March 2023. Volume 91 Number 1.* Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2022, p 43.



## Quotes for Thought:

• *There are only two ways to live your life, one is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.-Albert Einstein*



• *Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.—Hebrews 13:2*

• *Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving, he said, "I hope you feel better soon."*

Nelson, Janece. *Devotion: Empathy for Others.* Feb 06 2020. Sheridan Lutheran Church. Accessed March 20th, 2023 from: <https://sheridanlutheran.org/>

# Death doesn't win

In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.



During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter's backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter's foreground means death won't win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life "isn't all daffodils," we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will "give us the joy, and it's going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well," added the pastor. "And that just makes me draw closer to God."

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## Jesus answers our uncertainties

Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus' death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus' responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: "Touch my body" — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.

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## Facts, not futility

"If the resurrection of Jesus Christ did not happen," writes Mary Fairchild, "then the apostles were all fakes and everyone throughout history who has ever testified of Christ's power is a liar. If the resurrection did not happen, then Jesus Christ has no dominion over life and death, and we remain lost in our sin, destined to die. Our faith is useless." Paul sounds a similar tone in 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, saying unless Christ was raised, any preaching about him is "in vain" and our faith is "futile" (ESV).

Praise God that he doesn't leave us in suspense. Unlike Thomas, we don't need to doubt Easter's good news. With utter certainty, Paul continues: "But in *fact* Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (vs. 20, emphasis added). So let us rejoice with the apostle: "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (vs. 57)!

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## SCRIPT CARDS

**Mama's House of Hope** has teamed up with **St. Vincent De Paul** to help ANYONE in need within the Marion/Tigerton/Wittenberg area.

To help with this very worthy cause an ongoing fundraiser has begun.

SCRIPT cards, to any SHELL station, are being sold. These cards are good for gas or anything in the store.

Cards can be obtained from Jackie Suehring or the church office.

If you would like several cards, please contact the church office, Jackie Suehring, or Pat Breitenfeldt (St. Vincent De Paul board member).

## Call Committee Update

The Call Committee would like to keep you informed on the process for calling a new Pastor.

We have received 2 applications from the Synod. We are currently in the interviewing process with both candidates.

While we are pleased to have candidates, no decisions have been made other than to start the interview process. For confidentiality reasons, we cannot share any information about the candidates. It is too soon to give any type of timetable, but we will keep you informed as we progress.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we continue the process of calling our next pastor!

*Members of the Call Committee: Tracy Conradt, Tom Pamperin, Sharon Piastowski, Kay Tellock, Jackie Suehring; Alternates: Jackie Stuhr, Lee Kersten*



### Crossways Camp

Crossways Camping Ministries is a Lutheran camping ministry based in northeastern Wisconsin. The organization operates three ACA-Accredited outdoor ministry sites: Imago Dei Village in Clintonville, Pine Lake Camp in Waupaca, and Waypost Camp in Hatley. Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, they value ecumenical partnerships as well as partnerships with community organizations throughout Wisconsin. The organization is grateful for the support of congregations from three synods in the ELCA (East Central Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee Synod, and South Central Synod of Wisconsin).

At Crossways Camps, campers will:

- Engage their faith in experimental ways

- Care for creation through immersion in the vast outdoors, wooded sanctuaries and pristine lakes

- Build Community and practice skills like collaboration, active listening, and problem solving.

- Be surrounded by welcoming hospitality where they are loved for who they are.

- Experience discovery and develop curiosity as they try new challenges supported by leaders and peers.

There are a variety of different camps that are available for all ages including Day Camps, Weekly Camps, Confirmation Camps, Backpacking Camps, Family Camps, Grandparent Camps and Specialty Camps for Crafters and other groups. Crossways Camping Ministries respects the rights and dignity of every participant, volunteer, and staff member. They create a place of acceptance and belonging for people of different backgrounds and abilities, and promote a community of equals, where every member is respected.

It takes many people working together to make this camping ministry possible. Personal donations, church benevolence, Thrivent Choice dollars and Thrivent Action Team funding help offset the expenses incurred by Crossways. This wonderful ministry is giving others the experiences of spiritual growth, character development, and unconditional love.

