



# Spirit *Alive*

JUNE NEWSLETTER—ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## GIVE THANKS

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.-1 Thessalonians 5:18

Discerning God's will can be challenging at times, but the verse before us makes it easy - give thanks. The writer doesn't mean for us to shout "hooray" for every bad thing that happens to us. No, herein lies a more profound command. We are asked to offer up a genuinely grateful heart on a regular basis, despite our circumstances. Many times, the level of our gratitude connects directly to our feelings, but we can circumvent those emotions with intentional choice, "I will be thankful."

Discipline yourself to rise each morning with a preset mentality of receiving the day as a gift. Deliberately move your thoughts from what isn't to what is, right here and now! It's easy to focus on things we wish were different, easy to focus on the negative, but the reality is God has been overwhelmingly good to each one of us!

I encourage you to look around, take note of what you do have, and be thankful to Him. Start with simple things like a colorful sunrise and then advance to the irreplaceable - people, moments, and things that fill your life. For me, the peace of Jesus, my family, and my church community top that list. What is it for you?

Gratitude is an attitude easily shared - one that has noticeable influence on those around us. I can't think of a much better way of fulfilling God's will than by praising and thanking Him for all that He has done for us!

Council Member,  
*Mandy Malueg*



**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**

If we live in awe of what is going on around us; there will be no time to live in judgement of the people around us.

When I read this statement a few weeks ago it reminded me of a phrase I heard often from my Grandma Laura. The last two years of her life grandma lived with us after Grandpa died. Grandma lost her sight when I was two. However, I never considered her disabled. She had unique insight in knowing when we were NOT doing our chores; and DOING mischief! Don't know to this day HOW she knew but she called us on it!

When Grandma would hear us make fun or criticize a playmate or classmate her frequent response would be "You need to walk a mile in their shoes." Grandma's way of telling us we don't know what their day was like or what problems or challenges they had to deal with.

When I find myself as a seasoned adult reverting to that same criticism my thoughts remind me "walk a mile in their shoes!"

Our church community is comprised of people with all kinds of experiences, challenges and ideas of how to use their talents as a disciple of our Lord. We aren't cookie cutter creations we are each unique. All those many gifts and talents "make it work".

Finding criticism how someone serves, chooses to worship, dresses or cuts the bars only alienate people, hurt feelings and are totally the opposite of what Jesus wants us to do!

We become reflections of the people who have loved us most selflessly. The ones who have been the most available, the most forgiving the most like Jesus in our lives. Reflecting selfless love to others and we will have a lasting impact in their lives.

June is a new season. Choose to appreciate each other's gifts', trusting God has brought us together to be His disciples in our community.

## I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. –Leviticus 26:12 (NKJV)

It's mid-afternoon and I need to take stuff down to the compost pile. As I come out the porch door onto the deck, the farm cats that happen to be close to home, lazing around instead of out exploring, come trotting to see if I'm bringing food. Seeing no bag or can, they look away. Until, that is, I start down the hill. Then they follow. It's been that way for many years now. When I stop at the compost pile, they look up as if to say, "Is that it? Aren't we going on a walk?"

So we do. Down the grassy hill. Onto the trails I've made and mowed. Through the woods. Me and the cats. Sometimes they're a short distance back or ahead. Sometimes, especially Gracie or Ebony, they wind between my feet as I stride. If I stop, they want me to pick them up and give them some attention. They walk with me until...until they don't, their attention diverted by sighting a mouse or chipmunk or other prey. Then they're off.

I wonder if that's how God deals with my following in this way—wishing I'd stick closer but knowing that I'm prone to wander. Yes, sometimes I'm right there, walking alongside the Great Lover of my soul and listening and learning. Other times, though, I'm at a distance, distracted by some new sparkly thing or another. Occasionally, I just want to be left alone to ramble—but still know that I'm being watched over. And, because God loves me, I am.

**Prayer: Thank You, God, for Your patience with me as I follow You in my erratic way. Thank You, too, for always keeping me in sight—whether I lag behind or run too far ahead. Amen—J. Brent Bill**

**Digging Deeper: Psalm 128:1-2; Luke 24:13-32**

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## A PRAYER

Teach me, O God, so to use all the circumstances of my life  
Today that they may bring forth in me the fruits of holiness  
Rather than the fruits of sin.

