



Spirit
Alive

MAY NEWSLETTER 2023 – ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Winter and Spring, Lent and Easter

Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal and new life. We have been given these gifts and the greatest gift of all, Jesus' resurrection and our eternal lives. Easter Sunday we feel the comfort knowing that we who believe, will indeed be saved. What a wonderful relief that is, after observing Good Friday less than 48 hours previously.

Each late winter and spring, we work our way through the weeks of Lent to that horrible day when Our Savior was crucified for our sins. The Black Friday service is one of the most difficult times for many of us as we relive Christ's suffering and death. The church is dark, bare and silent. There is a feeling of dread and despair among those at the service. I can't even begin to imagine what it must have been like to have been there when these terrible events were happening.

It has been stated that the day the Lord created hope was probably the same day as he created spring. How appropriate that Easter is in the spring, the time of everything becoming beautiful and living again, after the months of darkness and cold. Though it is only 6 weeks, the Lenten season is also dark and cold. May we get through it, looking towards the warmth and sun of spring. The comparison between winter and spring, and Lent and Easter is a very strong one for me. I feel as if a weight, like a heavy blanket of snow, is on my shoulders during Lent. Then Easter Sunday comes like the sun on a warm spring day, and I feel alive and hopeful because of God's love for me.

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

Council Member,
Wanda Tucker



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

SOUL – Serving Others Uplifting Lives

For several months, the final prayer petition each week has included SOUL Serving Others Uplifting Lives. The phrase was included in the site profile sent to prospective pastors. The input forums that were held for congregants to voice their thoughts on the strengths of St John's frequently mentioned the outreach of meals, hosting events, support of the ministry of House of Hope to name a few.

To summarize the thoughts expressed into an acronym came SOUL.

It is often said for an organization whether a community, church, company, or school there must be effort to accept and seek change, welcome new ideas, respect the thoughts of others even when they differ from our own, if the entity is to survive.

So how can St John's serve ALL OF GOD'S children in our community?

Do we want to include everyone but on our terms? Will we tell people to come as they are, but we insist they change before they arrive?

Is that what Jesus would do? There have been numerous times in my life I have wondered if I lived while Jesus walked the earth would I have recognized Him for who He was? Or would I have heeded the Pharisees warnings that he was a radical that only hung out with the "people from the other side of the tracks"!

It is human to cling to the familiar. Changing can be scary. Will there be disappointments? YEP. Will there be disagreements? YEP. HOWEVER, when we put our concerns in God's hands the answers will come – it will be WORTH IT!! God is waiting for us to open the doors.

In Sunday School as a small child, we learned a simple prayer with our fingers intertwined we would say "Here is the church" (put our pointer fingers together) saying "Here is the steeple" than we would (turn our hands with the palms exposed and start wiggling the fingers) while joyfully finishing with "see all the people!" **All the people** – so even as children we learned to start with prayer.

Pray for ideas of how St John's can even more share our faith and love of our Lord with others.

To follow Jesus is to be willing to strive for SOUL!! It is a challenge – we need to overcome our prejudices. We need to trust the changes, to embrace the outreach beyond our doors.

We will be meeting people at the starting line, not the finish line. We need to let them know they are not just invited, they are welcome.

PEOPLE GROW WHERE THEY ARE LOVED

Let God See All Your Faces

Several years ago, I was fortunate to spend some time in Japan. My Japanese was pretty much limited to words like, “please” “thank you” “excuse me” “and which way to the bathroom.” I have learned that the Japanese have two words to describe how humans present themselves to the world. The first is *tatema* or “the part of myself that I let the world see,” and the second is *hon ne* or “that place on the inside where no one can see.” Philip Yancey suggests that perhaps we need a third word for the secret places that we never make known to anyone. I am suggesting to you that it is that third place that God is trying to get to, open up, heal, and make known. God wants more than just the faces we give to the world: God also wants the one that we try to hide.

There is much in today’s world to give others the impression that we are superbly self-sufficient. But often, only we and God know what is going on behind closed doors. When we strip off the outer shell, the clothes if you will, real intimacy and authentic love can take place. Pause. Take some time to be honest with God; do not let him just see your game face, but all your faces. Invite God into not just your public garden, but the private one as well. Let God show you where the weeds are, where new growth is needed, what needs to be pruned, and what needs to be tended. If you do, you will find yourself in your own Easter morning, emerging from whatever tomb you may face today.