Scholarships through Crossways and Camperships through St. John's are available to help offset the costs of camp and are due by April 17th to the church office. The camp scholarship application can be found at <https://www.stjohnsmarion.org/information-forms/>.

For more information about Crossways, contact them at 920-882-0023; e-mail [info@crosswayscamps.org](mailto:info@crosswayscamps.org) or visit their website at [www.Crosswayscamps.org](http://www.Crosswayscamps.org).

## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will resume Wednesday, April 19th through Wednesday, May 17th. Confirmands, please remember to attend worship and complete your confirmation requirements throughout the rest of Lent and Holy Week.

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## First Communion Classes

The first communion classes will be on Sunday, April 2nd (Palm Sunday) and 16th at 1p.m. A parent or guardian is required to attend with each child attending the class. The students will be recognized on Sunday, April 23rd at one service at 9:30a.m. in the Sanctuary.

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## 2023 High School and College Graduates



We will be honoring our 2023 graduates during the 8a.m. and 10:30a.m. services on May 14th. Graduating high school seniors and college graduates, please contact the church office via email [churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org) with your full name (including middle name), a picture of yourself, and your future plans by April 24th. If you will not be able to attend the service, please let the church office know.

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## House Burn Victim

On the morning of March 1st, Ty Schmidt, a Marion local, woke up to the smell of gas in his house. When he checked the furnace, it exploded. Ty is at UW-Madison Burn Center and has second degree burns from his head to his toes. There are buckets set up throughout the town of Marion. A Go Fund Me Page is set up at <https://gofund.me/f0c4665d> for anyone who would like to help Ty as he lost everything in his home and will have extensive medical bills, while being off work.

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## Summer Worship Schedule

The summer worship schedule will begin on May 28th. Sundays will be one service at 9:30a.m., alternating worship spaces during the summer. May 28th-June 25th, services will be held in the Come Alive space. July 2nd-August 13th, services will be held in the sanctuary and August 20th-September 3rd, services will be in the Come Alive space. Wednesday night services will be an outdoor service.

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## Sunday School

We are starting to look ahead to the 2023-24 Sunday School year. We would love for you to be a part of our Sunday School team. We are looking for teachers, helpers, and people to help run the movies and make popcorn when we are in theater. It may sound a little scary, but we are hoping that you may take a little time in the next few months to come and see what it's all about. Please feel free to drop in to help/observe. Many hands make light work so please prayerfully consider helping with Sunday School.

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 9th or Sunday, April 23rd. The last day of Sunday School will be May 21st.

# 2023 St. John's Lutheran Church Marion

8:00 a.m.

## Community Lenten Breakfast menu:

**Week 6.** Thursday, April 6:

Speaker: Jackie Suehring, From: St. John's Lutheran Church, Marion

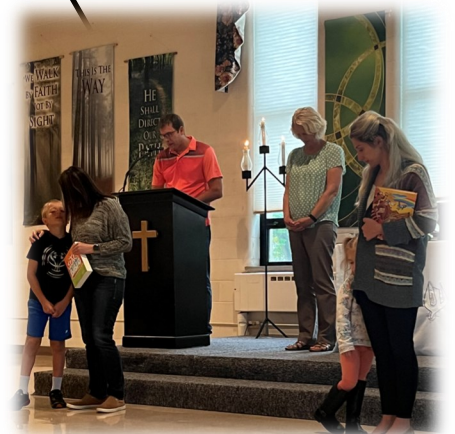
Pancakes, Porkie Links, Cheese, Apple Sauce, Milk, Orange Juice and Coffee

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Preach Christ at all times if necessary use words-

St. Francis of Assisi



**Month End: February 2023**  
**Year to Date**

**General Fund:**

Revenue \$ 27,745  
Expenses \$ 33,797

**Benevolence:**

Balance on Hand \$ 24,755

**Financial Condition-**

**Balances as of February 28th**

General Fund \$ 24,754  
Building &  
Church Improvements 77,150  
Benevolence Fund 2,070  
Special Funds 44,624  
Check EFT 20  
Total \$148,618

**Current Debt Balances Due:**

Endowment \$ 7,994

**Loan Payments:**

Endowment \$ 2,500

**UPCOMING PARISH HALL PROJECT**

It is time to update the Parish Hall. The cost is estimated to be \$22,000 to \$25,000. We are looking to complete this in a timely matter as some of the tiles in the Parish Hall are visibly drooping. In and amongst the cost listed above, the ladies restroom in the Great Room and repairing the paint in the alcove will be fixed as well. In your giving please consider donating towards this project.