Let me use disappointments as material for patience:

Let me use success as material for thankfulness:

Let me use suspense as material for perseverance:

Let me use danger as material for courage:

Let me use reproach as material for longsuffering:

Let me use praise as material for humility:

Let me use pleasure as material for temperance:

Let me use pains as material for endurance.

*Amen.*

—John Baillie, d. 1960 *A Diary of Private Prayer* (New York: Fireside, 1996), 101.

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## HOPE

Hope doesn't go to sleep just because it's dark outside; it lights a candle and stays up waiting for the rest of the story! Are you living in anticipation of God surprising you? This is the place where God meets us with the power of the resurrection. It's in the dark places. He finds us in the places between the miracles.

God isn't a destination He is the guide along the path.

There you go, little one. You're going to be okay!

Adopt an attitude of gratitude!!



## **Philip and James, Apostles**

**[Jesus said,] “The one who believes in me  
will also do the works that I do. (v. 12)**

Too often the church makes Christians, not disciples. There is a big difference. “Christian” can be merely a cultural designation. Disciples are those who seek to live as Jesus lived.

Jesus tells us that if we believe, we will do what he did on earth. Perhaps we think faith is just about belief. Discipleship means to imitate a teacher in thought, word, and deed.

Socially, it is easier to say yes to what Jesus said. It is much harder to embody that yes in real life. In a culture that is too often the antithesis of the way Jesus lived, we may be startled by Jesus’ way of life. Jesus practiced radical hospitality, welcoming everyone to eat and drink with him. He also believed in granting justice and mercy to all people, not just those who followed the rules.

Jesus challenges us all to be his disciples. How are you practicing discipleship today?

**Lord Jesus, help me be  
your faithful disciple. Amen.**

***Prayer concern: Those who misuse Christ’s teachings***

*Psalm 44:1-3, 20-26; Isaiah 30:18-21;  
2 Corinthians 4:1-6*

## JUST LIKE DAD

At the beginning of his ministry career, Jerry Steen supplemented his income by mixing animal feed. When his two young boys greeted him at home, they laughed at his dusty appearance before he headed to the shower.

“I didn’t think too much of this until I was washing my car and saw my older son doing something very strange,” Steen recalls. “He was picking up the gravel and stones in our drive and rubbing them into his pants.” Curious, the father asked what the boy was doing. “I want to be dusty like you, Dad!” his son replied.

For Steen, that was an eye-opener. “I realized that if a child would look up to his father for being dusty and want to copy his father,” he says, “a child could look up to his father and follow him for anything.” What traits and qualities are you modeling and passing on — to your own kids and to anyone else who looks up to you?

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## COME GLORIFY GOD TOGETHER

Don’t use summer as an excuse to skip church! By gathering in corporate worship, we obey God’s command, become equipped for Christian living, and minister to our fellow pilgrims. Consider these tips for engaging in corporate worship.

First, show up — in person if you can. Examine your heart and your motivation for attending church. Lift up your eyes from earthly matters to focus on God.

Come prepared. Do you need to confess anything or remove any hindrance? As you worship, consider how each part of the service displays the gospel: greeting, singing, confessing, reading Scripture, hearing Bible-based teaching, praying, giving and communing.

Be careful not to compartmentalize corporate worship as separate from the rest of life. Instead, consider how you’ll carry the experience into the coming week. Come ready to receive; then let that overflow fuel you for the days ahead. Come prepared to participate, knowing that worshipping together is a rehearsal for heaven. But most importantly? Just come.

—Monica L. Wilkinson

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## SUMMER SOLACE

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.

—Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*

## SEASONAL HUMOR

For summer weddings:

- The wedding was so beautiful, even the cake was in tiers.
- Did you hear about the two spiders who got engaged? They met on the web.
- Two cell phones got married. The reception was terrific!
- Why did the King of Hearts and the Queen of Hearts get married? They were perfectly suited.

For baseball season:

- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit me.
- What did the baseball glove say to the ball? "Catch ya later!"
- Why are frogs good baseball players? Because they're good at catching flies.
- Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team? She ran away from the ball.

And for Father's Day, some dad jokes:

- My dream job is to clean mirrors because I can really see myself doing that.
- We're renovating the house. The first floor is going great, but the second floor is another story.

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## THE ENGINE OF MARRIAGE

Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. Love is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by the grace which both partners ask and receive from God. On this love the engine of marriage is run; being in love was the explosion that started it.

