

Mission Messenger

Living our faith. Enriching lives.



Echoes of Easter morning still ring in our hearts as spring buds burst with color, winds blow, warm rains fall and the sun greets us a little longer each day. It's a beautiful picture of resurrection, of new life breaking through what once seemed dormant or even dead.

Easter reminds us that life and love win. The tomb is empty. Hope is not gone. That even in the shadow of fear, disappointment, or uncertainty, new life is always on the horizon.

God's got this! Whatever the "this" is for you. Whether it's the worry for the future personally, for the church or the world, Easter assures us, God's got this.

Meeting us with a risen Savior who steps into our fears offering peace and presence, the Easter story is there in response to our every "what's next?"

St John is in a time of discerning "what's next." Know that you are not in this time alone. Your Council, accompanied by the Synod and guided by the Holy Spirt have been faithfully charting the path forward. They have been determining the best fit for an interim pastor, (which is a pastor who specializes in the *in-between* time of a pastor leaving and when a new one is called.) And preliminary conversations are taking place seeking folks to work on our Ministry Site Profile which when completed and approved will lead to the forming of a Call Committee.

Even as this work takes place, ministry continues. We will gather in May to build beds. A small group has begun work on St. John becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Our youth and their adult leaders will learn from and serve the people of Benton Harbor. Care for the facility and long range planning for use of the land continue.

While we don't know exactly what God has in store for the future of St. John we do know God's got this.

I encourage you to trust the resurrection message, that God can and will bring new life in amazing and unexpected ways.

Christ is risen indeed! He is risen indeed! Alleluia

Pastor Cindy





Info

Hospitality & Celebration



~ Meet the Council ~

To get to know the members of Council on a more personal level, each month we feature one new Council person and their responses to a variety of questions.

This month we are featuring Kourtney Feldhausen who is our Council Secretary.

How long have you been a member of St. John? What brought you to St. John? Our family became members of St. John around 2012. We had been attending another ELCA church in a different community. Our three children wanted to attend Sunday School with kids they went to school with and St. John seemed like a great fit.

What is a favorite book, movie or meal and why is it your favorite?

My favorite meal is a traditional Norwegian meal, lutefisk and lefse. I grew up eating this in the high chair, found a husband who loves it as much as I do (that may have been a requirement:) and taught our kids to eat it too. Most people have heard of lefse (Festival Foods sells it). It's kind of like a tortilla, but made with potatoes and flour. The lutefisk part is where I typically lose people. It is a whitefish or cod that is dried and rehydrated with lye to soften it. The result is a fish with a jelly-like texture and a distinctive, strong smell. We eat it with mashed potatoes, drawn butter, meatballs (I don't eat these as I'm a pescatarian) and rutabaga. If I can also find a Lutheran church that still has lutefisk and lefse dinners I'm a happy camper!

What's a memory from your childhood/youth of Sunday School, summer camp, Bible School or even a mission trip that you can share?

I went to English Lutheran Church in La Crosse. We had the best youth group in high school. There were so many events that brought us together. From the National Youth Gathering we went to in Dallas to weekly youth groups that kept us connected, we always had fun together.

How does your faith inform your stewardship? Or how does what you believe in God motivate you in using your time and talent?

Micah 6:8 is the cornerstone to how I live my life. Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly. I chose education as my career, but within that path I have been able to find gaps within the educational systems and the community to support our most vulnerable and disengaged. I try to continue to build programs for access and opportunity, and love people along the way.

What is keeping you "centered" or "sane" right now? This should be an off-the-top-of -your-head answer that doesn't need to be perfect; could be prayer, or it could be binge-watching "The Bachelor" on the weekends.

Two things keep me centered. One is walking (Outside or Broadview YMCA) and the second is listening to podcasts (There are so many great podcasts out there!)

Anything else you might want to share about yourself? Family, where you are from, anything else?

I am originally from Onalaska, Wisconsin. Both sets of my parents still live there. I have one brother who lives in California. I went to college in Eau Claire and found my way to the Green Bay area in 1998. I've been married to Joe for 25 years this July. We have three children - Emma, who is graduating from UW Madison this spring, Cade, a junior at UW Oshkosh and Elliot, a freshman at UW Milwaukee. We affectionately refer to our family as the Feld 5.

Hospitality & Celebration

St. John's Book Club will meet on Thursday, May 15th at 1:00 PM. We will meet in the Luther Room. We will be discussing Typical American by Gish Jen. Gish Jen reinvents the American immigrant story through the Chang family, who first come to the United States with no intention of staying. At first, they cling to their oldworld ideas of themselves. But as they begin to dream the American dream of selfinvention, they move from people who disparage all that is "typical American" to people who might be seen as typically American themselves.. If you were unable to attend the April meeting, extra copies of the book may be available at church. Contact Donna Hjorth (336-5990) or Jan Vanden Heuvel (639-6987) for more information. Everyone is welcome!





