



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024 | ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

It's Just Me!

In the office one day I was talking to a fellow member and another member walked in the door and said, "Hi! It's just me!" The member in the office said to the member that just walked in the door, "It's not just you. It's you!" The member in the office said they often stated this to volunteers who say, "I am just here to volunteer." This truly hit me on many levels. First, I wish I had thought to say that. Second, none of you are just you. You are fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Each of you make up this church. You all walk through the door here with a purpose. You may not even be thinking about the purpose when you walk through the door. You may think you are just dropping something off or doing something quickly at church. However, you never know who you might run into here or who you might impact on any given day. The member standing in the office stated to the member who just walked through the door, you and what you are doing here is valued. Your value may be on a Sunday or Wednesday to worship with your fellow members. To let them know you care about them and are praying for them. The purpose may be helping with building repairs, counting weekly offerings, reading, or teaching from the lectern, Sunday School room, or adult bible study. Your purpose may be singing and sharing your voice or playing an instrument. You may help with coffee hour or funeral preparation, donating or feeding the confirmation or Sunday School kids. Maybe you give communion to those who can't get to church. Maybe you help sew, or fill the candles on the altar, or decorate the church. I cannot describe all of the ways each of you are valued but I want you to know I and your fellow members value you and the gifts you bring to the church. Please help me pray for the members of this church: Heavenly Father, I thank you for this church. I thank you for the people and the talents we get to enjoy inside these church walls. May the members of this church give love, kindness, and compassion to those inside and outside of these church walls. Help us to follow you in each and everything we do. In your holy name, Amen.

Office Manager,
Sheri Fuhrman



Amy Bazile

Ron Krueger

Mandy Malueg

Dawn White

Crystal Schwan

Linda Mielke

Mary Hoppe

Melissa Pfeiler

Brian Sawall

Pat Mielke

Wanda Tucker

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

Pause Ponder Pray

Preachers and People

A few weeks ago, I was reading a devotion and the story reminded me of the “farewell” article Shirl Tischauser wrote in the January Spirit Alive newsletter.

There was a famous preacher of another generation, and in the community where he lived, there was an intellectual agnostic. As the story goes, people had tried time and again unsuccessfully to get him to come to church. Finally, he agreed. He told a friend he would go for two months but did not believe it would do any good. So, the preacher, knowing that the man was coming, decided to spend extra time preparing sermons that could address the faith for an intellectual agnostic. He worked and worked, and when the time came, articulately delivered his messages.

At the end of the two months, when the invitation was given, the agnostic stepped into the aisle, came forward and said he would like to profess Christ as his savior and be baptized. It was a remarkable miracle!!

The great preacher exclaimed his joy, and then asked which one of his sermons had been the turning point.

However, the man admitted that none of the preacher’s sermons did the trick. Instead, he told him that every week when he came to church, he noticed a woman who did not have much money, did not have much education, and had been through a lot. Nevertheless, her face glowed and he wished he had the faith she did.

He went on to relate that the previous week he had tripped on the way out the door of the church, and the woman had reached down and grabbed him by the elbow to pull him up. “When our eyes came face to face,” he said, “she looked at me and simply said, ‘Do you love Jesus like I love Jesus? And has Jesus changed you like he has changed me?’ And I had to say no.” The agnostic, then, became a Christian because of what the woman had said and done.

The truth is most people are not converted by sermons or Sunday School lessons. Those things help. But most people come into the faith because SOMEBODY else simply looks them in the eye and shows them a changed life. That is the kind of credibility that makes a difference.

St John’s has adopted SOUL -serving other uplifting lives. Opportunities abound in our church and our community. As the woman in the story asked, do we love Jesus like she loved Jesus? What difference can you make?

ACT AS IF WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE. IT DOES! William James

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 was found in the *Diamond Jubilee of St. John's Lutheran Church*.



This picture was in last month's newsletter. Shirl Tischauser provided information regarding this picture. This picture was in a Ladies Aid Yearbook from 1988-1989.

