

St. John Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church V. 28, No. 4

168 Mound St.

Berlin, WI 54923 May, 2023

This week I couldn't help but notice some pictures that some of our La Crosse friends posted on Facebook of the Mississippi River. The river is well past flood stage and has crept into the park in downtown La Crosse. It got me thinking about the poor barge captains that have to navigate this river with the added current the flooding would certainly bring.

I've spent a fair amount of my life on rivers. I've kayaked down the Fox River. I've piloted a 62 foot houseboat on the Mississippi. And I've I've been on more pontoons and runabouts than I can remember. It's kind of cool to think about all of the riverboats and other craft that have navigated these same waters for over a hundred years. I can only imagine what the Fox River looked like back in the day when goods were transported from Oshkosh to Berlin via barges. No doubt scenes like this inspired Mark Twain to write as he did about life on the Mississippi.

In a way, we're all writing a story. Some of us are adventurous, others are steady and sure. But all of us have twists and turns and bends in the river.

Maneuvering through life, like a barge on the river, can be difficult at times, even treacherous. Undercurrents (sins) want to steer us in other directions and want to tug at our hearts to send us off course. As we follow Jesus, like the

disciples, we will encounter a lot of bends in the river. Bends come in the form of choices, priorities, commitments, even apathy. Bends challenge us in the areas of faith; forcing us to examine our traditions and conventional thinking. It happened all the time with the disciples, "follow me" said Jesus, "and I will make you fishers of men". "Follow me, and let the dead to bury their own dead" "Follow me" but if you do so, you must deny yourself and you must take up your cross."

Living the Christ-like life is not for the faint-hearted or the uncommitted. We all fall under the temptation to go our own way, do our own thing, or hold on to ideas and traditions that make us feel good and keep us in our "comfort zone." Jesus constantly pushed the disciples to grow in every aspect of their lives but primarily in their faith. As long as we are walking this earth we will encounter waves of influences, both good and bad. but unless we are truly grounded in the Word of God will we fall into every temptation. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record Jesus' warning "Pray that you may not enter into temptation".

As we travel down this river together, it's so important that we love each other through the bends in life; helping each other identify dangers in the river. Then the world will know us by our love. So by all means follow Jesus – and let the river flow!

+In Our Prayers

Darwin Krause

Vern Lichtenberg

Bob & Karen Wendt – 56th wedding anniversary

Sandy Gregor

Carolyn Schmudlach

Duane Schmüdlach

Joan Parsons

Gerald Krause

Brenda Podoll

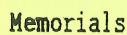
Sylvia Wells

Amanda Martin

Karen Rowen

Harry Nimmer







IN MEMORY OF JOAN BEHM

For Elderly Fund From Randy & Cheryl Behm......\$500.00

DONATIONS

For Communion Wine From Delbert & Barbara Krause

.....\$111.92



From the President...

Members and Friends of St. John,

Many of you have asked about how our call process for the next Pastor of St. John is going. We are still, as of April 26, waiting for the district office to provide us with the information on the candidates suggested by our members and those they feel may be a good fit based on the self-study materials provided by the call committee to district back on March 8.

This may be frustrating, but we must be patient and remember that we are still blessed with a wonderful pastor while many congregations are vacant.

At our last voters meeting the Board of Christian Education proposed hiring an additional full-time teacher which would enable the school to have separate 1st and 2nd grade classrooms. The congregation approved, even though it was explained that the additional staffing would probably require using a significant amount of reserved funds during the next fiscal year.

Since that meeting our projected number of School Choice students has grown to the point that the proposed budget for our next school year includes only the limited amounts of reserved funds normally spent on expenses for which they were designated.

Please join us on May 7 for our next voters meeting.

In Christ's service, Rich

Quarterly Voter's Meeting Sunday May 7th

After the 9 am service. Meeting to start Approx. 10:30 am

Confirmation Class

2023

St. John Lutheran Church

Colín Dalton Makenzíe Fox Payton Herbst Sawyer Hess Nathan Mosíer Amy Willís



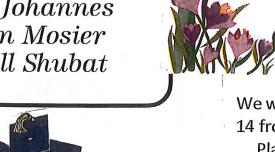
Berlin HS Class of 2023

Amber Dretske
Madison Mertens
Brenna Mosier
April Ryckman
Richard "Andy" Ryckman
Ralane Tuinstra
Kyle Verch
Austin Wilson



Congratulations to the Day School Class of 2023

Colin Dalton Emmaus Fredenburg Abel Garcia Cuevas Sawyer Hess Jaiyda Johannes Nathan Mosier Mitchell Shubat



St. John Lutheran School MOTHER'S DAY

PLANT SALE

The PTL Mother's Day Plant Sale will begin on Friday, May 12 from 3:30 – 5:30pm at the school. When you pick up your hanging basket, you may purchase your:

Tomatoes

Peppers

Petunias

Geraniums

Gerbera Daisies

We will also sell on Mother's Day, May 14 from 9 – 11am at the school.