On Sunday, April 6th we celebrated the new members to the St. John family.



Scott & Jennifer Hansen

DID YOU KNOW ...

Caring Cooks of St John are available to assist in providing meals to anyone in need! Do you know of someone who is dealing with an illness or hardship where Caring Cooks may

be able to assist? Please contact Susan Van Asten or Marlene Bergum!

HELP YOURSELF ...

Caring Cooks meals are also available for you to take and deliver or to use for yourself as needed. You can find these meals in the kitchen freezer at church!



Trust Fund News Understanding Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs): A Tax-Smart Way to Give

As members of our church family continue to support the ministry and mission of the St. John Trust Fund, it's helpful to know there are ways to give that can also provide personal financial benefits. One such method is through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). If you are 701/2 or older and have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you may be eligible to make a QCD – a direct transfer of funds from your IRA to a qualified charity, such as our church.

QCDs can count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and are excluded from your taxable income, potentially reducing your overall tax burden. This makes them an especially attractive option for those who no longer itemize deductions. Beyond the tax advantages, QCDs are a meaningful way to support the spiritual growth and outreach efforts of our congregation. If you're interested, we encourage you to speak with your financial advisor or tax professional to see if a QCD fits into your giving plan.

The St. John Trust Fund supports church ministries that are outside of the congregational operating budget. Recently the Trust Fund has supported students through academic scholarship, purchased tablet computers for the church music programs, and is helping to fund the youth mission trip.

If you have any questions about the Trust Fund, feel free to reach out to any of the committee members; Brian Holtebeck, Bill LaBelle, Kristin Bouchard, Kyle VenHuizen, Sean Day, Randy Ronsman and Pastor Cindy.

Randy Ronsman, Trust Fund Member

Hospitality & Celebration















102 people dined with us at the Palm Sunday Breakfast! Proceeds support our amazing youth on their mission trip to Benton Harbor in July.

Worship

Thanks to all who joined us for our Wednesday Lenten Services "The Hardest Part"























WORSHIP AT HOME

<u>CALL TO WORSHIP</u> † *Make the sign of the cross*. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

DWELLING IN SCRIPTURE PSALM 67

- ¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.
- ² Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.
- ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.
- ⁷ May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Read the appointed lesson for the day. Take time to reflect and discuss its message or journal your reflections.

Let the Holy Spirit guide you.

†MAY 4TH 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

John 21:1-19

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

Prayer of the Day

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

†MAY 11TH 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

John 10:22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

Prayer of the Day

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

†MAY 18TH 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

<u>+MAY 25TH</u> 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

John 3:1-17

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

Prayer of the Day

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life.

Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Worship

PRAYERS

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

OFFERING

God calls us to give generously of our hearts and gifts. How will you live and give today? Visit www.stjohndepere.org to give online.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever, and ever. Amen.



Please hold in healing prayer, Susan Armstrong, John Grom, Shannon Johnson, Carole Tobisch, James Sucha, Debbie Meunier, Dick VandenHeuvel, & Carol Grom.

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A joy filled Palm Sunday with these beautiful voices! Hosanna!

THANK YOU

Treena Scharbius and Marsha Kruchten for sharing your talents beautifying the sanctuary and to those who shared their musical talents this Easter season.







NEW WORSHIP HOURS

Summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, May 11th with one service at 9:00am each week.

Faith Formation

Celebrate our Graduating High School Seniors

On **Sunday, June 1st at the 9:00am** service, we will be honoring all of our seniors who are graduating high school this spring. Join us as we celebrate this fantastic achievement and next step in your life's journey!



Jaden Ciesielczyk
is attending University of
Minnesota -Twin Cities
to study BioMedical
Engineering.



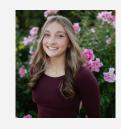
Ella Fandry
is attending University of
Wisconsin Steven's Point
to study Interior Architecture.



Elise Holtebeck
is attending the University
of Minnesota — Twin Cities
and majoring in
psychology.

Not Pictured

Alivia DeBauche & Louis Hock



Kallie Vannieuwenhoven is attending UW-LaCrosse where she'll be majoring in Nuclear Medicine and will also continue her passion for track on the college team.



David Campbell
is attending NWTC for the UW
transfer program to be a physical
education teacher



Marissa Van De Hei is attending University of Minnesota-Duluth to continue playing soccer and study chemical engineering.



TRUST FUND SCHOLARSHIPS
APPLICATIONS for the 2025 Fall
semester are being accepted through

June 30th. Go to the church website, www.stjohndepere.org, for an application. Completed forms can be mailed to St. John or dropped off at the church office.



Sunday School families:

Join us May 4th at 9:00am for our last gathering until the fall. We will meet as a large group (parents too) downstairs and then you are invited to help your child with a craft in their classroom and to enjoy the ice cream sundae bar in the youth area.

