



St. John Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church
V. 27, No. 8

168 Mound St.

Berlin, WI 54923
September, 2022

Most of you know that I'm a big football fan. Packers and Badgers. I'm a true homer. Before the first game is played, I have high expectations for both teams. Anything less than Super Bowl and Rose Bowl wins will be a bit disappointing! My, how times have changed in the Badger state for football fans. (Remember the 70's and 80's anyone?) In my 24 years of being a pastor, I've had many people ask me to include a prayer for a Packer victory in my Sunday morning prayers. As tempting as that might be, I've never done it. And why not, you might be thinking? Can't God grant all prayers if He wills it (and certainly He must will the Packers to beat the likes of the Bears and Vikings)? Well, here's why.

First, it is a misunderstanding to believe that Christians never have to face loss, tragedy, or heartache. And trust me when I say that for many people, seeing the Packers lose on Sunday can wreck the rest of their week like nothing else can! The message of the Bible is not that those who follow God will have an easy life and no losses. The biblical record includes many instances of toil and sacrifice in service of the Creator. However, the rewards of that toil and

sacrifice far outweigh the cost.

The apostle Paul (a man few could deny served God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength) experienced much trouble during his ministry. Paul writes, **"Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea..."** (II Corinthians 11:24-26 ESV) Nevertheless, the apostle Paul could say with confidence: **"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."** (Romans 8:18 ESV)

Through the difficult times and the easy times, Jesus promises to be with believers every step of their walk. Jesus himself said that his followers will have difficulties in this life, but we should not worry, He is in control: **"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."** (John 16:33 ESV)

Continue→

Is the point of Christianity merely the attainment of worldly successes? Should people line up at the church doors in hopes of securing financial stability, a successful love life, or a myriad of other selfish pursuits? Wanting to win football games is not a proper motivation for becoming a Christian. That is a selfish motive and in direct conflict with our real need of forgiveness of sin.

Actually, I believe it's impossible that one could even truly become a Christian simply in order to win football games, be successful, or any other self-centered reason. If one comes to God seeking only to fulfill their own selfish desires, their heart is unable to believe and trust in Jesus. A person who is motivated purely by selfishness finds humility an incredibly difficult pill to swallow.

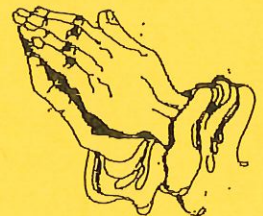
In order to remain a Christian, one must recognize their own sinfulness, their own inability to fix themselves, and Jesus Christ's payment on the cross for their sins. Then, only when one humbly trusts that Jesus paid the debt they owe but are unable to pay, will they be forgiven and begin living their lives, as forgiven Christians.

What people really need more than football wins is to be forgiven for the sin that prevents them from having a right relationship with God in the first place. Through all of life's ups and downs, God is still God and He still loves us. He either causes or permits everything that happens, and He does this for His own reasons, not ours. He also promises that

He will be with His faithful believers through everything they experience. He will comfort and strengthen His people.

Having said all that, winning football games is a fun thing to experience. We can and should pray for the players that no one gets hurt. But in the big scheme of eternal life, a thorough trouncing of the Bears or Vikings (or 49'ers) does not hold a candle to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ! Enjoy the upcoming games. And may the best teams (Packers & Badgers) win!

Pastor Munding



MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF WALTER SCHMUDLACH

For General Fund

From Arden Patchett.....	\$ 20.00
From Rich & Nancy Wallner.....	\$ 100.00

PLAYGROUND DONATIONS

From Lutheran Church Extension Fund

.....	\$10,000.00
From Adam & Julie Deibert.....	\$ 50.00
From Judy Mehn.....	\$ 100.00
Anonymous.....	\$ 100.00
Scripts.....	\$ 31.76
From Community Commitment Donation	
.....	\$ 100.00
Anonymous.....	\$ 50.00



