



# *Spirit Alive!*

JUNE NEWSLETTER 2024  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

## **“SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL”**

**“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”-John 8: 12**

A familiar expression is “to see a light at the end of the tunnel”. One year our family went on a tour of Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. We had walked for more than half an hour underground when the guide had us stop. You can guess what he did next. He turned the lights off. It was so dark we could not see our hands. Then the guide struck a match, and it wasn't totally dark anymore. It was not as bright as the world outside before we began the tour, but it was also no longer totally dark.

While we travel in the tunnel of this coming year, there may be times when it's hard to see the light at the end because of all the twists and turns along the way. But remember, Jesus has already been through the tunnel of sin, death, and hell. He has made away through it for us. And He who is the light of the world walks with us.

Yes, the light of the world did extinguish on the cross when He died for the forgiveness of our sins. But Jesus' light was reignited and shone brighter than ever at His resurrection. Jesus, the light of the world, shines forever, and sin's darkness and death will never extinguish it.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, shine in our hearts and help us to be Your gospel light to all the world. Amen.

Council Member,  
Ron Krueger



**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**

### **A Servant's Heart**

A group of people were discussing their churches. Apparently, people judge the size of a church by the number of ministers it has, so they were comparing notes. One church had two. Another had three, and still another had four. The group looked at the one who had yet to respond and without hesitation she said, "A little over 300." Her response must have brought a smile to Jesus's face! As He taught, EVERY PERSON IS CALLED TO SERVE!

St John's has certainly had many opportunities over the past decade to hone our servant talents. It's warmly delighted me to watch people "step up" and utilize the gifts and talents our dear Lord has blessed us with. I am sure there are quite a few of us who never dreamed of being able to read scripture in a worship service or give a message. And how about those who have volunteered to be a mentor to a young person during their confirmation studies? The musicians who felt comfortable enough to play for services.

Those of you who have "stretched" outside your comfort zone I am sure will be the first to admit when we serve others because we want to and not because we have to it is a whole different dynamic. It changes the way we see the people we serve.

For those who have prayerfully considered where they can help. When they have inventoried their skills, their knowledge, or abilities an opportunity arises that meets their gifts. For some, its teaching, for some it is carpentry skills, dry walling abilities, for others it is being able to cook or bake for a crowd, or using their artistic talent to sing, design, paint, or sew.

For those who have a gift to lift the spirits of others it is the gift of visiting shut ins, listening, praying for comfort, healing where needed.

Practicing the gift of tithing with monetary gifts. Maybe it is providing financial management and budgeting know-how.

A key lesson to realize in all of this is when it comes to serving others the best ones are not those who are the most talented, gifted, or trained. All of these qualities are important, but the real productivity comes through connection with God. When we are willing to get beyond ourselves and into his strength and abilities, that's when God's love flows through us and touches the lives of other people. Connecting with God, we can do anything. The humble heart is the one that says, "Lord, I can't do this alone, but I know that you can make up the difference."

There was a successful businessman who received a call from a friend of his at the Boy's Club, asking for a favor. A boy in the group had leukemia, but there was nobody to drive him to the hospital for treatment. Jack, the businessman, had a lot to do, but he reluctantly agreed. He got the address and drove to a dilapidated apartment to an area in his community he had never been before.

When Jack went to the door, he met the boy's mother, and then followed her inside to meet Joey. The boy was so weak that he could not even walk, so Jack carried him out to the car. The boy's mother sat on the passenger side, and Joey laid down on the seat with his head in his mother's lap and his feet in Jack's lap. Jack, who really did not want to be doing this, was a little irritated, but he let it slide.

As they began to drive, Jack said to the boy, "I bet you like baseball." But the boy did not say a word. He tried again. "I bet you like basketball." Still, no answer.

A little while later, when the car stopped at a red light, the boy simply said, "Mister." Jack turned and looked at the kid, and their eyes locked. The boy asked, "Mister, are you God?" Jack did not know what to say, so he asked, "What do you mean?"

The boy said, "Well yesterday Mama prayed and then she told me that God was going to come and take me home. Then you came to get me. Are you God?"