Excerpt from “A Path to Wholeness”
Russell J Levenson, Jr
Church Publishing Corporation
Copywrite 2020

I asked for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I had asked for,
But everything that I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered;
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

Unknown soldier, 1865

Excerpt from “A Path to Wholeness”
Russell J Levenson, Jr
Church Publishing Corporation
Copywrite 2020





Prepare To Be Empowered

Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas.

After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and "enabled" (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

"A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community," writes Suzanne de Dietrich in *Free Men*. "These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them."

Life Immortal

At the end of May, Americans honor those who've died for our country — and remember all deceased loved ones. These times of reflection, often in cemeteries, can make us ponder our own mortality. Even some Christians may fear the unknown of death.

Yet because of our faith, followers of Jesus can aim to make productive use of whatever earthly time we have left. We know the grave isn't the end. Consider this poetic description of life everlasting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "Dust thou art, to dust returnest / was not spoken of the soul."

To our death-defying, death-defeating God we pray: Eternal God, empower us to take hold of the eternal life to which Christ calls us, and to boldly testify of it to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. To the immortal King of the ages, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to him be honor, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Final Exams



A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women's Bible studies. She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, "Why do you work so hard on these lessons when you're so old and it doesn't matter?" Little Bess Elkins looked up and said confidently, "I'm cramming for my finals."

—Florence Littauer, *Women's Devotional Bible*

Our Proper Role

"We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges." This quip may bring a chuckle, but it's also a good reminder as we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord (May 18 this year). Jesus directed his disciples to spread the good news he had taught them: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ..." (Acts 1:8, NRSV).

While professional lawyers and judges certainly have their place in society and can serve God by working for genuine justice for all, we are not called in daily life to judge others' morality or relationship with God. "Do not judge," Jesus says, "and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37, NIV). And what is one of the most powerful forms of witness to Christ? Forgiveness.



Christian Symbol

TONGUES OF FIRE — Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2 when "tongues of fire" rested on the disciples' heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background — other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian's life.

The Power of (God's) Light

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer? Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1); “Let us walk in the light of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:5); “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (John 1:9). Darkness isn’t bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we “live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Honor Your Mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom’s favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother’s Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they “symbolize the truth, purity and broad-
-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying.”

Confirmation

The last day of confirmation class is Wednesday, May 17th. Confirmands, please remember to attend worship, meet with your mentor, and complete confirmation requirements throughout the summer months. Also be sure to let the church office know who you have picked to be your mentor.

SCRIP 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 St. Vincent De Paul is doing an ongoing fundraiser. Ten percent of all SCRIP cards, to any SHELL station, that are being sold will be donated to St. Vincent De Paul. 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).

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.

The last day of Sunday School will be a worship celebration on May 21st at 9:30a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Communion in May

Communion in May will be offered on the following dates:

- Sunday, May 7th at 8a.m. & 10:30a.m.
- Sunday, May 14th at 8a.m. & 10:30a.m.
- Wednesday, May 17th at 6p.m.

Graduates

We will be honoring our 2023 graduates during the 8a.m. and 10:30a.m. services on May 14th. If you will not be able to attend the service, please let the church office know.

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.

Summer Worship

The summer worship schedule will begin on May 28th. There will be no Coffee Hour during the summer months. 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 Parish Hall. July 2nd-August 13th, services will be held in the Sanctuary and August 20th-September 3rd, services will be in the Parish Hall. Wednesday night services will be an outdoor service at the Veteran's Park weather permitting at 6p.m. This will start Wednesday, May 31st through Wednesday, August 30th.



JOIN US FOR

SUMMER 2023

Camper Registration & Staff Applications
Available now at [CrosswaysCamps.org](https://www.crosswayscamps.org)



CROSSWAYS
CAMPING MINISTRIES



Campership Scholarships are available through St. John's to help offset 75% of camp costs. The 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 or visit their website at www.crosswayscamps.org.