+In Our Prayers

Gladys Hall

Mark Selzler – Grandson of Ken &
Shirley Keenlance

Donna Dretske

Joan Parsons

Muriel Kroening

Kathleen Thom

Ralph Van Dellen

Carolyn Schmudlach

Duane Schmudlach

Family of Rick Livingston – son-in-law
of Carol and Gary Gelhar

Orville Behm

Deb Schubert

Jaden Schubert

Minnie Blackmore

Tyler Schubert

Jan Roper – cousin of Becky Nisiewicz

Our Shut-In and Homebound members



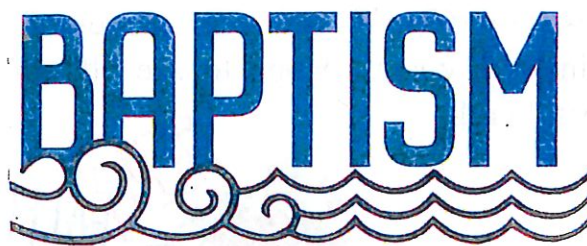
Donna Dretske



Rick Livingston

Son-in-law of Carol Gelhar

Brother-in-law of Brenda Oppor



August 21, 2022

Emma Achterberg

Daughter of Lyle and Megan
Achterberg



New Members

Dennis Munro

Nicholas Williams



DO YOU LOVE MUSIC?

The choir can use You! We welcome singers of all ages & abilities. You don't have to be able to read music. Psalm 98:4 says "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" Singing to the glory of God is our goal. A variety of musical styles is being planned for this fall/Christmas so there will be something for everyone.

Maybe you can't commit to an entire year. Join us for Reformation or just Christmas. Choir practices will start after Labor Day, on Wed, Sept 7, at 7pm. Contact Cindy Schuett (920-203-6763) if you are interested in joining the choir. Hope to see all music lovers there!



LWML Starts Again

The LWML will start meeting again in September after our summer break. Our next meeting will be Monday, September 19th starting at 6:30pm. We meet at church and we are very informal. We will begin with a Bible study and if you choose, you can leave after the Bible study or stick around for our business meeting.



Altar Guild Pot Luck Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022 at 6 pm

The Altar Guild invites all the ladies of St. John to an evening pot luck. We would like to extend a special invitation to all the 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls and their mother as well.

Altar Guild members provide the food, beverages and tableware.

Come learn how to serve your Lord at St. John!

Sunday School



Here we go!! Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 11 at 10:15 in the school gym.

All children ages 4 through 6th grade are encouraged to attend. There are three classes: ages 4 through 1st grade; 2nd through 4th grade; and 5th and 6th grades.

The children will meet every Sunday at 10:15 in the school gym for opening devotions and singing. They then go to their respective classes and are dismissed at 11:15. Parents are to go to the main hallway and pick up their children.

We all are looking forward to a great year! Any questions....call Nancy Wallner @ 361-4179.

From St John Lutheran School



Happy September all! Can you believe that another school year is here already? There have been some big changes over the last couple months – new teachers, classroom swaps, and a new principal. The teaching staff was installed on Sunday, August 28, at the 9am church service.

We began our year with our Kick-off cook out and open house at 11am on Sunday, August 28. The congregation members and our school families were able to spend time in fellowship with one another over a lunch of brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, and other delicious dishes. School families were able to bring in their child's school supplies, and everyone was welcome to tour the building and see the updates and changes that had taken place over the summer.

The teachers started meeting the middle of August and spent several days working on class schedules and going over curriculum. They were hard at work setting up their classrooms and meeting with families.

The trustees were hard at work over the summer completing their various projects. They removed the old playground, spruced up the shed, painted classrooms and offices, moved desks, installed the air conditioners, and creating storage space. Our volunteers have put in countless hours making improvements around our church and school. We are very grateful to them for their efforts.

I would like to send a special thank you to Rich Wallner for the hours and hours of work he does with the books and auditors for our school to maintain our status as a Wisconsin Parental Choice School. He even takes vacation time to work with the auditors. He is a good example of a person serving the Lord with his time and talents. We are fortunate to have him. Thank you.