Plan your garden needs now!



The St. John LWML would like to thank everyone who donated to our in-gathering for the Christmas Boxes for the Orphan Grain Train. Also, thank you to everyone who attended the Lenten supper we co-hosted with the Altar Guild, good food and great fellowship!

We welcome a new member, Lori Piechowski to our group. We are always looking for new members, hope you will consider joining us. Our next meeting is Monday, May 15th at 6:30. We meet in the church.



The Ladies Aid is having their Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May 4. Guests, friends and husbands are encouraged to attend. A potluck begins at 1pm in the church lower level with a presentation by Curt and Julie Snow on their trips to our national parks. Mark your calendars!

Honor your mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."



May 2, 1998 - Brian & Cindy Hartzke

May 3, 1986 - Mike & Julie Hess

May 3, 2003 - Kevin & Deb Koch

-May 6, 1961 - Delbert & Barbara Krause

May 6, 1978 - Barry & Gloria Rodensal

May 8, 1993 - Todd & Dawn Henriksen

May 9, 2008 - Jonathon & Jennifer Schilder

May 11, 1991 - Dean & Karen Sales

May 14, 2011 - Joshua & Ashleigh Schubert

May 16, 1998 - David & Nancy Albright

May 16, 1992 – Mike & Deb Schrader

May 17, 1997 – Scott & Brenda Oppor

May 18, 1996 – Tedd & Ann Henriksen

May 18, 2017 - Keith & Maren Krause

May 18, 1991 - Jim & Stacey Polk

May 21, 1983 – Ken & JoAnn Fink

May 22, 1971 – Charles & Jeanne Huibregtse

May 22, 1971 – Wayne & JoAnn Kaufman

May 22, 1993 - Ralph & Tammy Wilson

May 25, 2008 – Gary & Sara Podoll

May 26, 1990 - Glenn & Kim Hameister

May 27, 1988 - Gerald & Donna Dutcher

May 27, 1972 – Jeff & Sophie Wasniak

May 29, 2004 – Jeremy & Candy Johnson

May 31, 2014 – David & Heidi Beardsley



"Next year let's buy two carnations for the oldest mother."

From St John

Lutheran School

Happy May to you. We recently celebrated Easter and the joy that comes from Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil. He is risen. He is risen indeed, halleluiah! We are beginning to see the signs of spring all around us as the grass greens up and flowers bloom.

The end of our school year is fast approaching. We are very busy this May.

The 7th and 8th graders are traveling to Catalina Island Marine Institute, Catalina Island, California from May 7th through May 13th. Thank you to everyone that helped make their fundraising successful this year.

If you ordered hanging baskets, they will be available for pick-up in the afternoon on Friday, May 12th.

Our 3rd through 8th graders will be traveling to Christ, West Bloomfield for a track and field day on May 19th. Our 4K through 2nd graders will be traveling to the zoo for the day.

We are going to a Timber Rattler game on Saturday, May 20th.

Confirmation will be May 21st and the Handbells are scheduled to play.

Kindergarten graduation will be Wednesday, May 24th.

Our 8th grade graduation will be a part of our 6:30 Thursday night church service on

Thursday, May 25th. The handbells will also be playing that evening.

Our third quarter Chapel offerings raised just over \$198.00 for Hearts for Jesus.

School office hours over the summer will be Mondays through Thursdays 8:00am – 1:00pm.

The Board of Education is pleased to announce we are fully staffed for next year and we have some exciting changes. Miss Linse will continue as principal and morning Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Henke will be our morning 3K & 4K teacher and afternoon Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Wenzel will be joining our staff as our new 1st grade teacher. Mrs. Fritsch will teach 2nd grade. Mrs. Berry will be joining our staff as our new 3rd and 4th grade teacher. Mrs. Kersten will stay on as the 5th and 6th grade teacher and Mr. Pett will continue to teach 7th and 8th grade.

Our final day of school this year is Friday, May 26th. We are planning to celebrate that day with an all-school trip to Mt. Olympus in Wisconsin Dells.