And Jack said, "No I'm not. But I'm going to be."

Joey went to the hospital, where he stayed a short time before he went home to be with Jesus. The successful businessman decided he wanted to be God's hands and feet on earth, helping people. So, Jack quit his job, and now works in full time ministry.

There is no telling what God can do with us and through us when we are willing to step out. So, where's God calling you to be? Where's God calling you to serve? True happiness only comes through a life lived unselfishly for others.

John 13: 14-17: And since I, the Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you . . . You know these things – now do them! That is the path of blessing.

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## **Unlikely Witnesses**

**By: Max Lucado**

They don't look like much. The tall one in the corner – that's Peter. Galilee thickened his accent. Fishing nets thickened his hands. Stubbornness thickened his skull.

And his cronies: Andrew, James, Nathanael. Never traveled farther than a week's walk from home. No formal education. In fact, what do they have? Humility? They jockeyed for cabinet positions. Sound theology? Peter told Jesus to forget the cross. Sensitivity? John wanted to torch the Gentiles. Loyalty? When Jesus was arrested, they ran.

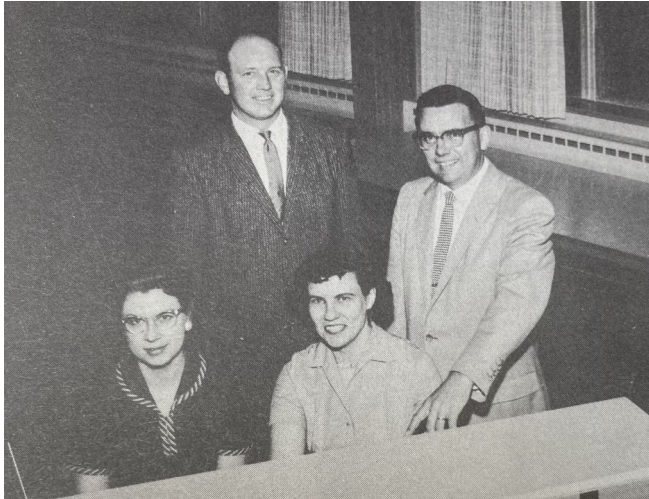
Yet look at them six weeks later, crammed into the second floor of a Jerusalem house, wondering what in the world Jesus had in mind with his final commission: "You will be my witnesses."

You uneducated and simple folk will be my witnesses. You who once shouted at me in the boat and doubted me in the Upper Room will be my witnesses.

You will spearhead a movement that will explode out of Jerusalem and spill into the ends of the earth. You will be a part of something so mighty, controversial, and head spinning that two millennia from now a middle-aged, redheaded author will type this question on his laptop: *Does Jesus still do it?* Does he still use ordinary folks as his witnesses?

YOU BET! The only question is: Will you witness?

# 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.

This was a picture of the Cemetery Committee who served the congregation in 1961. Seated: Jule Marquardt, Otto Lutzewitz, Arnold Gruenstern, Rev. F. R. Ohlrogge, Glenn Polzin.

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.

# GOOD LAUGHS



Boredpanda.com; 21st of May, 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/righteouschristianmemes>

**The Lord moves in mysterious ways but you don't have to.**

**Please use your blinker 🚗**

The Best Christian Memes; 21st of May, 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/righteouschristianmemes>

## Taco Salad

- 1 head lettuce, chopped
- 3 med. Tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 Spanish onion, chopped
- 1 lb. cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 1 bag taco or nacho Doritos
- 1 med. Bottle Western dressing
- 1 lb. ground beef, fried and cooled.

Add taco seasoning to ground beef when frying. Gently crush Doritos with your hands and toss all ingredients with dressing.