I would also like to send a special thank you to Deb Schrader. She has been a tremendous help during this summer of transition. She has put in countless hours answering my questions and helping me set up and organize things. She has been quick to lend a hand while I have been stuck on crutches this last month. Deb also does a great deal with the auditors for our School Choice status. I am very grateful for all she has done as I would be lost without her. Thank you, Deb.

School begins on Thursday, September 1 and we are in the final push to get our technology set up for the new and returning students. We made use of the EANS funds to continue to offer computers to our students at a 1 to 1 ratio. We also put a new smart board in our 4K room and updated the school WiFi.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone that has donated their time, talents, and funds toward our new playground. The installation date has been set for the second half of October and I am pleased to report that the entire playground will be going it.

Have a fabulous September. I am yours in Christ's service.

Miss Melina Linse



Divine Love



Human Care

If you're like more than one-third of Americans (in some surveys, the number is higher), you are looking forward to Thursday. Why? Because September 22, 2022, marks the beginning of autumn, or the fall season.

Of course, this is an arbitrary date. It is the beginning of the *astronomical* season of fall. The *meteorological* start of fall is September 1, and the season consists of September, October and November. This latter designation makes more sense to me, so I have been in a fall mood for three weeks already!

But why do people like this season more than the others? First, think about your own response to that question. You might find your reasons in the following list.

Watching the leaves change color / The chill in the air / Drinking hot chocolate / Making homemade soup / Beginning to cook holiday foods / Watching Halloween movies / Wearing big sweaters / Listening to the sound of rain on my roof / Lighting seasonal candles / Baking pies / Having cinnamon apple food/drinks / Making pumpkin pie / Having pumpkin spice food/drinks / Drinking hot apple cider / Carving pumpkins / Wearing chunky socks and boots / Stepping on crunchy leaves / Wearing plaid/flannels / Baking pumpkin bread / Going "leaf peeping" / Having a backyard campfire with friends / Seeing my breath when walking outside / Roasting marshmallows / Eating candy apples / Taking fall-themed photos / Seeing frost on the grass / Going pumpkin picking / Eating pumpkin seeds / Wearing scarves / Getting ready for the holidays

Many of these reasons resonate with me. How about you?

The changing of the seasons is another sign of the profound depth of the Creator's mind.

When I discern through my sense of smell the autumnal changes in the air, or catch a whiff of my wife's pumpkin pie cooling on a rack, I praise God, and lift my thanksgiving to the heavens.

In Psalm 104, we read, "You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for

setting" (v. 19; see Daily Bible Readings on today's Activity page). Yes, God made the seasons, and so, like the psalmist, you and I can praise God: "I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD" (vv. 33-34).

Prayer: Creator God, thank You for the wonderful signs that accompany the change in seasons. These are always a reminder that You take care of all that You have made. Amen.



September 3, 2002 - Wade & Haley Kaufman
September 7, 2017 - Derrick & Rebecca Hubatch
September 9, 1967 - Duane & Linda Nitz
September 12, 1987 - Mark & Lori Piechowski
September 12, 1997 - Thomas & Yvonne Wustrack
September 17, 2004 - Carlo & Amy McCormick
September 19, 2010 - Adam & Kayla Gilmour
September 20, 2013 - Terri & Jennifer Billington
September 20, 1969 - Robert & Sandy Londowski
September 22, 1984 - Robert & Cathy Young
September 24, 1988 - Robert & Amy Radliff
September 25, 1993 - Doug & Linda Dewhurst
September 26, 1998 - Shawn & Billi Kaufman
September 28, 1996 - Mark & Mitzi Putzke
September 29, 2012 - Casey & Jennifer Wollert
September 30, 2000 - Darrell & Ronda Dretske
September 30, 1972 - Eugene & Kathy Thom
September 30, 1989 - Rich & Nancy Wallner



Did You Know...