Listed in a newspaper clipping next to the picture are: Nettie Brandenburg, Karen Heling, Margie Verch, June Wegner, Germaine Tischauser, Lucile Krueger, Marion Bowers, Lois Pockat, Gladys Moericke, Gert Mielke, Gladys Cronce, Dorothy Gruenstern. The order of the woman are not know. Also not all women are pictured.

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.



Oreo Dessert

1 pkg. Oreo cookies
1/2 gal. vanilla ice cream
1 (8-oz.) Cool Whip

Cover bottom of 9 x 13 pan with crushed cookies, reserving 1/2 cup to sprinkle on top of dessert. Spread softened ice cream on crust. Spread cool whip on ice cream. Sprinkle with remaining cookies on top. Freeze for 1 hour. Cut with warm knife.

Note: This recipe is passed down from my cousin, Connie (Yaeger) Olson. She made this for dessert when my family visited them for a weekend of fishing in St. Germain.

From: Brenda Mehlberg, pg. 118 of *Cookin' With St. John's* 2009 Cookbook

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

General Fund:

Revenue \$ 165,075
Expenses \$ 158,200

Financial Condition-

Balances as of December 31st

General Fund \$ 45,609
Building &
Church Improvements 99,999
Benevolence Fund 1
Special Funds 46,086
Check EFT 20
Total \$191,715



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"Thanks for calling the Believer's Support Line. For a word of encouragement, press one. For a verbal pat on the back, press two. For immediate praise and adulation, press three. For a faith that worketh patience, press on!"

Prayers

- ◆ Becky Van Buren
- ◆ Bev Genskow
- ◆ Braeden Mielke
- ◆ Clarence Fenner
(Peggy Hammond's dad)
- ◆ Corrine Kroening
- ◆ Darla Dieck
- ◆ Dave Krueger
- ◆ Dave Schmidt
- ◆ David Soik
- ◆ Denise Pamperin
- ◆ Dorothy Arndt
- ◆ Germaine Tischauser
- ◆ Jackie Suehring
- ◆ Jaden Stuhr
- ◆ Jerome Portnoy
- ◆ Jerry Zimdars
- ◆ Karol Freeland
- ◆ Kristy Overman
- ◆ Laura Moericke
- ◆ Nathan Nick
- ◆ Patty (Fournier) Beck
- ◆ Rachel Fischer
- ◆ Will Wege



Prayer for Those In Assisted Living

- ◆ Karen Aschenbrenner
- ◆ Anne Erdman
- ◆ Jack Lozier
- ◆ Arnold Kriesel
- ◆ Gloria Krieser
- ◆ Mary Mengert
- ◆ Lois Miller

Prayer for the Friends and Family of:

- ◆ Ronda Radtke
- ◆ Joel Robenhagen

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St. John's Church Council Minutes – December 12, 2023

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

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

The mission statement was read together.

Member Comments: Several members mentioned that the church was decorated beautifully for Christmas.

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

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

Vital Statistics: None to report.

Old Business: Items of Old Business considered were:

- Annual Report – Sheri has received all required items thus far.
- Nominating Committee Update – No new update.
- Other Old Business – There was no other old business.

New Business: Items of New Business considered were:

- Approval of Proposed Budget for 2024– A motion was made by Mary, seconded by Linda, to approve the proposed budget as presented. Motion carried.
- Approval of Proposed Council Member Candidates – A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Melissa, to approve the following proposed candidates for Council:
 - Dawn White (new)
 - Pat Mielke (new)
 - Crystal Schwan (new)
 - Mandy Malueg (2 term)
 - Mary Hoppe (3 term)
 - Brian Sawall (2 term)
 - Wanda Tucker (3 term)Motion carried.
- Quarterly Benevolence – A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Wanda to disburse the quarterly benevolence as follows: Homme \$200, Giving Tree \$200, Goodfellows \$200, Backpack Program \$300, and the ELCA \$2100. Motion carried.
- Foundations for BeFriender Ministry – A church in Waupaca is using the BeFriender Ministry to assist with the current pastor shortage. This program trains members in many different areas. Here are just a few: how to visit shut-ins, assisting members who are getting married or divorced, grief counseling, hospitalizations, etc. for a fee. If any member of the congregation is interested in learning more, please contact the church office.
- Youth Events Coordinator – The council would like a committee formed, not a single individual.
- Any Other New Business –

Quake – Currently, four children are interested in attending. A female and male chaperone will need to attend as well. The church youth fund will pay half per student, along with one female chaperone and one male chaperone. The first youth portion is due by January 4 and remaining balance by February 1. Fundraising will be required to put money back into the youth account. A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Linda to pay half of the admission for each youth, one female and one male chaperone from the Youth Fund. Motion carried.