	IMAGO DEI VILLAGE	PINE LAKE CAMP	WAYPOST CAMP
SESSION 1: JUNE 11-16	Community Partner Camp*	Confirmation Camp	Community Partner Camp*
SESSION 2: JUNE 18-23	Confirmation Camp Leaders in Training, Week 1	Confirmation Camp	Community Partner Camp*
SESSION 3: JUNE 25-30	Piece Together Family Camp (June 25-28)	Pioneers (A/B) Pathfinders Mavericks Onsite Day Camp	Community Partner Camp*
SESSION 4: JULY 2-5 & 5-8	Mission Week (Mavericks, Settlers) (July 2-7)	Family Camp (July 2-5)	Family Camp (July 5-8)
SESSION 5: JULY 9-14	Confirmation Camp	Pioneers (A/B) Pathfinders Mavericks	Pathfinders Mavericks Settlers Confirmation Camp
SESSION 6: JULY 16-21	Pioneers (B) Pathfinders Mavericks Settlers	Community Partner Camp* Registration will open to all youth after March 15.	Wilderness Backpacking Trip: Porcupine Mountain State Park (Mavericks, Settlers)
SESSION 7: JULY 23-28	Pioneers (B) Pathfinders Mavericks Settlers	Pioneers (A) Pathfinders (Full week, B) Mavericks Settlers	Community Partner Camp*
SESSION 8: JULY 30-AUG 4	Family Camp	Pioneers (B) Pathfinders Mavericks Settlers	Community Partner Camp*
SESSION 9: AUGUST 6-11	Community Partner Camp*	Grandparent/Kid Camp (August 6-9)	Community Partner Camp*

Programs available by grade completed.

Onsite Day Camp: K-5

Mavericks: Grades 6-8

Pioneers: Grades 1-3

Settlers: Grades 9-12

Pathfinders: Grades 3-5

LIT (Leaders in Training): 10-12

Half-week programs available (A) Sunday-Tuesday or (B) Wednesday-Friday.

Confirmation Camp is organized by congregation. Speak to your church leaders for more details.

*Community Partner Camps are weeks reserved for specific community organizations or congregations.

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

General Fund:

Revenue \$ 40,327
Expenses \$ 49,905

Benevolence:

Balance on Hand \$ 727

Financial Condition-

Balances as of March 31st

General Fund \$ 22,717
Building &
Church Improvements 82,469
Benevolence Fund 727
Special Funds 44,805
Check EFT 20
Total \$150,738

Current Debt Balances Due:

Endowment \$ 5,517

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

- ◆ Al Kraeger
- ◆ Becky Van Buren
- ◆ Beverly Genskow
- ◆ Corrine Kroening
- ◆ Dave Krueger
- ◆ David Soik
- ◆ Dennis Johnson
- ◆ Evelyn Rieckmann
- ◆ Jaden Stuhr
- ◆ Jasmine Cendejas
- ◆ Karol Freeland
- ◆ Kristy Crum
- ◆ Larry Dieck
- ◆ Lynn M.
- ◆ Nathan Nick
- ◆ Patty (Fournier) Beck
- ◆ Parker Wolff
- ◆ Terri Mykisen
- ◆ Will Wege

Prayer for Those In Assisted Living

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

St. John's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 235
318 E. Garfield Ave.
Marion, WI 54950

Office Manager: Sheri Fuhrman
Financial Secretary: Mandy Malueg
stjohnsfinance@gmail.com
Phone: 715-754-5201
Website: www.stjohnsmarion.org
Email: churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org
Finance Email: accounting@stjohnsmarion.org

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

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

Meeting called to order by Amy Bazile at 6:45 p.m. Amy opened with devotions and prayer.

The mission statement was read together.

Member Comments: Pat shared with us that MAMA's House of Hope is partnered with St. Vincent DePaul and that she, and Jane & Jim Radtke have all agreed to be on the St. Vincent DePaul board along with the MAMA's board. St. Vincent DePaul has a gas card program, where people can purchase a Shell gas card. 10% of each card sold goes to help those in need in the area. These gas cards will be available to purchase through the church office as well as via Jackie Suehring.

Amy shared with us a t-shirt design she experimented with for our SOUL logo. Thoughts and ideas on the design were talked about. Wanda said she would touch base with the Tigerton tech-ed teacher about different options for shirt printing and pricing.

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

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

Vital Statistics: None

Old Business: Items of Old Business considered were:

Call Committee Update – Amy presented us with a bullet point list of the Pastor Job Description taken from the constitution and some points utilized with previous pastor contracts. There were a couple of items added, including one stating 16 hours minimum in-house office hours required and new member orientation classes. Amy will share this with the call committee. It was also brought up once a final contract is signed with a new pastor, this contract should be available in the office should any member ask to see it.