Our new 5th & 6th grade teacher first taught at St John in the 1980s. She also coached girls' basketball and in 1988 their team won the Conference Championship. "The trophies were nice but the time we spent with our team was the best" Jayne Kersten

Jayne Elizabeth Frauenhoff was born in Aurora, Illinois on October 14th 1950. Her parents took their new daughter to St Paul's Lutheran Church in Aurora where she was Baptized by Rev. Walter Stallman. Jayne's father Richard was a design engineer and her mother the church Secretary at St Paul's. Jayne, the oldest, has one younger sister Jean and one brother John.

Jayne attended parochial grade school at St Paul's. She loved sports but was limited to only watching as in those days' girls didn't play sports. She also enjoyed reading, playing cards, Monopoly and being a Girl Scout. On Palm Sunday, March 22 1964, Jayne was Confirmed by Rev. Richard Osing at St Paul's.

She attended East Aurora High School where her interest in sports continued. Since she was a little girl, Jayne wanted to be a teacher like her

Grandmother. She joined the Future Teachers of America Club and did well in school thanks to great teachers like Mrs. Gray/English, Mr. Melon/Math and Mr. Babich/Chemistry. She graduated on June 6 1968. Jayne's first job was working as a cashier at the National Food Store for 90 cents an hour.

That same Fall she enrolled at Concordia Teacher's College in River Forrest; Illinois She graduated with a BA degree in Physical Education and Math & Education. She then continued taking various classes in the math educational field.

Her first call came from Clintonville, WI and there she met and fell in love with their third-grade teacher, Robert Kersten. On August 4 1973 Robert and Jayne were married at St Martin Lutheran Church in Clintonville. In 1979 they accepted our call to Berlin and taught here from 1979 to 1989. Robert mainly taught the middle grades and Jayne 6th to 8th. Robert shared Jayne's passion for sports and began coaching the boys' basketball team. In 1985 the team had an undefeated season.

Continued on the next page.....

During those years, St John School enrollment was around 170 students. The Kerstens became friends with the parents of many of their students and attended several student Confirmations and a few weddings. For 8 summers Jayne worked at Greenings Grocery in Berlin. She was also a Receptionist and Counselor at the Jenny Craig Weight Loss Center.

In 1989, a call from Lancaster, California had them "On the Road Again" Later, they accepted a call to West Bloomfield, Wisconsin where Robert served as Principal and Jayne the teacher.

Serving their Lord as teachers, Robert and Jayne have taught over 1000 students. During her 40 year career, Jayne taught in 10 different parochial schools; St. Martin in Clintonville, Mt. Hope in Park, Michigan, Gospel Lutheran in Milwaukee, St John, Berlin, Grace Lutheran in Lancaster, California, Ascension Lutheran, Torrance, California, Christ Lutheran West Bloomfield, St John Lutheran in Ionia Michigan, Zion Lutheran, Matteson, Illinois, and St Luke in Montgomery, Illinois.

After retirement, Jayne worked as a substitute teacher for 10 years at a Hispanic School in East Aurora Illinois.

"It was a very eye-opening experience!" In 2012, she also became the Chairperson of the Northern Illinois Teacher's Conference working with over 500 teachers.

The Kerstens have always loved living in small towns and had wonderful memories of their time ministering to the people from our area. When it was time to finally retire, their thoughts turned to Berlin. We know God works in mysterious ways and Jayne is now back in school and ready for her next big adventure. Since returning to Berlin, she has also joined the LWML and Altar Guild while Robert sings in the choir and is working with the Human Care Committee. They still love sports and enjoy watching basketball & football games on TV. You might find them having dinner at The Olive Garden, their favorite restaurant.

"Now, we see many of our former students and it has been fun reminiscing with them. A lot of our memories come from the coaching we did; the boys' and girls' teams and the cheerleaders with their many trophies. The best thing however is seeing how our former students have grown in their faith. It's special when we see them in church and hear about their lives." Jayne Kersten.

Creation Corner

From the Bi-Monthly Journal

"Does God Exist?"

A regular feature of the journal *"Does God Exist?"* is a section entitled *"Dandy Designs."* Here are various examples from God's creation pointing to the undeniable existence of our Creator.

