



Spirit *Alive*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2023

LIFE

If I was to offer you 10 million dollars as a gift, would you accept? My guess is the majority of people would accept my gift. Now if I offered you the same 10 million dollars but with the condition that you would be deceased the next day, would you still accept my gift? My guess is the majority of people would decline my offer, choosing their life over just about everything. Just living life is sufficient, but making a difference is a great way to live. SOUL, serving others, uplifting lives has been part of St. John's now for over a year. It may be just a slogan to some, but to LIVE your life with that as guidance makes life worthwhile. Jesus tells us in the book of Matthew, Chapter 25 verses 35-40, how to put SOUL in your life. "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you visited me, I was in prison, and you came to me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Let us all use this life on earth as servants to God's word and to others.

Council Member,
Brian Sawall



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

Just pray and trust God and He will provide.

Years ago, I read an effective approach to pray that has helped me stay focused on how to have a conversation with our Creator.

Think of it as the “Finger Prayer”!

Step One: Look at your thumb. This is the finger closest to us, so it can represent those that are nearest to us. The list may include family, co-workers, friends, etc.

Step Two: The Pointer finger. This finger represents those who point us to Christ. Our church leaders, ministers who have guided us. We can ask God to give them strength and guidance in their lives and ministries.

Step Three: The tallest finger stands for people in high places. Our governmental leaders. We can ask God to give them wisdom to help them clearly see the answers that allows them to lead in a way that has a servant’s heart.

Step Four: The fourth finger – the weakest one. Let that finger remind us to pray for those around us who are weak, whether they are sick, or going through financial or emotional tough times. Whatever they need God can help.

Sam had a ministry to alcoholics for a long time. He was blessed to be able to help some of them get beyond their challenges. Joe was a young man who lived in a nearby town. Sam spent a lot of time with Joe. Joe had been addicted to alcohol but had finally overcome his habit and made it to 8 months sober.

One Saturday, Sam was in the parking lot of the church in Joe’s town. Suddenly a pickup truck came around the corner and pulled up right beside Sam. Sam realized it was Joe, who invited Sam to get in the truck. When Sam got in, there was a six-pack of beer on the seat. Sam asked Joe what was going on.

Joe said, “I woke up this morning at six o’clock, so nervous I couldn’t be still. I just had to have a drink. I couldn’t control myself. BUT I thought of you.” “I don’t know if you know it or not, but the Lord had you standing in the middle of this parking lot on a Saturday morning. Do you do that every Saturday?” Sam answered NO.

Joe said. “The Lord had you here this morning. If you hadn’t been here this morning, I would have been drunk in another hour. Thank God you’re here. Thank you that you’re here.”

We need to be aware there are people around us who need us just like Joe who need a helping hand, a word of encouragement, or just to know that someone else cares enough about them to lift them up in prayer.

Step Five: The little finger on our hand. It represents ourselves. After we pray for those who are close to us, lead our church, who hold other positions of authority and those who are weak, then we can pray for ourselves.

It might seem like we would get to ourselves and our own needs quickly, but once we get into that conversation with God, we start remembering all the other people around us who really need something first. When we pray for other people, we see them in a different light, and we see our own lives in a different light as well.



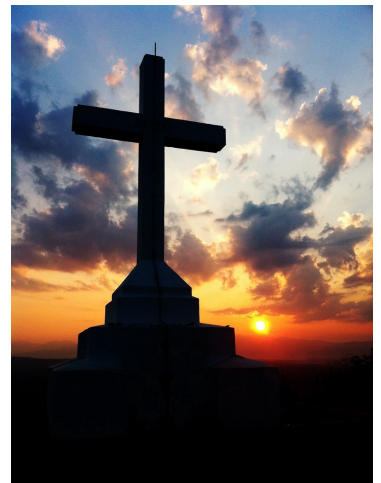
Holy Cross Day

My children were playing when my seven-year-old said, “Mama, we’ve got a question.” My five-year-old asked, “What color thread does God use?” Perplexed, I sought an explanation. My oldest replied, “When God sews, like Grandma. What color thread does God use?” With my face conveying my confusion, my youngest said, “You know. For God so loved the world. What color thread does God use to sew love?”

My children did not know that *sew* and *so* are two different words, but their wonderment got me thinking. The word that we translate “so” is used to express and absolute or to intensify. The “so-love” of God, therefore, is an absolute love, a love intensified beyond any other. ‘

That is what Holy Cross Day is all about: God so-loves you that God holds nothing back to make that love real. God so-loves you that God stitches the fabric of the relationship between you and God together with holy-colored thread that will last forever.