—C.S. Lewis

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## SPECIAL DATES

- Trinity Sunday, *June 4, 2023*
- Flag Day, *June 14, 2023*
- Father's Day, *June 18, 2023*
- Juneteenth, *June 19, 2023*
- First day of summer, *June 21, 2023*

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<b>Month End:</b>	<b>April 2023</b>
<b>General Fund:</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Revenue	\$ 55,704
Expenses	\$ 64,186

**Financial Condition-  
Balances as of April 30th**

General Fund	\$ 22,310
Building & Church Improvements	94,492
Benevolence Fund	1,576
Special Funds	45,032
Check EFT	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$163,430</b>

**Current Debt Balances Due:**

Endowment	\$ 3,034
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**Loan Payments:**

Endowment	\$ 2,500
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**UPCOMING PARISH HALL PROJECT**

The goal for the Parish Hall project has not been reached. The cost is estimated to be \$22,000 to \$25,000. In your giving, please consider donating towards this project.

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**

If you are a new member we will be recognizing you! Please keep the date of September 17th on your calendar. We will be asking for our new members to come forward during both the 8a.m. and 10:30a.m. services.

**CONFIRMATION/SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The restart date for Sunday School will be September 10th. Teachers are NEEDED. The goal is to form a team so each volunteer would only teach one Sunday a month. Please contact the church office to volunteer so we can continue to offer this service to the future of the church! The restart date for Confirmation will be September 13th. You may register at: <https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=7512f5eb-31a2-40d3-aaee-8f6736c5abcd> or there will be registration forms in the Great Room and you may leave the form in the office Dropbox.

**Prayers**

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

**Prayer for Those In Assisted Living**

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

**Prayers for The Family and Friends of**

- ◆ Charles Schwan
- ◆ Joyce Miller

<p align="center"> <b>St. John's Lutheran Church</b>  <b>P.O. Box 235</b>  <b>318 E. Garfield Ave.</b>  <b>Marion, WI 54950</b>            *****            Office Manager: Sheri Fuhrman            Financial Secretary: Mandy Malueg  <a href="mailto:stjohnsfinance@gmail.com">stjohnsfinance@gmail.com</a>            Phone: 715-754-5201            Website: <a href="http://www.stjohnsmarion.org">www.stjohnsmarion.org</a>            Email: <a href="mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org">churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org</a>            Finance Email: <a href="mailto:accounting@stjohnsmarion.org">accounting@stjohnsmarion.org</a> </p>
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# 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.

## FOOD PANTRY

Food pantry needs for June are peanut butter and jelly. Food pantry wants are paper towel and dish soap.

## UPC LABELS

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

## **SUBSCRIBE TO THE ECSW NEWSLETTER THE WAVE!**

Sign up to receive The Wave through the subscribe feature on the bottom of our homepage: [www.ecsw.org](http://www.ecsw.org).

## TADYCH'S RECEIPTS

Please do not cut off the bottom of the Tadych's receipts. The date of sale is needed for proof the receipt qualifies for the time period allowed to be turned in. All receipts without a date do not count for credit.

## 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).

## **ECSW SYNOD ASSEMBLY WORK DAYS**

Please see the information below regarding the dates set for Work Days.

## Ready to serve.

Register for Work Days @ [www.ecsw.org/2023-synod-assembly](http://www.ecsw.org/2023-synod-assembly) or visit [fvlhomes.org](http://fvlhomes.org).

### Work Days

#### June 6 (9am - 4pm)

Repair of Garage - scraping paint, caulk, tuck pointing, hands on projects; FVLH staff and Property team will train and provide support.

#### June 10 (9am - 4pm)

Painting, building planters and benches, and other projects.

### Volunteer

Teach an art class, serve a luncheon, small music ensembles, professional photography, organized workdays.



SCAN TO SERVE





## WORSHIP IN THE PARK

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.....”

After enduring a long winter of bundling up and staying indoors we are more than ready to get outdoors and enjoy God’s creation. The Wednesday evening worship service will once again be held outdoors from May 31 thru August 30. The service is going to be held at Veterans Park located on Mavis Road (across from Premier Community Bank).

There is a shelter with picnic tables at this location. You are also welcome to bring your own seating. In case of storms, the service will be held indoors at St. John’s.

To kick off the 2023 outdoor worship season we will be offering a light meal consisting of a sandwich and beverage. The meal and fellowship will begin at 5:30 and worship will follow at 6:00.

Hope to see you there in the midst of God’s amazing creation!

