



Spirit *Alive*

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

OUR YOUTH-OUR FUTURE

Psalm 119: 9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I visited an area Lutheran Church on Easter Sunday and the minister said something so profound -- "It is amazing to see all these friends and family of Christ. You are welcome back here next Sunday and the Sunday after that and the one after that. Please don't be a stranger." I loved watching some people look at each other in astonishment of his words and I felt that the minister could not have been more poignant. It is true that Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday are the most well attended services for most churches. The weeks that follow the attendance returns to normal. There is a statistic that I found to be staggering and that is that 80% of our youth members will no longer attend church after they graduate from High School. For example a mom, dad, and 4 children attend church every Sunday. The four children graduate High School and only 1 of those 4 children will continue to be active in the church-- this is jaw dropping. What will our church look like in the future? Do our youth drift away from God and his teachings or do they drift away from the church and it's members -- what is the root cause of this? One of the biggest reasons is the lack of faith centered events for our church youth to attend. We need to fill children with the word of our Lord and encourage them to live it in their daily lives. Youth need to pray when they are not at church and know that they can speak to God--anywhere. The church needs to nourish our youth with the sacrament of Holy Communion to fill their hearts with the love of our Savior. Parents need to set examples for their children and continue to attend church even when it may not be most convenient or may not fit into their busy schedules. We are blessed that here at St. John's we offer a week night service (Wednesday at 6pm) that provides an additional opportunity to worship. Our youth are important to St. John's and I encourage parents and youth to keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to explore your faith and celebrate the LIFE our Lord has provided.

Crystal Schwan
Council Member



President-Pat Mielke

V. President-Amy Bazile

Secretary-Mandy Malueg

Brian Sawall

Crystal Schwan

Dawn White

Linda Mielke

Mary Hoppe

Melissa Pfeiler

Ron Krueger

Wanda Tucker

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

Pause Ponder Pray May 2024

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.” Albert Einstein

As a follower of Christ serving is not really an option. It is essential if we are ever to live life with a capital L, we have to understand that true joy and fulfillment come only when we give out what we take in and pass on to others what we have received.

Think of it this way; your arms are full of Christmas presents. You cannot accept any more until you have given away what you are already holding. And that is just like God’s gifts and blessings. He has more he wants to give us, but we have to make room first by offering what we already have.

I am not just talking about material things. It is about giving of yourself, your time, and your talents, just for the joy of knowing it was what you were created to do. Nothing will satisfy you like finding yourself in what God wants you to do and losing yourself in his service. That is the greatest pay you will ever receive.

“Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best.” Henry van Dyke

During World War II, a group of French soldiers were captured. They were made to work for the Germans in their munitions factory. They literally had to make bombs, knowing that some of those bombs would be dropped on their own people, possibly even their own families.

One of the captives happened to be a scientist. He figured out a way to construct the bombs so that they would not actually detonate when they hit. He taught the other soldiers to make them that way. Well, the bombing started in France, but when these bombs came down, sure enough, they would not explode. Experts were called in to find out what was going on, and when they disassembled one of the non-detonating bombs, there was a note inside. It said something like this, “Doing the best we can, with what we have, where we are.”

And that – doing the best we can, with what we have, where we are – is the biblical standard of serving. It tells God we are serious about our place in his Kingdom, and that we are serious about him, too!

Ultimately only the things that are done for Christ last. So where is God leading you?

Where has he tugged on your sleeve?

YEARS AGO...

GOOD LAUGHS



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.

This was a picture of the Spiritual Life and Growth Committee who served the congregation in 1961. Seated: Herbert Beyer, Emory Brandenburg, Leon Jacoby. Standing: Roger Hanson, Elmer Hehner, George Mielke, Vilas Lehman, Rev. F.R. Ohlrogge.

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.



ILC Memphis. 18th of April, 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/ILCMemphis/photos/a.578255482184835/2302557283087971/?type=3>

This pre-bitten cookie cutter lets you keep all the cookies to yourself!



