April 2026 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Church,
In Lent we've focused on "The Seven Deadly Sins/Temptations" not because these are the worst sins or temptations people could fall into, but because they are common to just about everyone! And our honesty about sin and temptation can help draw us closer to Christ and to a more Christ-like life.

As we enter into Holy Week once more, we remember that, yes, we really do need a Savior! And that yes, we have something in common with the disciple who betrayed Jesus, and with the ones who abandoned Jesus, and with the crowds who called for his crucifixion. And, in our Baptism, we have something in common with Jesus-we are beloved children of God.

The really Good News is that we do have the Savior we need, willing to do whatever it takes to prove God's love for us and to win forgiveness and life for us! The cross and resurrection are the key to St. Paul's insistence in Romans 8, that *nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* That's a promise we hold fast to.

With all that's going on in the world around us-things we can change and things we cannot-we have this calling to be *Easter People;* people who believe and act like God's grace and God's power are more than a match for the powers of sin, evil, death, destruction, fear; as well as those "7 Deadly Ones" including Pride, Greed, and Anger.

So, we enter into Holy Week's solemn days, and Easter's joyful promise trusting that in Christ, God is making us and all things new! Alleluia! Let's live that out!

-Pastor Paul

On Easter we'll worship at 8:00 & 9:45! *Thanks for adjusting your schedule, and inviting someone to worship with us!*

The 2nd Sunday of Easter, April 12, is Holy Humor Sunday, and New Member Sunday! *(And worship time returns to 9:00am). We'll look forward to welcoming those folks who are newer to St. John's and we'll add in a late Easter Egg hunt for the kiddos! Again, this is a good time to invite a friend or neighbor to worship!*

Church Council *elected as officers for the year: Katie Schott-President, Kassi Wolf-VP, Jason Pickart-Treasurer, and Andrea Thom-Secretary. They serve along with: Leanne Ports, Scott Moschea, Linda Grosser, Dan Johnson, Tim Brice, and Pastor Paul.*

The Lower Level Project *is moving along with no delays and with a few extra things being done (Council and Property Team decided to replace, rather than patch the flooring in the south end of the basement-the 1988 portion; and also to replace ceiling tiles in that area, so that it all looks good!) Many thanks to your extra-mile gifts, the project is fully funded! (Thanks for continued gifts to the Building and Grounds fund, because those are always needed.) And special thanks to Scott Christianson, Skip Bartelt, and all who have been making this a labor of love. You will be amazed at the difference this make for our lower level. Now, let's be sure we use that space even more for the glory of God!*

We look forwarding to welcoming New Members *on the weekend of April 11/12. Many of you attended an Orientation a few weeks ago. Any others of you who would like to be included that day, please be in touch with Pastor Paul. We're glad you've decided to make yourselves "at home" here.*

Getting to Know You:

Eric and Jennifer Olafsson

Madison is the heart and soul of Eric and Jennifer Olafsson's life. Not only is it where Jen grew up and helped in her family's business, Klinke Cleaners, but where Eric was an undergrad and medical student at UW, and where they met at the Great Dane pub in 1998 (and still frequent). Decades later, their children heard the calling of the city their parents came to love, and all three kids reside there now, even though their parents are *here*.

Jen is the outlier of the family and did not attend a Madison-area university, instead opting to get out of Dodge and complete her degree in English at Valparaiso, as well as minors in business and economics. Those credentials along with attending the International Fabricare Institute drycleaning school allowed her to wear a lot of hats in the family business post-college, from HR to marketing to pressing shirts.

Wausau is where Eric grew up and his parents still reside. After completing his medical degree in 1999, Eric tacked on another six years of education to complete his residency in Madison and fellowship in Indianapolis before taking his current position as a pulmonologist at Froedtert West Bend. With that job, the couple and their two little ones moved to Washington County in 2005 and were members of Trinity Lutheran in West Bend before they moved to their current home in the Town of Polk in 2012 and became members of St. John's.

Higher learning is the reason all of their children are in Madison. Megan (23) graduated from UW in May 2025 and is currently working in the city while she awaits med school this fall (location and specialty TBD). Jon (21) attends Edgewood University, majoring in accounting and has a remote internship at a mortgage company in Brookfield. And Rachel (19) is enjoying being a freshman at UW, majoring in microbiology.

Jen and Eric both like to travel. The family took a trip to Germany in 2024, and the parents going it solo hope to spend a lot of time in Florida, where Eric can while away warm days on a golf course and Jen can soak up the sun with a good book.