A Powerful Shrimp

They have the force to break an oyster shell or the glass of an aquarium with a single blow. Because of their powerful claws, people who have tried to pick them up have called them "thumb splitters." Their real name is peacock mantis shrimp (*Odontodactylus scyllarus*). They are essential predators in shallow tropical and sub-tropical waters from Guam to East Africa.



Peacock mantis shrimp use their claws like hammers to smash their prey at 10,000 times the acceleration due to gravity. The

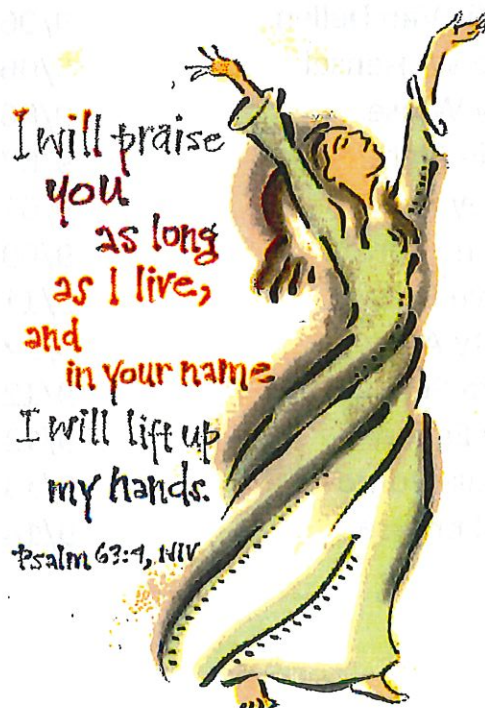
supersonic motion of the shrimp's claws creates cavitation bubbles. Those tiny bubbles of water vapor collapse at supersonic speed, making shock waves that cause a second impact on the victim. This action creates not only sound waves but also small amounts of light. The cavitation force can be greater than the initial impact of the hammering by the claw, and it can damage steel boat bottoms and propellers.

The kind of force that peacock mantis shrimp can produce is not possible with muscle motion. Mantis shrimp use a saddle-shaped spring to release the energy in milliseconds. But the spring is no good without the muscular power to load the spring. But that is not enough because there also has to be a trigger to catch and then release the spring. All three of those parts must be in place to activate the powerful hammer.

The design of this system goes even further. If the shrimp released that energy with an ordinary claw, it would smash the claw to pieces. So the claw has to be designed with super strength and a flexible joint system to allow motion at supersonic speed. All of those things must be designed into the shrimp simultaneously for the system to work. This design gives evidence of a Master Engineer.

Vacation Bible School

VBS Thank You... On Saturday, August 13th, we held a one-day Vacation Bible School under the theme *"Rainforest Explorers."* 39 children attended this event and everyone had a great time learning about the love of Jesus and how we are encouraged to share that love with others. The children enjoyed Bible stories, games, snacks, crafts, music, and even a couple of experiments, all geared toward Jesus and His unending love for all of us. An event of this magnitude could never happen without the help of so many people who gave of their time and talent to make this day such a success! From teachers to helpers in all of the various areas a huge thanks is due! It's a wonderful thing to see when God's people come together for a purpose, especially when that purpose is to share Jesus Christ with our young people. God bless all of you who helped and all the children who attended. We look forward to seeing what next year's VBS brings!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Keith Krause	9/01	Michael Herbst	9/15
Madison Mertens	9/01	Linda Hertzberg	9/15
Heidi Beardsley	9/02	Henry Lemke	9/15
Jane Olson	9/02	Vernon Lichtenberg	9/15
Glenda Schmidt	9/02	Karen Vergin Krause	9/16
Alyssa Thiel	9/02	Allie Henke	9/17
Gary Kracht	9/03	LeRoy Larson	9/18
Ryan Henley	9/03	Gordon Manske	9/18
Jeff Degener	9/04	Ed Marks	9/18
Jackie Lewis	9/04	Sara Bruss	9/19
Alexander Nighbor	9/04	Sara France	9/20
Jordyn Putzke	9/04	Jaycee Henke	9/20
Jennifer Beier	9/05	Conrad Nisiewicz	9/20
Jackie Eggert	9/05	Jeremy Wissell	9/21
Dennis Hoffman	9/05	Betty Freimark	9/22
Gerald Krause	9/05	Amy Dament	9/23
Violet Lueck	9/05	Jennifer Kettlewell	9/23
Kathleen Thom	9/06	Tyler Schubert	9/23
Phyllis Van Dellen	9/06	Lucille Verheyen	9/23
Katie Weisensel	9/06	Ashley Dretske	9/24
Kody Wiese	9/06	Jason Weiland	9/24
Vickie Clark	9/07	Makenzie Fox	9/24
Stacey Polk	9/07	Rich Wallner	9/25
Maxine Ferron	9/09	Abigail Carriere	9/26
Ashlyn Ballard	9/11	Sawyer Hess	9/29
Trinity Abitz	9/12	Korin Larson	9/29
Debra Schubert	9/12	Rebecca Mosier	9/29
Gary Eggert	9/13		
Pamela Ponto	9/13		
Carol Krause	9/14		