This is from *Christ in Our Home 2023*. The prayer book that is available in the Great Room. The words above can be found on the date of September 14th, page 80, of the devotional. Published by Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Printed in U.S.A.



YEARS AGO...



If you recognize anyone in this picture. Please contact the church office so we can include the information in next month's newsletter. This picture says Marion "B" Dartball Team on the back. The years listed are 1980-1981. The original picture can be seen in the great room next to our newspaper clipping bulletin board.



Moses misunderstands his doctor's orders.

Toon93. The Newsletter, https://www.churchart.com/subscriber/viewimages?book_number=1&image_type=ca. Copyright © 2023 CRI™. All Rights Reserved.



This picture was in last month's newsletter. Both Jan Mielke and Shirl Tischauser helped identify those they recognized in this picture. Identified were: Marley Bailey (right hand side in the back), Vernon Krueger (behind Rich in front of Marley), Marvin Hintz, Pat Bailey, Lyle Passehl (middle back), Richard Beil (kneeling), Leon Rades (behind Rich, with the white apron), Alvin Genskow (in the plaid), Pastor John Stockbridge (back on the left).

Thank you to both Jan Mielke and Shirl Tischauser for helping identify these men. Pictures like these can be found in our church library. There are also several new books, dvds, and cd's available to church members based on the honor system.



Helen Oehlschlager's Lakeview Chili

7-8lbs. Hamburger, browned
onion
celery
4 cloves garlic, chopped
2 qts. Tomatoes
2 cans tomato soup
1 (15-oz.) can tomato paste
2 cans chili kidney beans

Brown hamburger with onion, celery and garlic. Add remaining ingredients. Salt, pepper and chili powered to taste.

-Provided by Shirl Tischauser

Recipe is from the cookbook: *Cookin' with St. John's* Copyright © 2009. Morris Press Cookbooks on page 15.

This cookbook and other St. John's Cookbooks can be found in the church library and loaned through the honor system.

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

General Fund:

Revenue \$ 101,874
Expenses \$ 106,761

**Financial Condition-
Balances as of August 31st**

General Fund \$ 23,615
Building &
Church Improvements 103,334
Benevolence Fund 2,348
Special Funds 45,444
Check EFT 320
Total \$175,062

FUNERAL

A funeral service was held on September 8th for the friends and family of John Bartelt.

MONETARY DONATION

Warren and Anne Erdman made a monetary donation in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 6th 1958.



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THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

We are grateful for the ways Thrivent Members share generosity. To designate your Thrivent Choice dollars visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice, call 800-847-4836, or contact your local Thrivent financial professional. Designating dollars is an important step to take each year by March 31st.

Prayers

- ◆ Becky Van Buren
- ◆ Braeden Mielke
- ◆ Clarence Fenner (Peggy Hammond's dad)
- ◆ Corrine Kroening
- ◆ Darla Dieck
- ◆ Dave Krueger
- ◆ David Soik
- ◆ Dorothy Arndt
- ◆ Houston Burmeister
- ◆ Jaden Stuhr
- ◆ Jim Johnson
- ◆ Judy Allen
- ◆ Karla Kroening
- ◆ Karol Freeland
- ◆ Kay Moericke
- ◆ Laura Moericke
- ◆ Lucille Netzel
- ◆ Mary Mengert
- ◆ Nathan Nick
- ◆ Patty (Fournier) Beck
- ◆ Parker Wolff
- ◆ Rachel Fischer
- ◆ Will Wege



Prayer for Those In Assisted Living

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

Prayer for the Friends and Family of:

- ◆ John Bartelt
- ◆ Bob Eggleston

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIMPLY GIVING

We have had several inquiries about setting up automatic withdrawal donations to the church. If you are interested in this, please visit the website at: <https://www.stjohnsmarion.org/information-forms/> and fill out the form that is linked to Online Giving. You can also give online on the homepage by clicking on the donate button or scanning the QR Code in this bulletin. If you are interested in participating please either let the church office know.