From: Betty Bertram, pg. 36 of *Cookin' With St. John's* 2009 Cookbook

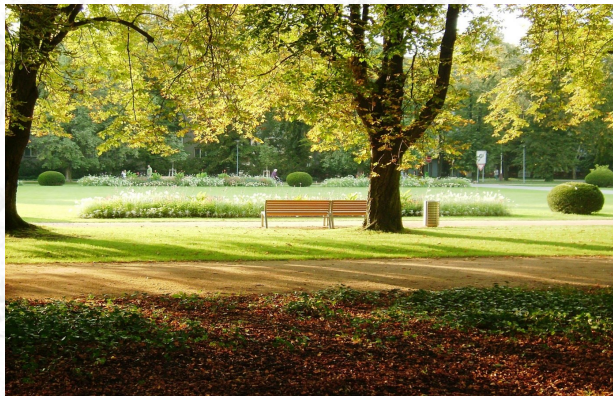
**Month End:** **April 2024**  
**Year to Date**

**General Fund:**

Revenue \$ 64,750  
Expenses \$ 57,074

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

General Fund \$ 50,844  
Building &  
Church Improvements 114,347  
Benevolence Fund 4,128  
Special Funds 46,544  
Check EFT 1,039  
Total \$212,402



**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 29th thru August 28th. 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. Hope to see you there in the midst of God’s amazing creation!

**Prayers**

- ◆Becky Van Buren
- ◆Beverly Genskow
- ◆Brayden Mielke
- ◆Cayden Arndt
- ◆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

**Prayer for the Families Of**

- ◆Carol Grossman
- ◆Debra Hintz

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

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## St. John's Church Council Minutes – April 16, 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. Crystal opened with devotions and prayer.

**Member Comments:** None to report.

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

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

**Vital Statistics:** Kendra Denae Maass was baptized by Pastor Lois Graper at St Joseph's Residence in New London on April 7, 2024.

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

- **MSP Review/Update Discussion:** The Call Committee will give a temple talk in May to update the congregation.
- **Student Conduct Code** – Council will review the St John's confirmation behavior contract and St John's youth activities/trips code of conduct next month.
- Any Other Old Business – none

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

- **Income/Pastor Expense Analysis**– Revenue and expenses were reviewed to accommodate a potential Pastor.
- **Any Other New Business:** None reported.

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

- **Property** –The property committee met on 04/15/2024, strategizing together to create a 5-year plan. A quote for parking lot resurfacing is being obtained. Currently the parking lot has been patched.
- **Worship and Music** – Betty researched a portable keyboard at Heid Music for Wednesday night services. Tracy will contact Thrivent to see if funds are available to help with purchase. Linda is working on the preaching schedule.
- **Education** - The Sunday School staff retreat was held. Kay shared words. Shirl provided treats. It was a very relaxing and enjoyable time together. Crossways is coming to talk to Sunday School students and parents.

**Closed Session:** none

The next meeting will be on May 21, 2024 at 6:45 pm.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

# Celebration of Graduates

## High School Graduates:



### ***Glenn Lee Haring Jr.***

Glenn Lee Haring Jr. is graduating from Marion High School. He will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, studying Criminal Justice, in effort to become a law enforcement officer.



### ***Camryn Jo Miller***

Camryn is graduating from Wittenberg Birnamwood High School. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to study Kinesiology.



### ***Morgan Ann Richter***

Morgan Ann Richter is graduating from Waupaca High School. She will attend Fox Valley Technical College for Electro mechanical.



### ***Nicole Marie Sasse***

Nicole is graduating from Clintonville High School. She plans on attending Midwestern State University in Texas this fall to pursue a major in nursing. She will be double minoring in Medical Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies. Nicole would like to specialize in labor and delivery or travel nursing!



## **College Graduate:**

### ***Isabella Faith Malueg***

Isabella is graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Radiologic Sciences from Bellin College on May 11th. Her future plans include working as a full time registered Radiologic Technologist (X-Ray Technologist) at HSHS St. Vincent's in Green Bay WI. There she will be performing x-ray imaging for the following: general x-ray, surgery cases, emergency cases, level 1 and level 2 trauma cases, and fluoroscopic exams.



*St. John's would like to thank the following members for completing the ECSW Lay School of Ministry and sharing your gift of ministry.*

## ***Previous Lay Graduates:***

***Ray Mielke & Denise Pamperin***

## ***Lay Graduates 2024:***

***Carol Polzin & Kay Tellock***

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **CAMELOT WORSHIP**

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

## **FOOD PANTRY**

Food pantry needs for June are chicken noodle soup and canned peaches. Food pantry wants are dish soap and laundry detergent.