St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date: August 17, 2022

The August meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Rich Wallner. Pastor opened with prayer.

Present: Kevin Koch, Melissa Linse, Pastor Mundinger, Debra Thiel, Rich Wallner, Bob Radliff and Amy Radliff

Absent: Adam Ewald and Keith Krause

Secretary's Report by Amy Radliff

Motion by Koch/Thiel to accept July minutes with amendment to Trustees report that \$1,800 was the cost for additional lights but lights were not replaced at this time. Motion approved.

Financial Secretary's Report by Bob Radliff

	<u>July 2022</u>	<u>July 2021</u>
General Fund	\$47,338.27	\$37,738.38
Children's Fund	\$13,702.26	\$ 131.29
Elderly Fund	\$.00	\$.00
Memorials	\$ 196.23	\$ 955.62
Attendance	154 per week	157 per week

Motion by A Radliff/Koch to accept the Financial Secretary's report. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report by Debra Thiel

Square Account July 2022:

Beginning Balance:	\$ 45.62	Income:	\$1,447.35
Expenses:	\$1,447.35	Ending Balance:	\$ 45.62

Hot Lunch Account July 2022:

Beginning Balance:	\$11,859.85	Income:	\$ 1,724.92
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$13,584.77

Elderly Fund July 2022:

Beginning Balance:	\$7,702.28	Income:	\$.00
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$7,702.28

Children's Fund July 2022:

Beginning Balance:	\$163,622.99	Income:	\$ 13,702.26
Expenses:	\$ 1,652.99	Ending Balance:	\$175,672.26

- Children's Fund includes grant money (\$10,000) received for playground equipment.

Motion by B Radliff/A Radliff to accept Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

Board of Trustees Report by Keith Krause

- Meeting didn't have quorum, no report out.

Board of Elders Report & Pastor's Report by Rich Wallner

- Letters sent to students of confirmation class regarding scheduled for 2022-2023 school year.

Official Acts:

Transfer In— Eric and Amy Vetrone and son Easton, released into our care by Trinity Lutheran, Redgranite, WI.

Communicant Members 482

Baptized Members 570

Church Families 295

Motion by Thiel/Koch to accept Elder's report. Motion approved

Board of Education Report by Kevin Koch

- School staff and students will follow Covid-19 guidelines set by Green Lake County Health Department for the upcoming school year.
- Funds continue to be raised for the new playground equipment. Brat Fry at Franks., Shoe Drive and Special event at Vines & Rushes are being scheduled to raise funds. \$17,000 has been transferred from the Children's Fund toward the project as well.
- School Kick-off is set for August 28th.

Motion by A Radliff/Thiel to accept the Board of Education report. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- Kevin Koch spoke to the playground project Phase II as approved at the recent voters meeting, for completion in Spring 2023. The vendor can order now (at 2022 prices) and install at same time as Phase I to avoid removing base (chips). Motion by Koch to order materials now, while continuing to raise funds. Anticipated installation is in September of 2022. Second by Deb Thiel. Motion approved.