Impressive Things. 18th of April, 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/ImpressiveThings/photos/a.1422866521260972/2616407711906841/?type=3>



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Month End: **March 2024**
Year to Date

General Fund:

Revenue \$ 52,603
Expenses \$ 43,269

Financial Condition-

Balances as of March 31st

General Fund \$ 50,844
Building &
Church Improvements 110,537
Benevolence Fund 3,471
Special Funds 46,512
Check EFT 1,039
Total \$212,403

Baptism

Pastor Lois Graper baptized Kendra Denae Maass on April 7th, 2024 at St. Joseph's Residence in New London, Wis. Please welcome Kendra, daughter of Dale & Ashley Maass to the congregation!

Samaritan's Feet

On Maundy Thursday an offering of \$1,296 was collected and donated to Samaritan's Feet. Samaritan's Feet is a 501(c) humanitarian aid organization that serves and inspires hope by providing shoes to those in need around the world. In John 13:14, Jesus says, "Now that I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." Like John 13, the organization washes feet while providing the message of hope. Since its founding in 2003, Samaritan's Feet and its partners have served over 10.1 million people across 109 countries and over 600 U.S. cities. Thank you to all who helped make this donation possible.



Prayers

- ♦ Amy Bazile
- ♦ Becky Van Buren
- ♦ Bev Genskow
- ♦ Bonnie Elandt
- ♦ Braeden Mielke
- ♦ Carol Grossman
- ♦ Corrine Kroening
- ♦ Darla Dieck
- ♦ Dave Krueger
- ♦ Dave Schmidt
- ♦ David Soik
- ♦ Denise Pamperin
- ♦ Dorothy Arndt
- ♦ Jackie Suehring
- ♦ Jaden Stuhr
- ♦ James O. Krueger
- ♦ Jerome Portnoy
- ♦ Jerry Zimdars
- ♦ Kristy Overman
- ♦ Larry Schuster
- ♦ Nancy Helms
- ♦ Nathan Nick
- ♦ Patty (Fournier) Beck
- ♦ Rachel Fischer
- ♦ Sandy Schuelke
- ♦ Scott Elandt
- ♦ Yvonne Jahnke
- ♦ Will Wege



Prayer for Those In Assisted Living

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

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St. John's Church Council Minutes – March 19, 2024

Council members present: Pat Mielke, Linda Mielke, Mary Hoppe, Melissa Pfeiler, Mandy Malueg, Ron Krueger, Crystal Schwan, Brian Sawall, Wanda Tucker. **Also present:** Sheri Fuhrman **Absent:** Amy Bazile and Dawn White

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

Member Comments: None to report.

Secretary's Report: The meeting minutes for February 2024, were reviewed. A motion was made by Linda, seconded by Crystal, to approve the Council minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Mary, seconded by Ron, to approve the February 2024 financial statements as presented. Motion carried.

Vital Statistics: Brynleigh Ruth Jozwiak, daughter of Adam and Shae Jozwiak was baptized on March 10, 2024.

Old Business: Items of Old Business considered were:

- **MSP Review/Update Discussion:** Council has discussed the MSP. Some topics and questions will be brought to the Call Committee.
- **Synod Staff Visit (March 27)** – The Synod would like to hold their staff workshop at St Johns. The date is March 27, 2024 from 9-4 pm. Pat will give a tour of the church.
- **First Draft of Student Conduct Code** – The first draft has been created. Crystal has a few suggestions to add to the draft. She will continue to work on the final draft.
- **Action Team Member Assignment** – All action teams have been assigned.
- **Tammy Borden Presentation Update** – Sue has reached out to Tammy. Sue is still waiting to hear back from her. The presentation would be an hour long with Q & A to follow. It was suggested to share the option with the school. Advertising will be done.
- Any Other Old Business – none

New Business: Items of New Business considered were:

- **Financial Management Review**– Pat has been working with Dayna regarding some investment options.
- **Samaritan's Feet Donation** – A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Crystal to donate the Maundy Thursday offering to Samaritan's Feet. Motion carried.
- **Shut-In Staff Mileage Reimbursement** – A motion was made by Crystal, seconded by Brian to purchase Script cards for mileage reimbursement. Motion carried.
- **Any Other New Business:** None reported.