## Prayers

- ◆ Becky Van Buren
- ◆ Beverly Genskow
- ◆ Corrine Kroening
- ◆ Dave Krueger
- ◆ Dennis "Pewee" Schlender
- ◆ Evelyn Rieckmann
- ◆ Jaden Stuhr
- ◆ Jasmine Cendejas
- ◆ Larry Dieck
- ◆ Lynn M.
- ◆ Nathan Nick
- ◆ Patty (Fournier) Beck
- ◆ Terri Mykisen
- ◆ Ty Schmidt
- ◆ Will Wege

## Prayer for Those In

### Assisted Living

- ◆ Karen Aschenbrenner
- ◆ Anne Erdman
- ◆ Gloria Krieser
- ◆ Lois Miller
- ◆ Joyce Miller

## Prayer for the Family & Friends of:

- ◆ Betty Rogers

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**P.O. Box 235**  
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**Marion, WI 54950**

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## St. John's Church Council Minutes – February 21, 2023

**Council members present:** Kelly Trebus, Linda Mielke, Mary Hoppe, Melissa Pfeiler, Mandy Malueg, Ron Krueger, Shirl Tischauser, Brian Sawall, Wanda Tucker, Pat Breitenfeldt. **Also present:** Sheri Fuhrman **Absent:** Amy Bazile

Meeting called to order by Ron Krueger at 6:45 p.m. Sheri opened with devotions and prayer.

The mission statement was read together.

**Member Comments:** The eternal candle will be taken care of by the property committee.

**Secretary's Report:** The meeting minutes for January 2023, were reviewed. A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Shirl, to approve the Council minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Wanda, to approve the January 2023 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

**Vital Statistics:** James Schwan passed away on February 9, 2023. The funeral was held on February 15, 2023.

**Old Business:** Items of Old Business considered were:

- **Call Committee Update** – Pastor Asher requested a definition of diversity for St Johns. Amy will reach out to Pastor Jenn for guidance.
- **Other Old Business** – None were reported.

**New Business:** Items of New Business considered were:

- **Council Representative for Nominating Committee** – A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Melissa to appoint Linda Mielke as the representative. Motion carried.
- **Action Team Assignments** – A motion was made by Pat, seconded by Wanda to approve action team assignments. Motion carried.
- **Devotions/Newsletter Schedule** – The schedule was discussed. All members were in agreement.
- **Building Use Form** – The current building use form was reviewed.
- **Any Other New Business** – Items of new Business considered were:
  - **Additional Counter** – A motion was made by Shirl, seconded by Kelly to approve Karen Schultz as an additional money counter. Motion carried.

**Action Team Reports:** The following Action Team reports were provided:

- **Worship and Music**– April 23, 2023 is First Communion Sunday. The ceremony will take place at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.
- **Property** – The trees will be removed next week, weather permitting. The Ladies bathroom upstairs is painted. The Great Room paint has been “touched up”. Tom Kraeger and a work group will reside the shed.
- **Community** – There will be a soup supper for Ash Wednesday, serving from 4-6 pm. There will be no Carley Auction this summer.

**Closed Session:** none

The next meeting will be on March 21, 2023, at 6:45 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## EMERGENCY SPIRITUAL HELP

Please call the church office if you are ill, in the hospital, or in need of spiritual help. There are Pastors and Lay Leaders trained.

## COMMUNION

The next time communion will be offered is Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 8a.m. and 10:30a.m.

## DISHES

Are you missing a dish at home? Please check out the many dishes in the back of the sanctuary.