Please join me in a huge shout out of thanks to this year's teachers: Elise & Ricky Holtebeck and Helena Reich for leading our littlest learners, the 3, 4 & 5 year olds and Kindergarten class. Aleana Rodig and Michaela Johnson for teaching 1st/2nd grade and Heather Hutchison and Joanna Schreurs for teaching 3rd/4th grade. You are all deeply appreciated for helping our kids grow in faith! Parents- please be sure and express your thankfulness for these leaders when you see them!

Thank you also to Jill Quigley for bringing the gift of music to our kids and to our families for showing up for Sunday School and supporting the program throughout this year.

Fall 2025

Teaching- this year we had 2 teachers per class and they coordinated between them who taught when. We are hoping to have our volunteers for the fall set before the end of our spring session. Please email me <u>pastorcindy@stjohndepere.org</u> with the grade level you would like to help with.

Pastor Cindy

Mission & Service



CHRIST CARE

Christ Care meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month **at 10:00am** in the Luther Room.. Questions? Please call Carlyn at 920-983-0327

MEN IN MISSION

Men in Mission meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:30am. On **May 21st** we will be meeting at Nicolet Restaurant and back to church for Bible study.

Scriptures: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, Psalm 67, John 14:23-29

If you have any questions call Jim Johanek at 920-323-0833.

Pocket Change for Pentecost!

Save your pocket change!
Use that extra change to support the
2025 St. John Lutheran Mission Trip
to Benton Harbor!

On Pentecost, June 8th, the mission trip participants will be collecting your saved change during worship!

(Of course paper money is always welcome!)

St. John is doing a bed build on Saturday, May 17th!

We have surpassed our goal for the build! Way to go St. John! Have you signed up to help build? Use this QR code to sign up!





The Johnson family would like to extend a note of thanks to everyone who helped with Jim's funeral.

NEW COMMUNITY SHELTER 301 Mather St, Green Bay



Volunteers from St. John serve and/or provide deserts for the evening meal on the <u>first Saturday of each month from 4:30 - 6:00pm</u>. Thank you to Jack & Katy Krouth and Kim & Randy

Ronsman for serving, and Rozann Roberts, Carol Grom, Donna Hjorth, Andrea Midbon, & Linda Snell for providing desserts for the April 5th shelter meal. Please check the ministry board at church for a time that works for you to volunteer or provide deserts.

works for you to volunteer or provide deserts. You can also scan this QR code to take you directly to the online sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Carole Basak at 920-339-6246.





If you, a loved one, or a friend would like to have prayers, please call Karen Cota at 920-632-2015 or e-mail Carlyn Cooper at clpdkcm@twc.com. We will get your requests out to our

faithful prayer warriors.



"Hi" from Mission Sewing

Hi from Mission sewing,

We meet ever Thursday from 9am until noon if anyone wants to come and join us or to just see what we do. If you want to learn about quilting come and join us, we have a lot of laughs and we do have treats. Now that spring is here, and you are doing spring cleaning remember us if you come across any fabric or gently used sheets you do not want anymore. We hope you can come and check us out and hopefully you will join us. ~Judy Beerntsen



The May focus for collection is Baked Beans!



Help DPCO "Stamp Out Hunger"

They are looking for volunteers to help on May 10th with the

donations. Approximately 5 – 7 volunteers are needed from

9am-12pm; 12pm-3pm and 3pm-6pm. Contact the office to sign up!

Mission & Service

St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting March 18, 2025 7:00pm

1. Attendance:

<u>Present:</u> Pastor Cindy, Sean Day, Steve Leiterman, Kourtney Feldhausen, Tom

Baciak, Mike McMullen, Kim Ronsman, Katie Schneekloth, Amy Labelle,

and Susan Van Asten

2. Call to Order: Sean called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

- 3. **Scripture study, discussion, and prayer:** Scripture selection from Luke 13:1-9 read by Amy. Following discussion, Susan led the prayer of the day.
- 4. **Approval of Agenda:** Sean asked for a motion to approve tonight's Agenda or for any changes. The motion was made by Steve; second by Tom. Motion carried.
- 5. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Sean asked for a motion to approve tonight's Consent Agenda or for any changes. The motion was made by Katie; second by Susan. Motion carried.

Discussion Agenda

New Business

- 6. Upcoming Capital Improvements
 - AV Ministry/Office Computer updates last updated in 2010.
 - Trying to figure out glitches in livestream
 - three desktops, three laptops, three monitors \$5200?
 - \$950 for other changes
 - * Like to get installed with Windows 11 prior to Pastor leaving to get things up to date.
 - Mike asked Finance committee if he can go to council with a request of spending money.
 Request spend up to \$10,000 as part of the Capital Improvement Fund to update AV Ministry/Office Computers.