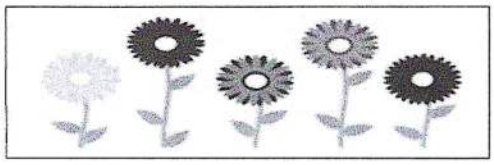
Fun Facts

- Eric and Jen don't need an anniversary reminder in their calendars—it's pretty easy to remember: they were married five days after 9/11.
- Love, love, love this sport!: Eric enjoys playing tennis, and both Jon and Rachel started playing very young, excelled on the Slinger High School teams, and worked at Pleasant Valley Tennis and Fitness Club, plus Jon has even extended his play to the university team.
- The couple is still getting used to being empty nesters, but family canine Piper, who's not a Great Dane, keeps their spirits up until they can get to *the* Great Dane again (*and* see their kids) Time to tell one more thing: Jen helps out at Douglas Jewelers in Hartford, where they replace an average of 3,500 watch batteries a year!

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 Fellowship and Fitness Lenten Services 11:00 + Lunch 6:00 Supper + 6:30 Service	**2** Maundy Thursday Worship 11:00 & 6:30	**3** Good Friday Worship 2:00 & 6:30	**4** Easter Vigil 5:00 Worship & Holy Communion
5 **Easter Sunday** **8:00 & 9:45 Worship & Holy Communion**	**6** 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Quilting 6:30 Grief Support	**7** 10:00 Chair Yoga 5:30 Fun & Fellowship 6:00 Outreach 7:00 Jackson AA Meeting	**8** 9:00 Fellowship and Fitness 7:00 Confirmation	**9** 1:00 Ruth Circle	**10** 10:00 Chair Yoga	**11** 5:00 Worship & Holy Communion
12 Holy Humor Sunday New Member Sunday 9:00 Worship & Holy Communion 9:00 Facebook Live 9:30 Sunday School New Member Coffee Hour Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Pictures	**13** 9:00 Bible Study	**14** 9:00 Veterans Meeting 10:00 Chair Yoga 6:30 Bells 7:00 Jackson AA Meeting	**15** 9:00 Fellowship and Fitness 7:00 Confirmation	**16** 9:30 North Conference Pastors Mtg.	**17** 10:00 Chair Yoga	**18** 5:00 Worship & Holy Communion
19 9:00 Worship & Holy Communion 9:00 Facebook Live 9:30 Sunday School	**20** 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Quilting 6:30 Grief Support	**21** 10:00 Chair Yoga 6:30 Bells 6:30 Council 7:00 Jackson AA Meeting	**22** 9:00 Fellowship and Fitness 7:00 Confirmation	**26**	**27** 10:00 Chair Yoga	**25** 5:00 Worship & Holy Communion
26 9:00 Worship & Holy Communion 9:00 Facebook Live 9:30 Sunday School	**27** 9:00 Bible Study	**28** 10:00 Chair Yoga 6:30 Bells 7:00 Jackson AA Meeting	**29** 9:00 Fellowship and Fitness 7:00 Confirmation	**30**		

What's Going on at St. John's:



The Fun & Fellowship Team and The Outreach Team *will have a combined meeting on Tuesday April 7th to discuss upcoming special events. Fun & Fellowship will start at 5:30 and be joined by the Outreach Team at 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome to help with planning for this year. How about a Brewer's game, a tailgate and bonfire night, a bingo night, a movie night, or a mini golf day some Sunday after church? Have an idea for a fundraiser or community project? Come on April 7th and help plan events for this year.*

Ruth Circle will meet at 1:00 on Thursday, April 9th. Everyone is welcome to come and help assemble the Ruth Circle new Spring project. Bring glue sticks, scissors and a measuring cup.

Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3 *look for a seed packet to take home!*
The on Sunday, May 3, kids will be able to decorate small pots *and take home a packet of* ***"Surprise Seeds"*** *to find out what grows! Another fun project compliments of Ruth Circle!*
"Growing in Faith"... Like seeds planted in the ground, our faith will grow and abound!

Crossways Camps is one of the best ways to boost your child's (or your own!) faith, and they have two-night camps for 'beginners' (1st-2nd grade), and 5 nights of camp for older youth (Confirmation students will attend "Village" Camp July 5-10), and a Family Camp Weekend at "Pine Lake" June 26-29, plus a Grandparents'/Grandkids' Camp August 6-8! We have scholarship $$ available for all! www.crosswayscamps.org

Get your Plant Certificates *for Groth's Country Gardens! They come in $20 amounts and can be used all year on plants, and the 'classes' Groth's offers. A portion of the sales goes to our Youth Group!*

Thanks for signing up to host a Coffee Hour! We all enjoy the refreshments and fellowship after worship!

Our sisters and brothers at All People's Church *thank us for helping stock their Food Pantry. The number of families/households they serve has risen considerably.*

Thanks to all who turned in a "Time &Talents" page! We're compiling those and will work to connect you with an opportunity to be more involved!