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

- **Property**– The walls have been painted and carpet is ordered for the Sunday school wing under the Sanctuary. One of the boiler pumps went out. It will be approximately \$2000 to replace. Property will meet soon, after Easter.
- **Worship and Music** – Lay School graduates will be recognized. The Summer schedule is as follows:

May 26-June 30 9:30 in Come Alive space; July 7-August 25, 9:30 in sanctuary. September 1 back to Come Alive. The following week will be split. Wednesday night, May 29, will be first service at Veteran's Park through September 4.

Closed Session: none

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• 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.

• First Communion

Brielle King, Shae Jozwiak, and Bryson Jozwiak celebrated their first communion on April 14th at the 10:30a.m. worship service.

• Food Pantry

Food Pantry needs for May are tuna and pasta sauce. The food pantry wants are toothpaste and toothbrushes. Thank you!

• Graduation Sunday

We will be honoring college and high school 2024 graduations during the 9:30a.m. service in the Parish Hall on Sunday, May 19th. Please email the church office via churchoffice@stjohnsmarion.org. Please send your full name (including middle name), a picture of yourself, and your future plans by Monday, May 6th. If you would like to be recognized in the bulletin but will not be able to attend the service on that day, please let the church office know.

• Media Policy

In this digital age, the church takes photos and videos. These can be of baptisms, worship services, Sunday School, special events, and other activities. We use these photos and videos to record, promote and celebrate the ministries of our congregation and share them in a variety of ways, including but not limited to: St. John's website, bulletin boards, slide shows, newsletter, and St. John's Facebook page or other social media. If you wish to opt out of being involved in media on behalf of St. John's Lutheran Church, please find the Opt Out Policy, available in the Great Room and the Carport entrance, or on our website at <https://www.stjohnsmarion.org/information-forms/>. You may also contact the church office for the form.

• Sunday School Room Update

The Sunday School Room, two rooms down from the Mother's Room has been dry walled, painted, and carpeted.



First Communion on April 14th

CHURCH CALENDAR

Church Services

May 1st, 8th, 22nd–Worship in the Sanctuary at 6p.m.

May 5th-Worship at 8 in the Sanctuary &10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

May 12th -Worship at 8 in the Sanctuary &10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall with communion

May 15th –Worship with Communion 6p.m. with Pastor Jill Meyer

May 19th-Worship at 9:30a.m. in the Parish Hall *Graduation Sunday & Sunday School Celebration-Lunch Provided after the service*

May 26th-Worship in the Parish Hall at 9:30a.m. through June 30th

May 29th-Worship at 6p.m. at the Veteran’s Park through September 4th

Worship from July 7th through August 24th will be at 9:30a.m. in the Sanctuary. September 1st worship will be in the Parish Hall at 9:30a.m. The following week will be split.

Camelot Worship-May 1st at 3p.m.

Confirmation Class-Confirmation Class May 1st, 8th, 15th at 6p.m. in the Parish Hall

-Mentors, Parents & Confirmands Meeting May 1st after worship

Council-May 21st at 6:45p.m.

Dominos-Every Wednesday 1p.m.

Quilting-Every Wednesday 12:30p.m.

Yoga-Class is May 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th at 9a.m.

On Sunday, April 14th a Sunday School Teacher Appreciation was held. Kay Tellock was the speaker to the teachers. Pictured from left to right are Kay Tellock, Shawna Bertram, Brian Sawall, Melissa Pfeiler, Heather Krueger, Amber Hedtke and Kiza Tarr. Those who help with Sunday School that are not pictured are Greg Brandenburg, Joslyn Hoppe, Mary Hoppe, Stephen Krueger and Michelle Sasse.





St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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