Motion made by Kourtney. Second by Susan. Motion carried.

- 8. New Members Welcome
 - March 30 New Members at 9am in between services. No one has officially declared becoming a member yet.

Old Business

- 8. Transition
 - Council is meeting with prospective interim pastor on April 1st at 6:30pm. Pastor does not need to attend.
 - The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) has been started, but we are waiting for the interim to begin to assist us on this journey. 12-15 month period.
- 9. Long Range Planning
 - Community Garden Steve to meet with Jim Kneiszel.
 - Columbarium learning what zoning is for our area and if there are any zoning change needs, then it would be designed. Pricing available, but very preliminary.

Ministry/Committee Reports

(For a complete copy of the minutes, please contact the office)

Adjournment: Since no further business was evident, Sean asked for a motion of adjournment. The motion was made by Kim; second by Tom. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: April 15, 2025 Time: 7:00pm

Minutes submitted by: Kourtney Feldhausen, Council Secretary

Mission & Service

March 31, 2025

2025	Envelopes	Electronic Giving	Loose	Other		Total	Expenses	Actual Net +/-	Budget	Budget +/-
January	\$12,475.00	\$13,288.50	\$241.00	\$1,332.30		\$27,336.80	\$28,091.46	-\$754.66	\$31,084.00	-\$2,992.54
February	\$14,055.00	\$13,223.15	\$202.00	\$3,583.51		\$31,063.66	\$27,574.62	\$3,489.04	\$31,084.00	-\$3,509.38
March	\$18,866.42	\$13,834.56	\$289.00	\$5,203.95		\$38,193.93	\$27,645.66	\$10,548.27	\$31,084.00	-\$3,438.34
April									\$31,084.00	
May									\$31,084.00	
June									\$31,084.00	
July									\$31,084.00	
August									\$31,084.00	
September									\$31,083.00	
October									\$31,083.00	
November									\$31,083.00	
December									\$31,083.00	
2025Total MO. AVG	\$45,396.42 \$15,132.14	\$40,346.21 \$13,448.74	\$732.00 \$244.00	\$10,119.76 \$3,373.25		\$96,594.39 \$32,198.13		•	\$373,004.00 \$31,083.67	-\$9,940.26 -\$3,250.96
	Nicolet Bank Checking Balance 3/31/25 Nicolet Bank Savings Balance 3/31/25 PCM Savings CFCU CD Matures 2/27/26 CFCU CD Matures 10/13/25 Designated Funds Balance 3/31/25 Designated CFCU CD Matures 10/14/25					27,136.60 51,089.25 27.41 81,705.35 25,236.33				
						31,206.23				
						33,316.88				
	Designated MIF CD Matures 2/11/26				\$	27,052.67				
	Bank Total 3/31/25					276,770.72				

FOR YOUR CONTINUED
FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO THE MINISTRY OF
ST. JOHN

9am - Worship	9am - Worship 6:30pm - Mission Trip Meeting	9am - Worship	8am - Worship 9am - Adult Choir 9am - Sunday School Celebration 10am - Worship	27	St. John Lutheran Church - De Pere
26	19	12	1:45pm - Celebration & Outreach Meeting		Mon
27	7pm - Council Mtg	6:15pm - Worship & Music Meeting	0		Tue
28	8:30am - Men in Mission 10am - Christ Care	14	10am - Christ Care	30	Wed
9am - Mission Sewing	9am - Mission Sewing	9am - Mission Sewing 1pm - Book Club	9am - Finance Mtg 9am - Mission Sewing	9am - Mission Sewing	Thu
					Fri.
30	23 24	8am - SHP Bed Build	9	4:30pm - NEW Comm Shelter Meal	May 2025 (Central Time - Chicago

St. John Lutheran Church 1700 Lost Dauphin Rd. De Pere, WI 54115

Worship & Contact Info

St. John Lutheran
Church Council Members
Contact via: office@stjohndepere.org
or office ph (920) 336-1082
Sean Day - President
Steve Leiterman - Vice President
Kourtney Feldhausen - Secretary
Mike McMullen - Treasurer
Kim Ronsman - Stewardship
Katie Schneekloth - Faith Formation
Tom Baciak - Property
Amy LaBelle - Worship & Music
Susan Van Asten - Celebration & Outreach

WORSHIP TIMES through

May 4th

Sundays 8:00 & 10:00am

Effective May 11th

9:00am

Join us Online Anytime

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FOR JUNE/JULY ISSUE
May 18, 2025
Send submissions to
office@stjohndepere.org

OFFICE HOURS

8:00am – 3:00pm Mon - Thurs

Hours may vary.
Please call ahead.

Ph. 336-1082

office@stjohndepere.org

Rev. Cindy Warmbier-Meyer pastorcindy@stjohndepere.org

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