Have a magnificent May as God sends us warmer weather and we begin to wrap up another amazing academic year full of God's blessings.

I am yours in Christ's service.

Miss Melion Linse

He ascended into Heaven

Thank you very much to everyone who helped make our Journey to the Cross on April 8th such a success!



We were blessed to have over 40 children attend this new event. The children were broken down into groups of 7-8 and each group was lead through all of our 12 "destinations" where they heard the story of Holy Week.



Each destination allowed the children a hands-on experience with 12 different aspects of Jesus' journey to the cross where He ultimately died for the sins of the world. As the children moved from one stop to the next they received a stamp for their "passports." At the end of the journey they had a new and fresh perspective on what Jesus endured as He took our sins from us.



This event could never have happened without all of the volunteers who creatively set up their stations and wore costumes to add a sense of reality to the children's experience. Again, thank you so much for your commitment and effort in sharing the Good News of Jesus' resurrection from the dead!





How would we like God to mother us? What sort of maternal oversight do we prefer the Almighty to exercise over us?

Some of us are inclined to visualize God as the consummate helicopter parent: always hovering overhead, training a spotlight on us to highlight our misdeeds. This is a stern, judgmental ruler, the ultimate micromanager - surveying our lives with disapproval, swift to mete out punishment.

Yet, what if God relates to us in a very different way? What if God is more like Rabbi David Wolpe's concept of a *helium mom*, holding gently to the end of a string as we dance on the wind -currents?

Thankfully, God doesn't seem all that interested in micromanaging our lives. To the contrary, the Lord seems content to leave us alone for long periods, with only the lightest of tugs on the balloon string. Sometimes that touch is imperceptible, barely there. At other times - episodes of trouble or temptation, in particular - we may suddenly feel a strong pull on the line, calling us back into closer relationship.

Truth is, the Bible tells us how we want God to mother us. It tells us how we want God to take care of us.

With love, of course! But what kind of love?

A love that is specific to us. "You did not choose me but I chose you" (John 15: 16).

A love that gives us a job. We loved it when mom gave us a job, didn't we? Our kids loved it when we gave them responsibilities, too. God has given us a job, or we might say, a mission.

A love in which we remain. "Now remain in my love" (v. 9). Jesus says we remain in his love, when we obey his commands (v. 10).

A love that asks us to play nice and share. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (v. 12).

A love that is sacrificial. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life" (v. 13). When we think about all that our mothers did for us, well ... it's amazing!

Is God's love any less? Did not God in Jesus Christ lay down his life for us?

Prayer: Lord God, thank You for sharing Your deep and incomprehensible love with me and for guiding me and instructing me in the way I should go. In Your name. Amen.





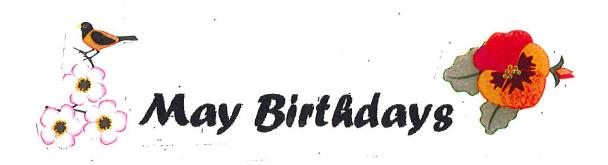
Sunday School will be wrapping up.....the last day will be Sunday, May 14.

This year went by so fast! It was a great year with great attendance! We thank the parents for faithfully getting your children to Sunday School.

We thank the teachers and parents for their dedication and hard work. To Madison Mertens and Kayla Gilmour for teaching the 4, 5, and 1st graders; to Nancy Wallner and Adam Gilmour for teaching the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders; and to April Lueck for teaching the older students. Also, to Nancy Wallner and Cindy Schuett for music instruction.

Have a great summer and we'll see you in church!







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.

Amazing Chickadees

If you have a bird feeder on your property, you are probably familiar with chickadees found throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The six North American chickadee species do not have large fat reserves like some birds. Instead, their trim size gives them more mobility to evade

predators such as cats or sharp-shinned hawks. However, it also means chickadees must find enough fuel daily to maintain their metabolism.



One way chickadees survive is by lowering their body temperature at night. A chickadee's daytime body temperature is 108 degrees Fahrenheit, but it drops to around 86 degrees at night. This controlled hypothermia is a nocturnal semi-hibernation that slows their metabolism by about 25%. The next day, they must find enough food to maintain their daytime metabolism while replacing fat lost the previous night.

Besides the seeds at our bird feeders, chickadees eat caterpillars, insects, spiders, and conifer seeds. Since chickadees do not migrate south for the winter, they store food for use during the cold months. Their stockpiles exist in various places, such as wedged into pine needle clusters or tree bark or even pounded into the ground. In addition, they store food in the lower branches of conifer trees, so it will be available when the upper branches are covered with snow.