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

- **Property** – We have received the grant money for the AED. Brian Ewald will come to finish up the class room under the sanctuary after the 1st of the year. The estimated cost for the wiring and outlets in the Club Room is \$2000. The roof has been fixed above the Great Room.
- **Worship and Music** - The votives will be replaced for All Saints Sunday next year. Pastor Lois has agreed to help with the Lenten Services. The Last Supper rendition will happen on Maundy Thursday service.

Closed Session: none

The next meeting will be on January 16, 2024 at 6:45 pm.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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/>. Crossways is also looking for staff to help this summer. For more information about Crossways, contact them at 920-882-0023; e-mail info@crosswayscamps.org or visit their website at www.crosswayscamps.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **AED**

An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. The church has an AED located in the back of the sanctuary, in the left stairwell going up to the balcony. Training to use the AED will be in the Parish Hall on March 10th at 11:30a.m. If you plan on attending, please let the church office know so the trainer is notified of how many to expect at the training.

- **Camelot Worship**

Camelot Worship service is typically the first Wednesday of each month at the Camelot Apartments at 3:00p.m. The Camelot Service is a community outreach program. It is an opportunity to worship and receive Holy Communion.

- **Communion**

The next time communion will be offered is Sunday, February 11th at 8a.m. and 10:30a.m. services, and February 14th at 6p.m.

- **First Communion Classes**

For those who are not yet sharing in Holy Communion that are second grade or above, there will be two classes on Wednesday evening on April 3rd and 10th from 5-6p.m. A parent or guardian is required to attend. Please let us know if you want to attend these classes so we have enough materials. April 14th at 10:30a.m. will be the date to celebrate partaking in Holy Communion. Sponsors and families are encouraged to attend this service to support those taking this step of faith.

SOUL OPPORTUNITIES

- **Backpack Program**

Thank you to all who volunteered to fill backpacks this month. Remember to go to the Marion Area Food Pantry at 10a.m. Again thank you!

- **Meeting Jesus at the Table**

Lent is a season for the deepened reflection on the meaning of Jesus' life and ministry, death, and resurrection. It is also a time for us to reflect on what it means to be called to follow Jesus in our own lives individually and as communities of faith. In the study, Meeting Jesus at the Table, we will follow Gospel readings that represent a range of stories about food and feasting from the life and teaching of Jesus. We hope that these table stories draw you closer to Christ and to one another as the body of Christ and that you will always be able to recognize him in the breaking and sharing of bread. We ask that each week you bring an item for the Food Pantry.

- **Wanted**

We are looking for Worship Leaders and Readers and members to give Home Communion. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

- **Youth Wishlist**

Meals are being prepared for the confirmation and's prior to class. If you would like to help feed the kids, we are looking for donations of pizzas. We encourage you to put the pizzas in the white freezer in the back of the kitchen. We are also sending a group of youth to Wisconsin Dells Quake. We are looking for donations like microwavable popcorn, hamburger or hotdog buns, a case or two of water, snacks such as a box of assorted chips, Gift/Gas Cards to transport the kids. Any items that are not used for this trip will be used for Sunday School and Confirmation kids. Thank you for supporting the youth!

MARION FOOD PANTRY

Food pantry needs for February are hamburger helper and boxed potatoes. Food pantry wants are dish soap and Kleenex. Distribution is the first and third Thursday of every month from 3-4p.m.

LENTEN BREAKFASTS

Thursday, February 15th 2024
Breakfast starts at 8a.m.