## Easter Flowers

If you wish to have a flower in memory or in honor, please sign-up on the clipboard in the back of church or call the church office by March 30th. The flowers can be picked up after the worship service on Easter, Sunday, April 9th. Please drop off the flowers by Thursday, April 6th before 4:30p.m. Flowers purchased from Larrabee Gardens will be delivered to the church.

## FOOD PANTRY

Food pantry needs for April are juice, soup and crackers. Food pantry wants are dish soap and shampoo.

## LENTEN WORSHIP

The sermon series titled *Journey of Stones* written by Pastor Steve Molin will take us on a powerful, prayerful journey through the season of Lent. Drawing on the rich imagery of rocks and stones in scripture, these messages center around the compelling metaphor of stones (and our willingness to throw them) as representative of our sins. Each sermon tells a story, grounded in the living Word of God, in the history of God's people and in the call to be faithful Christians in this age. This *Journey of Stones* will allow us to confess our faith, acknowledge our sins and stand together at the foot of the cross proclaiming the good news of Jesus's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

## SIGN IN FOR WORSHIP

When you attend worship services please sign in on the yellow legal pad outside the Sanctuary or Parish Hall. This helps us keep an accurate record of weekly attendance and number of those communing with us. These numbers are reported yearly to the synod.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Palm Sunday, April 2nd**

-Worship at 8a.m. and 10:30a.m.  
-First Communion Class 1p.m.

## **Wednesday, April 5th**

-No Worship

## **Maundy Thursday, April 6th**

*Information for Newsletter due to Church Office*  
-Lenten Breakfast 8a.m.  
-Worship 6p.m.

## **Good Friday, April 7th**

-Worship 1:30p.m.

## **Easter Sunday, April 9th**

-Communion at 8a.m. & 10:30a.m.  
-No Sunday School

## **Wednesday, April 12th**

-No Worship

## **Sunday, April 16th**

-Communion at 8a.m. & 10:30a.m.  
-First Communion Class 1p.m.

## **Monday, April 17th**

*Last Day to Turn In Campership Application*  
-Worship & Music Meeting 5p.m.

## **Wednesday, April 19th**

-Communion at 6p.m.

## **Sunday, April 23th**

-ONE SERVICE AT 9:30a.m. in Sanctuary  
-First Communion Students Recognized

## **Wednesday, April 26th**

-Worship at 6p.m.

## **Sunday, April 30th**

-Communion at 8a.m. & 10:30a.m.

# APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2-8a.m. Worship w/ Communion 9:15a.m. Coffee Hour 9:15a.m. Sunday School 10:30a.m. Worship w/ Communion	3-9:00a.m. Yoga	4	5-12:30p.m. Quilting 3p.m. Camelot No Worship	6-8a.m. Lenten Breakfast -5:30p.m. Yoga -6p.m. Worship	7-1:30p.m. Worship	8
9-8a.m. Worship w/ Communion 9:15a.m. Coffee Hour No Sunday School 10:30a.m. Worship w/ Communion	10-9:00a.m. Yoga	11	12-12:30p.m. Quilting No Worship	13-5:30p.m. Yoga Last Day to Get Information for the Newsletter to the Church Office	14	15
16-8a.m. Worship w/ Communion 9:15a.m. Coffee Hour 9:15a.m. Sunday School 10:30a.m. Worship w/ Communion	17-9:00a.m. Yoga 5p.m. Worship & Music Meeting Church Camp Campership Application due to the Church Office	18-6:45p.m. Council	19-12:30p.m. Quilting 6p.m. Worship -6-45p.m. Confirmation Class Resumes	20-5:30p.m. Yoga	21	22
23-9:30a.m. Worship w/ Communion No Sunday School	24-9:00a.m. Yoga	25	26-12:30p.m. Quilting 6p.m. Worship -6-45p.m. Confirmation Class Resumes	27-5:30p.m. Yoga	28	29
30-8a.m. Worship w/ Communion 9:15a.m. Coffee Hour 9:15a.m. Sunday School 10:30a.m. Worship w/ Communion						



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
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