Storing food for later use requires remembering where it is, and studies have shown that chickadees can remember where they stored items for months. The hippocampus is the area of the brain involved in memory and spatial learning. When food storage moves into high gear in the fall, the chickadee brain grows new neurons in the hippocampus. Their brain stores visual cues such as the spatial relationship between significant landmarks, allowing them to remember their cache locations from fall until the following spring. The complexity of chickadees is extraordinary. They are another example of God's design in the natural world, enabling the survival of a small creature we take for granted.



VS

Brewers Game - Friday, June 9th - 7pm

Coach Bus Transportation by Kobussen, departs St. John at 2:30.

Tickets - \$72/person includes Game, Bus Ride, Parking and Tailgate Lunch
Only 56 tickets available.

Contact Amy Radliff with questions or to purchase your ticket. Cash, check or Venmo accepted. Phone: 920-361-1437 or email theradliffs@gmail.com

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult 21 or older. Tailgate lunch includes: brats, burgers, chips and bottled water. You are welcome to bring snacks for the bus or dish to pass for tailgating. Alcohol is allowed no kegs or glass allowed on bus, cans and plastic only. Lawn chairs or accessories can be stowed in the bus's undercarriage. Tailgating ends 30 minutes after game starts. Group needs to be packed up and exiting the parking lot prior to 1 hour following the end of the game.

FAMILY: CREATION'S GRAND FINALE

ARE YOU AWARE

Mothers do not grow on trees,
Nor spring from earthly sources;
Mothers do not come from seas.
Nor burst from atom forces;
Mothers do not fall from skies,
Nor shoot from starry spaces;
Mothers are not cast in dies;
Nor bought in regal places.

Mothers are but God's design
By which He ever shows us
Mothers are a glimpse divine
Of how HE loves and knows us.
Mothers are the product of
HIS plans divine - selected Mothers, thus, are shadows of
HIS love - by them projected.

Mothers, too, by God were made
To bring forth gems of beauty;
Mothers, thankful, will not trade
Such chance for sacred duty.
Mothers good do e'er refrain
From all that brings but sorrows;
Mothers wise do firmly train
These young for bright tomorrows.

Mothers, true, are well aware
Of all their obligations.
Mothers guard their brood with care
And seek not world ovations.
Mothers, pure, are grains of salt
That slow sin's awful slanghter
Mothers watch that not a fault
Degrade their son or daughter.

Mothers climb the sheerest crest,
Trudge valleys, for the straying.
Mothers know they dare not rest
From steadfast, earnest praying.
Mothers, who thus sacrificed
So much in this sweet duty,
God shall bless in Jesus Christ
With lasting matchless beauty.

Fathers, too, are God's design
And are never to be slighted;
Fathers are the sturdy vine
'Round which, in love united,
Mothers twine and children grow
And flourish - each depending
That from him will always flow
Power for life's contending.

---0---

Fathers have from God the word
To tend their flock and lead it;
Fathers must quite well record
God's law of love to heed it.
Fathers will be firm and just
In all of their behavior
Fathers know their actions must
Exemplify their Savior.

---0---

Children are great gifts from God
Designed to give much pleasure.
Children, tho' of earthly clod,
Are nonfieless a treasure.
Children are such tender sprouts
So easily they're stunted Children suffering family bouts
To reverence oft are blunted.

Children need the loving touch
Much more than stinging rod.
Children must be taught to clutch
The loving hand of God.
Children, them, quite nonpareil,
Will do as God has told them.
Children, thus, will prosper well
And life will long enfold them.

Fathers, mothers, children all
Upon each other leaning,
Facing every threatening squall,
And searching out life's meaning,
Find that God in wisdom great
Devised such family union,
Where the members all - sedate
Can live in sweet communion.

Praise the Father from above Thank HIM for this creation!
Pray that HE will bless such love
And grant it preservation;
That, when life at last lies waste
And ties so dear must sever,
Family life was but a taste
Of joys that last forever!

by William L. Roerig, 1958

reprinted May 1987

St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

The April meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Adam Ewald. Pastor Mundinger opened with prayer.

Present: Rich Wallner, Kevin Koch, Bob Radliff, Amy Radliff, Keith Krause, Pastor Mundinger, Melissa Linse and Adam

Date: April 18, 2023

Ewald.