Thank you to all who donated school supplies. We were able to send two boxes worth of school supplies to Marion and Tigerton schools. We were also able to send over 20 Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

QUILTING GROUP

Each Wednesday at St. John's the quilting group gathers at 12:30p.m. to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. These quilts, personal care kits and school kits will be sent to the Lutheran World Relief Headquarters on October 6th. This year the group has made about 140 quilts and about 30 personal care kits. Pictured from left to right are: Jan Baerenwald, Diane Schumacher, Fran Johnson, Dawn Riemer and Mary Rades. Not pictured are Jane Krueger and Rose Wepner. If you see any of these ladies please thank them for all they do. The quilters are always looking for help. "If you can tie your shoe laces, you can come to help tie quilts. Please join the group!"-Mary Rades

COMMUNION

The next time communion will be offered is Sunday, October 8th at 8a.m. and 10:30a.m. and on October 29th at 9:30a.m. This is confirmation Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on October 29th.



St. John's Church Council Minutes – August 15, 2023

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

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

The mission statement was read together.

Member Comments: A get well card will be sent to Pastor Jill. Action team reports will be added to the newsletter to update congregation of “happening” at the church.

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

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Shirl, seconded by Ron, to approve the June and July 2023 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

Vital Statistics: Rosalie Elizabeth Matz, daughter of McGregor Matz and Hannah Krueger was baptized on July 30, 2023; Robert Fischer passed away on July 13, 2023. No formal service was held.

Old Business: Items of Old Business considered were:

- Call Committee Update – No update.
- SOUL T-Shirts Committee Update – T-Shirt advertising will begin in the September newsletter. The cost will be \$20 per t-shirt. For each X, a dollar extra will be charged. The profits will go towards community outreach. A T-Shirt sample will be displayed during the Fall Dinner.
- SAMS program – A Lay person will be able distribute communion once the SAMS program training has been completed. The ELCA has finished organizing the SAMS program. The Church will be responsible for any costs incurred. A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Shirl to nominate Denise Pamperin to attend the SAMS program. Motion carried.
- Fall Dinner – Clipboards are available to sign up for donations and/or to volunteer. There will be one service at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School.
- Other Old Business – None

New Business: Items of New Business considered were:

- Set Annual Meeting Date– The annual meeting will be held on January 28, 2024. There will be one service at 9:30 am. The meeting will begin at 11:00 am. Light snacks will be provided.
- Sunday School and Confirmation Start Update – Sunday School begins on September 10, 2023. Confirmation will start on September 13, 2023. The church is still looking for volunteers to assist with Sunday School.
- Student Fund Request – Kay Tellock and Carol Polzin are requesting funds to assist with cost of lay school. A motion was made by Wanda, seconded by Linda to approve the financial request for lay school. Motion carried.
- Sidewalk Repair – The City of Marion will replace sidewalks with cracks or lifts. Contractor has agreed to repair all sidewalks and the driveway. The estimated cost to repair the sidewalks and driveway will be \$9000-\$10,000. The projected timeframe for repairs will be the Summer of 2024.
- Holy Conversation Discussion – The ELCA sent a pamphlet inviting St John's to have a conversation about

our call. At this time, the council has decided that the sessions with Cathy Cowling were enough.

- Administration Retreat – A motion was made by Pat to approve Sheri attending the retreat, seconded by Melissa. Motion carried.
- Funeral Form – A form is available for members to fill out stating their wishes for their funeral. Sheri will add the information to the newsletter.
- Any Other New Business – Homme Inc of Wisconsin is having their Annual Meeting on September 12, 2023.

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

- Worship and Music– During the Parish Hall renovations, two church services will take place in the Sanctuary with Sunday School in between.
- Property– Premier Community Bank has contacted the church regarding their October 9, 2023 workday. The committee is compiling a list of items. Kyle Kohel will submit a quote for the gutters. The key list will need to be reviewed. Fran will begin Parish Hall renovations starting in October.

Closed Session: none

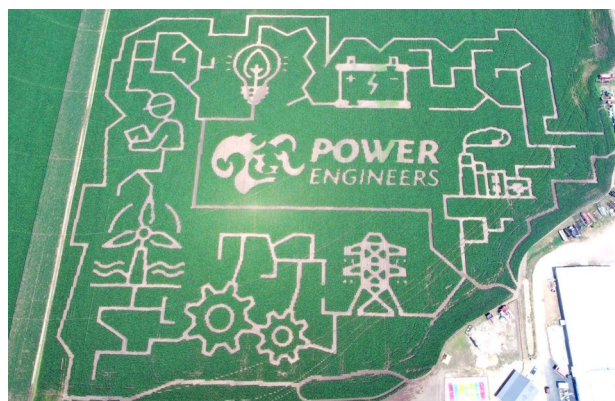
The next meeting will be on September 19, 2023, at 6:45 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Synod Youth Event - Feltz' Corn Maze in Stevens Point