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thank you

*A special thank you to all the teachers, volunteers, and meal planners who donated their time and talents during the 2022-2023 Confirmation and Sunday School Year. Without volunteers, we would not be able to offer this service to the future of the church. Sunday School Teachers are NEEDED. The goal is to form a team so each volunteer would only teach one Sunday a month. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School in the fall, please contact the church office.*

## St. John's Church Council Minutes – April 18, 2023

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

Agenda add-on. Linda requested an agenda add on to discuss additions for the parish hall project. A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Mary to accept the agenda add on. Motion carried.

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

The mission statement was read together.

**Member Comments:** There were no member comments.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Ron had a question about what the entry of \$19.70 for Checking EFT was. Amy said she will ask Mandy about that. A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Shirl, to approve the March 2023 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

**Vital Statistics:** There was a request on 3-29-23 for membership from Diane Shumacher. Mary said she would reach out to Diane Shumacher and Ashley Flink about their membership. Melissa inquired about the Hintz family being members—Nathan, Casey, Carson and Raelynn. It was discussed to have a letter go out to all the new members we have had since 2019 welcoming them, and that it would be a good idea to have a new member Sunday in the fall.

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

Call Committee Update – It was shared that the call committee has had two interviews with possible candidates.

Other Old Business – None were reported.

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

ALICE training presentation by Marion Police Department. It was shared that Kevin Schultz, who does active shooter training in the schools, would like to meet with St. John's council members, employees and ushers to have them receive this training as well. Amy will let Kevin Schultz know we are receptive to the idea of the training and a date can be set.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be a trial run at St. John's for the high school evacuation location.

SOUL T-shirt fund raiser – Wanda shared that the tech-ed department was not able to help out with the T-shirt fund raiser. Amy said that she and Pat Mielke would work on following up with the SOUL T-shirt idea.

Student Fund Application—It was mentioned that our student fund has substantial funds available and that perhaps we could offer the students more towards their camp attendance. A motion was made by Ron and seconded by Mary to approve 75% of the cost to be approved 2 months before the student attends. Motion carried.

Synod Assembly Offering, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Denise Pamperin and Betty Bertram will be attending the synod assembly on May 20<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Wanda and seconded by Melissa to approve a \$250 offering for the assembly to come out of Benevolence. Motion carried.

Any other new business—Linda mentioned that the Come Alive team was wondering if some upgrades to the speakers and or projector could be considered at the same time the Parish Hall updates are being made. A motion was made by Shirl, seconded by Brian that the council approve research to upgrade the audio and visual in the Parish Hall. Motion carried.

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

Worship and Music– Pastors and lay speakers are set until the end of May. Tracy and Betty checked into a different location to have the outdoor summer worship services. Those will be held at Veteran’s Park this summer. It was suggested an article go in the Marion Advertiser about our summer worship in the park.

Property – Property committee has had some discussions of ways to change the steps in the sanctuary as there has been some people falling there. There are options being looked into along with the design team. Ron reported that he got a quote of \$150 to do stump removal next to the church and at the cemetery.

Fellowship—The Sunday School picnic will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> after service at 11:00. Mary will be arranging the food and beverages.

Melissa shared that there are about 13 students.

**Closed Session:** none

The next meeting will be on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## Church Services

June 4 Trinity Sunday Worship

June 18, 25-Worship

June 7, 14, 28-Worship at Veterans' Park 6p.m.

June 11 Worship w/ communion (Pastor Bob Wilkinson) 9:30a.m.

June 21 Worship w/ communion at Veteran's Park (Pastor Jill Meyer) 6p.m.

## Parish Hall

9:30a.m.

9:30a.m.

## Coffee Hour

June 11 9:15a.m.

## Council Meeting

June 20 6:45p.m.

## Camelot Worship

June 7 3p.m. Worship at Camelot Apartments

**Quilting** Every Wednesday 12:30p.m.

## Yoga

June 5,12,19,26-9a.m.

June 1,8,15,22,29-5:30p.m.

## Newsletter Deadline

June 8

## Confirmation Classes

*Meet with Confirmation Mentors Throughout Summer Months*

Confirmation Class will resume on September 13th at 6:45p.m.

Confirmation Sunday for the 9th Graders will be October 29th at 9:30a.m. with Pastor Gary Froseth

## New Member Sunday

September 17th at both 8a.m. & 10:30a.m.

## Sunday School

Classes will resume on September 10th at 9:15a.m.



**St. John's Lutheran Church**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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