Absent: Debra Thiel

Secretary's Report by Amy Radliff

Motion Koch/B Radliff to accept the March minutes. Motion approved.

Financial Secretary's Report by Bob Radliff

	March 2023	<u> March 2022</u>
General Fund	\$51,077.15	\$61,046.31
Children's Fund	\$ 818.49	\$ 8,246.74
Elderly Fund	\$.00	\$.00
Memorials	\$ 1,717.96	\$ 9,763.95
Attendance	248 per week	249 per week

Motion by Wallner/Krause to accept the Financial Secretary's report. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report by Debra Thiel

Square	Account	March	2023.
Duuaic	ACCOUNT	TATCHFOIL	4043.

Beginning Balance:	\$ 63.35	Income:	\$699.47
Expenses:	\$761.06	Ending Balance:	\$ 1.76

Hot Lunch Account March 2023:

TYOU TOWN THE TYOU WAY AND	LUII DUDU.		
Beginning Balance:	\$16,090.49	Income:	\$ 3,071.72
Expenses:	\$ 3,157.69	Ending Balance:	\$16,004.52

Elderly Fund March 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$7,70	2.28	Income:	\$.00
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$7,70	2.28

Children's Fund March 2023:

Beginning Balance:	\$77,116.61	Income:	\$	818.49
Expenses:	\$ 8.560.92	Ending Balance:	\$69	,374.18

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

Board of Trustees Report by Keith Krause

- Playground fence by school has been removed. New fence installation expected within the week.
- Quinn Plumbing continues to work on the non-working boilers. Replacement control did not match, currently waiting on parts.
- Upstairs boys bathroom has water leaking, repairs are scheduled to be completed during summer break.
- Received (2) estimates for seal coating the school parking lot including painting the stripes. Motion by A Radliff/Koch for Trustees to request voter approval for Badgerland Asphalt quote of \$5,150 to fill cracks, seal coat and paint parking stripes this summer. Motion approved.
- Summer project list of painting, repairs and updates was distributed.

Motion by A Radliff/B Radliff to accept Trustees report. Motion approved.

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

Official Acts:

<u>Affirmation of Faith</u> – Robert Reinbold, with son Kyler. Sandra Lee Schubert Smoody. Michael Markowski. <u>Deaths</u> – Thomas Hopp.

Transfer In- Susan Kulka, from Salem Lutheran, Springdale AR.

Communicant Members 483

Baptized Members 578

Church Families 300

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

Board of Education Report by Kevin Koch

- Teacher appreciation week is May 8-12.
- Health curriculum requirements include sex education class. Letters have been sent to the families of students in the 8th grade with available options.
- Teacher assignment changes for school year 2023/2024 have been published.
- Dress code and personal grooming of students is being reviewed.
- Miss Linse will lead the 7th/8th grade class trip to Catalina Island in early May.

Motion by Wallner/B Radliff to accept the Board of Education report. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- Rich provided updates to the budget, based on 48 students participating in School Choice Program. Motion by Kock/B Radliff to accept the revised budget. Motion approved.
- Parish nurse will be installed during an upcoming worship service.

New Business:

New Member welcome will take place in June, date TBD.

Meetings next month: Trustees – Monday May 10th – 6:30 pm. Board of Education – Tuesday, May 2nd - 6pm. Elders – Tuesday May 9th – 6pm. Council – Tuesday, May 16th – 6pm.

Quarterly Voters Meeting – Sunday, May 7th following the 9 am Worship Service (approx. 10:30)

Motion by Linse/Wallner to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 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.





May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	7	8	4	v.	9
			3:45 Public Confirm	1:00 pm Ladies Aid Spring Luncheon		
		6:00 pm Bd of Ed.		6:30 Worship/HC		
7 9:00 Worship/HC 10:15 SS	∞	6	10	11	12	13
No Bible Class Voter's Meeting after church	6:30 pm Trustees	6:00 Bd. of Elders	3:45 Public Confirm	6:30 Worship/HC		
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 Worship/HC 10:15 Bible Class 10:15 SS Last day		· ·	3:45 Public Confirm	Ascension Day	Last day of 4K	
Plant Sale @ school		6 pm Council Mtg. 7 pm Altar Guild		6:30 Worship/HC		
21 Confirmation	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 Worship/HC No Bible Class		v	Kindergarten Graduation	6:30 Worship/HC 8th Grade	Last day of School!	
				Graduation		
28	29	30	31			
9:00 Worship/HC 10:15 Bible Class	MEMORIAL DAY					