

October 2026 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Church:

I remember the encounter like it was yesterday: It was a lovely autumn Sunday in 2003. I was in Ohio to celebrate my Dad's 80th birthday. And we had gone to the church where my dad grew up, as he was invited to preach; and my brother, John, and I were to preside at worship. I got to St. Peter's in Delphos early. I lingered outside to enjoy the morning air. I watched the first person arrive for worship. Slowly, and with difficulty, a dear senior woman made her way up the sidewalk-with her walker-towards the entry. I greeted her with "And how are you this morning?" And she gave the best one-word answer there is: *"Grateful!"* That was it: *"Grateful!"*

The routine answer to my question would have been "Fine" or "I'm OK". But her answer was a beautiful, unexpected testimony. *"I am grateful!"* She didn't need to elaborate! I could tell she was grateful to be alive; grateful to be able to come to worship; grateful for a church that welcomed her and cared for her; grateful for a God whom she could count on for grace and strength sufficient for the day!

As we head into fall, even with all that's going on in our lives and in the world, consider making this elder saint's mantra your own: *"I am grateful!"* is a powerful prayer; a wonderful response; and an outstanding witness! It can be on the lips of anyone who knows what it means to belong to God and to enjoy life in Jesus' name!

And as we think about gratitude in general, let's give thanks for those public servants who do their job amid the challenges of today's politics; and those farmers and truckers who are doing their job despite high diesel prices; and yes, those immigrants in our midst who work in caregiving, farming, roofing, cleaning, and hospitality and all sorts of jobs that need doing. We can't do without the faithful work of others!

And as always, I am grateful to serve a congregation that welcomes others, that steps up to the plate, that has joyful servants, that knows how to care, that knows how to give, that knows how to worship, that knows how to enjoy one another's presence, that knows how to lift up others in prayer. Thank you!
-Pastor Paul

Will we have any Drive-in services on Saturdays in October? The weather will decide! If it's above 60 and nice, we will! So, bring a jacket on those days!

We got some more building items finished! Property Team had the thin aluminum trim 'caps' on the peaks of the 'new' building replaced with steel panels. We've had some trouble with two of those blowing off in high winds. We hope this is a more permanent fix. Also, one un-seen improvement: our elevator shaft is dug into the high bedrock, and in heavy rains, water always collects there and has to be pumped out by the sump pump. We had the original (23 year old) pump replaced, and a back-up added, for good measure. These 2 improvements ran approximately: \$13k.

And, we have a new member on Church Council! Scott Moschea has stepped down from Council (thank you, Scott for serving!) Council has appointed Eric Olafsson to fill that seat until the annual meeting! Thank you, Dr. Eric!

We tried "Dinner-for-One" last month, to gather folks who eat alone, and especially those who have experienced the death of a spouse. We're going to keep that up, on the 3rd Monday at 6pm, with Chili on the menu for October (and you can contribute something simple to the meal!) Friends are welcome too! Grief Support Group will continue to meet the 1st Monday of the month.

Coming up at St. John's:

Thank you to our talented quilters for another year of hard work. The beautiful completed quilts will be on display in church until October 11th before being packed up for shipping on October 11th. Quilts may be purchased for a donation of \$ 75 per quilt or \$ 100 for detailed specialty quilts.

Our Quilters are still collecting flat or fitted sheets to use as backing for their beautiful quilt creations. Sheets may be left in the collection box in the Quilting Room, or given to any quilter.



Help pack and send our quilts to Lutheran World Relief! Save and bring medium size boxes to church and then help pack the beautiful quilts for shipping on Sunday, October 11th.

Thank you!



Ruth Circle's LWR Personal Care Kit challenge is complete! Ruth Circle has exceeded their goal of sending 140 care kits to Lutheran World Relief by completeing 150+ kits to help provide basic care necessities to people in need in the US and around the world. Thank you to everyone that helped by donating towels, soap, toothbrushes and combs!

Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 24th, 6 pm!

Let's start the night with a simple dinner with lots of spooky people, continue to fun games, and finish with some trunk or treat.

1. Wear a costume – adults come in costume too!
2. Bring a dish to pass
3. Plan to decorate a trunk and hand out goodies!
4. Plan on having a ton of fun!!!

Estate Planning Information Session on October 25 with Ron Philips

If you are someone who doesn't have a will, perhaps is looking to update their will or trust, or has questions about the various methods of charitable giving, please consider attending an information session on Sunday, October 25. This informal session will be led by Ron Philips, a St. John's member and a recently retired attorney with estate planning experience. He will be available in the Upper Room at 10:15 immediately following the Sunday morning service to answer your questions and provide you with estate planning resource documents.

Our Service of Remembrance takes place on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 5pm, and is especially for those who have experienced the death of a loved one in the past year. It's a service of comfort and of sweet remembering, and you are encouraged to bring a friend.

Giving and Expenses as of August 31, 2026

General Fund

Offerings:\$ 16,616 Expenses:\$ 18,814 YTD Giving:\$144,116 YTD Shortfall:\$17,795

+ Missionary Sponsorship: Offerings: \$ 644 YTD: \$ 4824 Goal for 2026: \$8,000

+ELCA Benevolence/Mission Support:

Offerings: \$ 609 YTD: \$ 7,320 Goal for 2026: \$18,000

+ELCA Hunger Appeal

YTD: \$ 5,410 Goal for 2026: \$4,000

+Building and Grounds Fund: Offerings:\$ 2,479 Expenses:\$ 1,804 YTD Giving:\$ 25,396
Balance:\$ 35,148 (The two latest projects will show up in next month's expenses.)