Giving and Expenses for February 2026

+ Year to Date as of February 28, 2026:
Offerings: $13,178 Expenses: $19,961 Balance: $138,594

+YTD Building & Grounds Fund: (Does not include Lower Level expenses/gifts)
Offerings: $2,162 Expenses: $277 Balance: $34,160

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship: Offerings: $859 Goal for 2026: $8,000

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:
Offerings: $5,068 Goal for 2026: $18,000

+YTD Good Samaritan:
Receipts: $ 680 Goal for 2026: $8,000

Thank you for your regular and 'extra-mile' giving!

April Birthdays
Happy Birthday!

April	2	Don Artz
	4	Jacob Bukovic
	4	Roger Hansen
April	5	Jaxson Schwieger
April	6	Laura Reisinger
April	7	Andy Jones
April	8	Eileen Mack
	8	Chelsea Thomas
April	10	Jerome Bohling
	10	Scott DeChant
April	13	Scott Lang
April	14	Hank Dieringer
April	15	Nick Abt
	15	Eli Johnson
April	17	Elliott Groth
	17	Ellery Groth
April	18	Don Meyerpeter
April	19	Matt DeChant
	19	Amelie Dohl
	19	Rick Loehrt
April	22	Mary Novotny
April	23	Deann Abel
	23	Travis Prost
April	24	Sandy Bernau
	24	Sean Brennan
	24	Krista Johnson
	24	JJ Rustad
April	25	Hannah Micksch
April	27	Johnathan Friess
	27	Cassidy Goniu
	27	Pat Wichmann
	27	Cade Wills
April	28	Irv Brandt
	28	John Breest
	28	Finnegan Stern
	28	Andy Thom
	29	Chris Ayers
April	29	Kelly Strnad

Happy Anniversary!

Rick & Tracey Corlett	April 11	34 years
John & Cindy Breest	April 12	40 years
Scott & Angela Bins	April 16	10 years
Robert & Ann Glorioso	April 16	38 years
Randy & Hope Groth	April 16	15 years
Carl and Ann Radloff	April 20	41 years
Sean & Kristen Mickie	April 23	21 years
Dave & Kathy Williams	April 24	33 years

April	5-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr	26-Apr
Reader	*Easter*	Reuben Heidtke	Megan DeChant	Laura Hahn
Commun.	*Sunday*	Sarah Stoecker	Peter Uhlig	Jim Hahn
Assist.	*Volunteers*	George Liberatore	Darlene Wanta	Eileen Mack
Usher		Mary Bukovic	Paul Stahl	Skip Bartelt
Usher		Kevin Bukovic	Peter Ziegelbauer	Tim Kiernan
Greeter		Mason Hein	Pam Stahl	Nancy Kinter
Power Pt.		Wendy Heidtke	Scott D/Chris	Stacy B/Klay
Facebook		Raj Singh	Scott D/Chris	Stacy B/Klay

+ Born to Eternal Life +
Ken Keel
Connie Hornburg

April & May Serving Schedules
With Spring comes special events. Let me know if you aren't available as scheduled and if possible please find someone to trade with, then send me any schedule changes.
Thank you for volunteering.

May	3-May	10-May	17-May	24-May	31-May
Reader	Joel Wolf	Reuben Heidtke	Laura Bartelt	Brennan's	Amy Reid
Commun.	Lee Anne Runnells	Joel Heidtke	Irv Brandt	Brennan's	Dianne Liberatore
Assist.	Sarah Stoecker	Peter Uhlig	Jenny Brandt	Brennan's	George Liberatore
Usher	Staci Benz	Kelly Strnad	Paul Stahl	Brennan's	Scott Novotny
Usher	Keith Heidtke	Will Strnad	Judy Henrichs	Brennan's	Tim Kiernan
Greeter	Parker Benz	Mason Hein	Pam Stahl	Brennan's	Nancy Kinter
Power Pt.	Wendy Wolf	Wendy Heidtke	Scott D/Chris	Staci B/Klay	Wendy Wolf
Facebook	Scott Kinter	Raj Singh	Scott D/Chris	Staci B/Klay	Scott Kinter

St. John's Lutheran Church
2881 Division Road
Jackson, WI 53037

+Easter Sunday Services at 8:00am and 9:45am +

At St. John's we're privileged and challenged to *Welcome, Worship, and Witness* in Christ's name. Thank you for being part of this faith community and for the serving you do to the glory of God!

Visit us at www.stjohnsjackson.net
Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stjohnsjackson
Pastor Paul Mittermaier – pastorcarguy@gmail.com
Office hours: M-F 9:00am-1:00pm 262-677-3176
officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com
Worship Services: Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am with Holy Communion
Facebook Live at 9:00 am on Sunday

ST. JOHN'S
WELCOME · WORSHIP · WITNESS