Youth in middle school and high school are invited to a day of fall fun on Saturday, October 14th at Feltz' Corn Maze! Meet by the cow at 10 am to get to know other leaders and kids from across the synod. Bring your own lunch or enjoy some snacks onsite and decide when its time to depart. We will have name tags available and do some get to know you games. The corn maze is \$8.00 for kids up to 12 and for kids 13 and older the cost is \$10.00. Bring extra money to spend in the store! Each congregation will be asked to provide your own chaperone for every 6 youth and are asked to utilize your own permission forms and safety procedures. A group RSVP will help us to know you're coming! Contact the church office at churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org or call (715) 754-5201.



SOUL OPPORTUNITIES

MAY WE APPROACH EACH DAY WITH SOUL-SERVING OTHERS UPLIFTING LIVES!

FALL DINNER UPDATE

It won't be long before the annual Fall Dinner is here at St. John's. This year's dinner will be on Sunday, November 12 from 11-1:30 in our freshly redone Parish Hall. What a great way to show our latest updates to our beautiful church. We will need volunteers to help with meal prep on Friday for a few hours, Saturday for a few more and then on Sunday we will need help in the kitchen, dining room and clean up after. We will also be needing donations for the meal itself. Please prayerfully consider when, where and how you can help out. Sign up sheets will be passed around in church within the next few weeks. This year's dinner will be broasted chicken and ham, with all the fixings for \$12, age 13-adults; \$5 age 6-12; and under 5 are free. Thank you in advance and may God continue to bless you all.- The Fall Dinner Committee **THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON NOVEMBER 12TH!**

FOOD PANTRY

Food pantry needs for October are peanut butter and chicken noodle soup. Food pantry wants are shampoo and laundry detergent.

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).

DKG COLLECTING FOR VETERANS AT KING

DKG members will be collecting the following items until November 5, 2023. If you would like to donate any of the following items to the Veterans at King, please bring them to St. John's Lutheran Church in Marion and place them in the bin in the *Great Room*, or the Marion Public Library. There will be a bin at each place to collect them. We have contacted the Activities Director at King for input as to the items the residents need the most. Please only new items as these will also be used for Christmas presents. Men's and women's comfortable clothing, including sweatshirts, sweatpants, and t-shirts, also pajama pants --- any size but some larger sizes would be appreciated. Toiletries such as body wash, alcohol free mouthwash, Puffs or another kind of Kleenex, women's face cream, and body lotions (men and women). Extra wide slippers with good soles.

WANTED

We are looking for Worship Leaders and Readers. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

A Reminder Office Hours Have Changed to 8:30-4:30p.m.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Church Services

October 1st, 15th, 22nd-8a.m. & 10:30a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

October 4th, 11th, 18th-6p.m. Worship

October 8th-8a.m. & 10:30a.m. Worship with Communion (Pastor Bob Wilkinson)

October 25th-6p.m. Worship with Communion (Pastor Jill Meyer)

October 29th-9:30a.m. Confirmation Sunday with Communion (Pastor Gary Froseth)

Quilting-Every Wednesday 12:30p.m.

Camelot Worship-Every first Wednesday of the month at 3p.m.

Confirmation Class-Every Wednesday at 6:45p.m.

Worship & Music-October 9th meet at 4:15p.m.

Synod Youth Event-October 14th at 10a.m.

Council Meeting-October 17th at 6:45p.m.

Office Closed

Wednesday, October 18th from 12p.m.-4:30p.m.

Thursday, October 19th

No Sunday School

October 29th

November 12th

Yoga-Monday at 9a.m. on October 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th

Fall Dinner-November 12th 11a.m.-1:30p.m. *Volunteers Needed!*

All Saints Day-November 19th

Quake

Quake is an event for our youth grades 6-12. Volunteers will be needed to chaperone and transport. If youth are interested in going, contact the church office. We will need to know by November 30th to receive the early bird registration rate.





St. John's Lutheran Church

318 E. Garfield Ave Marion, WI

www.stjohnsmarion.org

Fall Dinner

Buffet Style

All you care to eat

Menu: Broasted chicken, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, cranberries, glazed carrots, corn, green bean casserole, pie, coffee and milk.

\$12 age 13-adults; \$5 age 6-12; under 5 Free

Sunday, November 12, 2023
11 am—1:30 pm

Call the church office for
carry outs at 715-754-5201
by October 20th. Delivery
within Marion available.





St. John's Lutheran Church
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