## **COFFEE HOUR**

During the summer months, there will not be Coffee Hour unless advertised ahead of time. If there is a special event you would like Coffee Hour to occur at, please let the church office know at least a week ahead of time and we will do our best to accommodate.

## **CONFIRMATION/SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The restart date for Sunday School will be September 8th. 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 8th. You may register at: <https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=33047fdf-8bd1-494d-a40f-d45bf9f49b3a> or there will be registration forms in the Great Room and you may leave the form in the office Dropbox.

## **CROSSWAYS CAMPING SCHOLARSHIPS**

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/> or contact the church office for a paper copy. Crossways Camps also offers scholarships available to all for Crossways programs, thanks to generous supporters. Our scholarships are available for programs of any length and any age. There is no proof of eligibility required, simply complete an application at [CrosswaysCamps.org/scholarship](https://CrosswaysCamps.org/scholarship) to express need. Please contact Robyn Koehler ([robyn@crosswayscamps.org](mailto:robyn@crosswayscamps.org)) with any questions regarding the scholarship process. We believe that finances should not be a barrier to camp experiences!

## **HANDING OUT OF BIBLES**

Handing out of Bibles will occur on September 8th. If your child is turning 3 years old or is going to be in 3rd grade this year, please contact the church office so we can ensure we have enough bibles for everyone. Please indicate which service you will be attending on September 8th as well. You may also sign up online at: <https://forms.ministryforms.net/viewForm.aspx?formId=33047fdf-8bd1-494d-a40f-d45bf9f49b3a>

*Thank You*



Thank you to Amy and Cheyanne Bazile and Amber Hedtke for taking photos throughout the Sunday School year. Thank you to the volunteers that have helped sub-teach, ones who have helped prep food, and all who were involved in making the Sunday School Christmas Program possible. Thank you to Melissa Pfeiler, Heather Krueger, Amber Hedtke, Greg Brandenburg, Brian Sawall, Michelle Sasse, Shawna Bertram, Kiza Tarr, and Stephan Krueger for teaching the students through these past nine months. If you see any of these dedicated members, please thank them for all they do.

Teachers (l to r): Shawna Bertram, Brian Sawall, Melissa Pfeiler, Heather Krueger, Amber Hedtke, Kiza Tarr  
Not pictured: Greg Brandenburg, Michelle Sasse, Stephen Krueger



## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

### **Church Services**

June 2nd, 16th, 23th, 30th—Worship in the Parish Hall at 9:30a.m.

June 5th-Worship at 6p.m. at the Veterans Park with Communion  
(Pastor Nicole Behnke-Welke)

June 9th-Worship in the Parish Hall at 9:30a.m. with Communion  
(Pastor Bob Wilkinson)

June 12th, 26th-Worship at 6p.m. at the Veterans Park

June 19th-Worship at 6p.m. at the Veterans Park with Communion  
(Pastor Jill Meyer)

Wednesday 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**-June 5th at 3p.m.

**Council**-June 18th at 6:45p.m.

**Dominos**-Every Wednesday 1p.m.

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

**Yoga**-Class is June 3rd, 10th, 24th at 9a.m.

No class June 17th

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## **BEFRIENDER MINISTRY**

Befriender Ministry is a program that 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. If any member of the congregation is interested in learning more, please contact the church office.

## **CROSSWAYS CAMPING SCHOLARSHIPS**

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/> or contact the church office for a paper copy. Crossways Camps also offers scholarships available to all for Crossways programs, thanks to generous supporters. Our scholarships are available for programs of any length and any age. There is no proof of eligibility required, simply complete an application at [CrosswaysCamps.org/scholarship](http://CrosswaysCamps.org/scholarship) to express need. Please contact Robyn Koehler ([robyn@crosswayscamps.org](mailto:robyn@crosswayscamps.org)) with any questions regarding the scholarship process. We believe that finances should not be a barrier to camp experiences!

## **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, or Jackie Suehring.



**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

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