New Business: :

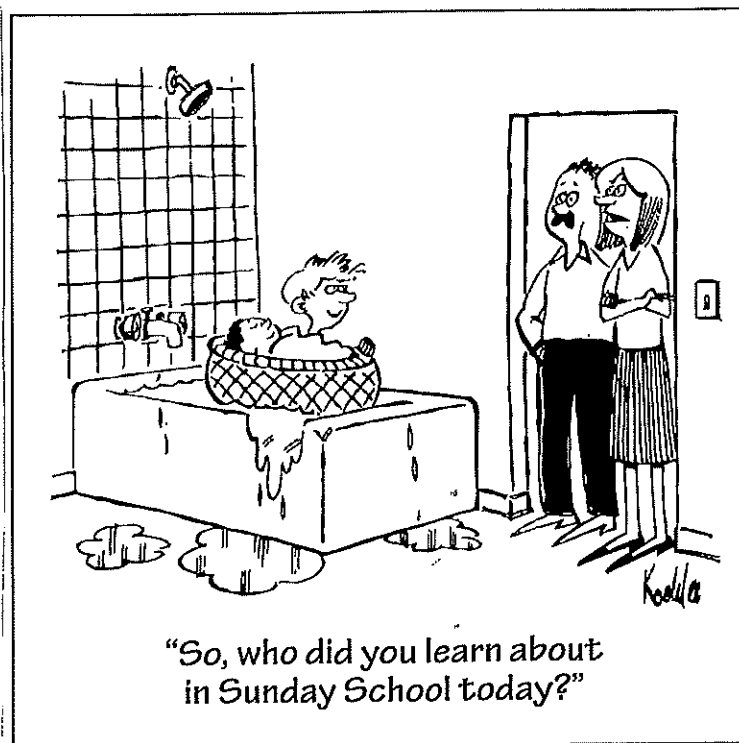
- Rich Wallner reported that the annual audit is in process at the time of this meeting and is going well.
- Idea of a confirmation photo display was brought up. Motion by Rich Wallner to approve a display board not to exceed \$1,500. Second by Kevin Koch. Motion approved.

Meetings next month: Trustees – Monday Sept 12th – 6:30 pm. Board of Education – Tuesday Sept 13th - 6pm.
Elders – Wednesday, Sept 14th – 6pm. Council – Tuesday, Sept 20th – **5:30pm.**

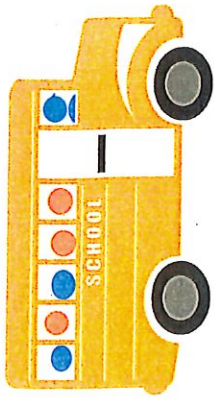
Motion by Linse/Koch to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

*Respectfully submitted,
Amy Radliff, Secretary*

***Note: These minutes have not yet been reviewed by the Council and are subject to revision and correction at the next meeting.*



"So, who did you learn about in Sunday School today?"



September 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5 LABOR DAY	6	7	8 1 pm Ladies Aid Fall Potluck 6:30 Worship/HC	9	10
9:00 Worship/HC	No School		7 pm Sr. Choir	6:30 Worship/HC		
11 RALLY DAY 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 Sun. School 10:15 Bible Class	12 6:30 pm Trustees	13 6:00 Bd. of Ed.	14 3:45 Public Confirm 6:00 Elders 7 pm Sr. Choir	15 6:30 Worship/HC	16	17
18 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 Sun. School 10:15 Bible Class	19 6:30 pm LWML	20 11 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm Council Mtg 6:00 pm Altar Guild	21 3:45 Public Confirm 7 pm Sr. Choir	22 6:30 Worship/HC	23	24
25 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 Sun. School 10:15 Bible Class	26	27	28 3:45 Public Confirm 7 pm Sr. Choir	29 6:30 Worship/HC	30	