Speaker: Carol Polzin
of St. John's Lutheran Church,
Marion

Menu: Pancakes, Porkie
Links, Cheese, Applesauce,
Milk, Orange Juice and Coffee
Free-will donations accepted



DID YOU KNOW?

Mama's House of Hope has teamed up with St. Vincent De Paul in selling SCRIP cards. These cards are for sale at St. John's Lutheran Church or by contacting Jackie Suehring. 10% of these cards will benefit ANYONE in need within Marion, Tigerton, or Wittenberg. The cards can be used at any SHELL gas station for gas or anything in the store. Amounts available are \$25 or \$50 (\$100 available upon request).



2024 St. John's Lutheran Church Marion

8:00 a.m.

Community Lenten Breakfast menu:

Week 1. Thursday, February 15:

Speaker: Carol Polzin, From: St. John's Lutheran Church, Marion
Pancakes, Porkie Links, Cheese, Apple Sauce, Milk, Orange Juice and Coffee

Week 2. Thursday, February 22:

Speaker: Kay Tellock, From: St. John's Lutheran Church, Marion
French Toast, Kielbasa, Cheese, Apple Sauce, Milk, Orange Juice, and Coffee

Week 3. Thursday, February 29:

Speaker: Pastor Lois Graper, Retired Pastor
Scrambled Eggs, Hash browns, Bacon, Danish Pastries, Cheese, Apple Sauce, Orange Juice, Milk, Coffee

Week 4. Thursday, March 7:

Speaker: Pastor Tim Lofgren, From: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pella
Sausage Gravy with Biscuits, Southern Fried Cubed Potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Cheese, Milk, Orange Juice and Coffee

Week 5. Thursday, March 14:

Speaker: Pastor Dean Suehring, From: Three Churches, St. John's Lutheran Church, Tigerton and Caroline, and Immanuel, Caroline
French Toast, Ham, Cheese, Apple Sauce, Milk, Orange Juice, and Coffee

Week 6. Thursday, March 21:

Speaker: Denise Pamperin, From: St. John's Lutheran Church, Marion
Quiche, Fruit Cocktail, Kringles, Milk, Orange Juice and Coffee

Ash Wednesday



FEBRUARY 14TH WORSHIP AT 6P.M.

FOR YOU ARE DUST,
AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN.
GENESIS 3:19



Are You Looking To Place An Announcement In The Church Newsletter?

If so, please contact the church office with the words you would like placed in the next month's newsletter by the second Thursday of every month.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Church Services

February 4th, 18th, 25th-8 & 10:30a.m. Worship

February 7th, 21st, 28th-6p.m. Worship

February 11th-8 & 10:30a.m. Worship with Communion (Pastor Bob Wilkinson)

Transfiguration Sunday

February 14th-6p.m. Worship with Communion (Pastor Lois Graper)

Ash Wednesday

Camelot Worship-February 7th at 3p.m.

Confirmation Class-Wednesday, February 7th at 6:45p.m.

Worship & Music-Monday, February 12th

Council-TBD, Tentative date of February 20th at 6:45p.m.

AED Training-March 10th at 11:30a.m. in the Parish Hall-Call Church office if you plan on attending

Dominos-Every Wednesday 1p.m.

Quilting-Every Wednesday 12:30p.m.

Yoga-NO CLASS on Thursdays; Mondays at 9a.m.

Youth attending the Quake event in Wisconsin Dells-Please be at church at 2p.m. on February 16th.



PARENTS YOU WILL NEED TO GET YOUR CHILD OUT OF SCHOOL EARLY!

The second payment of \$53 should be submitted to the church office and is due on February 5th.

This cross has recently been put up. You can see it by the elevator on the Sanctuary/Parish Hall Level. This cross was donated to us by Clintonville Hometown Veterinarian Services.

Please be sure to stop by the church kitchen to pick up any dishes that may have been left from a previous funeral.

We thank all of the volunteers that help with funerals whether it is a monetary donation, bringing food, or helping in the kitchen. Thank you for providing for members and their families at such a needed time.



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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