Other Old Business – None were reported.

New Business: Items of New Business considered were:

Quarterly Benevolence— It was decided to designate \$2,000, \$1,000 to LSS and \$1,000 to Crossways.

Kelly made a motion to accept these designations, Ron seconded it, motion carried.

Action Team Assignments – The action team assignments were discussed last month.

Any Other New Business – Items of new Business considered were:

A motion was made to accept the Easter schedule as suggested by the worship and music committee.

One service at 8:00 and one at 10:30. Motion made by Kelly, seconded by Wanda. Motion carried.

A motion was made to accept the summer worship schedule set by the worship and music committee.

One service at 9:30, May 28th-June 25th, CA space, July 2nd-August 13, Sanctuary, August 20th –

September 3rd, CA space. Motion made by Melissa, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.

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

Worship and Music– Baccalaureate Sunday is scheduled for May 14th at both services. The last day of Sunday school will be May 21st, one service at 9:30 in the CA space. Ron said the property committee will make sure the highway signs get changed with the summer times. Wednesday summer service location will be determined at a later date as Betty and Tracy look into location alternatives. The audio company was here on March 15th. The mics and CD player in sanctuary were all updated.

Property – Property committee meets next week. Ron reported there has been a phone installed in the elevator. Trees that were nearing the roof of the church were cut. There had been reported some trouble with one of the grills in the kitchen. Dave will be looking at that.

Closed Session: none

The next meeting will be on April 18, 2023, at 6:45 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Linda Mielke.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMELOT WORSHIP

Every first Wednesday of the month, a Camelot service is offered at the Camelot apartments at 3p.m.

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.

DISHES

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

FOOD PANTRY

Food pantry needs for May are hamburger helper and cereal. Food pantry wants are laundry detergent and dish soap.

TADYCH'S RECEIPTS

Remember to keep your *Tadych's* 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 intact. 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 \$626.40 from the receipts collected.

WELCOME

Please be sure to take time and welcome our sister in Christ, Diane Schumacher, to the congregation.

UPC LABELS

St. John's Lutheran Church will no longer be collecting Best Choice and/or Clearly Brand UPC labels.



SUBSCRIBE TO THE WAVE!

The Wave is a weekly email from the East Central Synod of Wisconsin that shares stories, inspiration, resources, and announcements to keep you connected to our synod - the larger regional body of our church. Sign up to receive The Wave through the subscribe feature on the bottom of our homepage: www.ecsw.org or open the camera app with your phone and scan the QR code to check out the most recent copies of the Wave. While you're there, click on "join our mailing list" to subscribe.

EVENTS CALENDAR FOR MAY

Church Services

		Sanctuary	Parish Hall
May 3, 10	Worship	6p.m.	
May 7	Worship w/ communion	8a.m.	10:30a.m.
May 14	Graduation Sunday w/ communion	8a.m.	10:30a.m.
May 17	Worship w/ communion	6p.m.	
May 21	Worship-Sunday School Celebration		9:30a.m.
May 24	Worship		6p.m.
May 28	Pentecost Sunday		9:30a.m.
May 31	Worship at Veterans' Park	6p.m.	

National Day of Prayer

May 4

Sunday School

May 7 & 14-9:15a.m.

Coffee Hour

May 7 & 14-9:15a.m.

Council Meeting

May 16 6:45p.m.

Ascension Day

May 18

Camelot Worship

May 3 3p.m. Worship at Camelot Apartments

Confirmation Classes

May 3, 10, 17-6:45p.m.

Meet with Confirmation Mentors Throughout Summer Months

Quilting Every Wednesday 12:30p.m.

Yoga

May 1,8,15,22-9a.m.

May 4, 25 5:30p.m.

Newsletter Deadline

May 11

Office Closed

May 29 Monday Memorial Day



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. HEAV
2. ABLE
3. AY OF PENTECOS
4. ONGUE
5. PIRI
6. OGETHE
7. ES
8. ONGUE
9. A
10. IND



“When the ³_____ came, they were all
⁶_____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a
 violent ¹⁰_____ came from ¹_____ and filled the whole
 house where they were sitting. They ⁹_____ what seemed to be
⁴_____ of fire that separated and came to ⁷_____ on each
 of them. All of them were filled with the Holy ⁵_____ and began
 to speak in other ⁸_____ as the Spirit ²_____ them.”

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

P.O. Box 235 • 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!*