Getting to Know You: The Seltrecht, Matenaer, and Leist Families



For the record, this is the first Getting to Know You that encompasses multiple families: Jesse, Dawn, and Wilson Seltrecht; Jim Matenaer (Jesse's dad); and Dennis and Mary Leist (Dawn's parents, friends of St. John's).

Believe it or not, they haven't made it into Ripley's but seemingly could hold the record for "Longest Couple Before Welcoming a Baby Home." Jesse and Dawn started dating in 1995 while he was working at Car Maid in Cedarburg and she needed new tires; they married in 2000, and after a nine-year process adopted Wilson in 2016 — 21 years after the couple met!

The Seltrecht family's lifestyle mainly revolves around two things: school and activities. Jesse does maintenance for University School of Milwaukee (USM). Dawn was the principal's secretary at the Cedarburg middle and high schools beginning in 1999, and then 13 years ago moved to the district office as the buildings and grounds secretary. Wilson, 12, attends 6th grade at USM and does "all the things." Jesse and Dawn joke if there's a sign-up sheet out, Wilson will put his name on it! He loves sports, and actively participates in USM tackle football, Milwaukee Winter Club ice hockey, Jr. Chinooks baseball, and USM golf and track, as well as uses those muscles he has built in sports to help build sets for the USM musicals. He's not the only one with interests, though: Jesse enjoys fishing, working on just about anything motor-related, and UTVing up north; Dawn loves to read, work on puzzles, and travel.

And while we're on a roll, Jim Matenaer and his wife, Sharon (who sadly passed away in 2009), were part of the Harley-Davidson 100 TH Anniversary Ride, putting on 2,602 miles from Las Vegas to Milwaukee. They got married in 1982, and he gained an instant family with her two children, Jesse (11) and Jody (7). Before retirement, Jim worked at Jorgensen Conveyors in Mequon with Jesse for many years. At 81 years young, Jim has a garage full of tools and loves working on little projects that get him out there, as well as following the Brewers and Packers. Besides cross-country trips on their bikes, Jim and Sharon rode their H-D motorcycles in many area parades, but with those days in his rearview mirror, you can now find him tooling around Cedarburg on his Honda scooter.

Though retired since 2004 and living the good life up north in Grand Marsh, WI, Dennis and Mary Leist still make it down here to church a few times a year. Mary worked at Concordia University in the bake shop and housekeeping department, and Dennis was in Ironworkers Union Local 8. Dawn got her love of reading from her mom Mary, who additionally enjoys cooking/baking and her grandkids. Dennis is an avid deer hunter and, like Jim, loves the Packers.

With all they have in common, this blended extended family was just meant to be!

- Fun Facts: June 19 is a double cause for celebration in the Seltrecht household: Both Jesse and Wilson share the date they were born (just multi-decades apart).
- A memorable hand-me-down – Seltrecht's house in Jackson was first the Leist's house. Dawn lived there 50 years (minus four in an apartment with Jesse) before she and Jesse recently moved to River Hills to be closer to USM.
- Jim's first job at age 12 was delivering the daily morning and weekly Sunday papers to 65 houses in West Bend. His current scooter sure would have come in handy!

**October Birthdays
Happy Birthday!**

October	1	Tyler Apel
	1	Liam Mickie
	1	Alex Miller
	1	Sue Worden
	4	Darlene Wanta
	3	Maryann Stoecker
	4	Kristen Apel
	4	Kelli Fraley
	4	Candace Liebner
	4	Anna Reisinger
	8	Steve Devoe
	8	Megan Olafsson
	10	Jack Frank
	11	Benjamin Hollister
	12	Hope Groth
	13	Erin Anders
	14	Christine Aldred
	14	Terry Stoecker
	15	Melanie Gierach
	15	Tracey Jackson
	15	Renee Liberatore
	16	Lili Inchaurregui
	17	Brantley Prost
	18	Kristen Mickie
	18	Jacob Williams
	19	Tim Kiernan
	20	Abby Ferguson
	21	Truman Ayers
	21	Aiden Brice
	23	Pam Dhein
	23	Cindy Driebel
	23	Aiden Grant
	24	Kayla Brennan
	24	Mary Bukovic
	25	Kimberly Byrne
	26	Tom Toll
	29	Randy Adametz
	29	Sharon Kiernan
	31	Chas Puckett
	23	Scott Adams



Happy October Anniversary

Tyler & Kristen Apel	October 1	8 years
Jason & Angela Pickart	October 5	24 years
James & Sharon Ziemer	October 5	41 years
Tracy & Andrea Thom	October 13	2 years
Bob & Michelle Jones	October 17	39 years
Brian & Lisa Kasubaski	October 20	36 years
Paul & Pam Stahl	October 22	43 years
Jeffrey & Laurie Matthews	October 26	35 years
Pete & Racheal Ziegelbauer	October 30	16 years

October Serving

October	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25	Nov 1
Reader	Katie Schott	Reuben Heidtke	Laura Hahn	Amy Reid	Joel Heidtke
Comm	Sarah Stoecker	George Liberatore	Jim Hahn	Wendy Wolf	Darlene Wanta
Assist	Laura Bartelt	Dianne Liberatore	Joel Heidtke	Joel Wolf	Peter Uhlig
Usher	Skip Bartelt	Staci Benz	Darlene Wanta	Peter Ziegelbauer	Bukovics
Usher	Scott Novotny	Judy Henrichs	Pete Kutzora	George Liberatore	Bukovics
Greeter	Diane Holter	Parker Benz	Adelynn Guslick	Emily & Ben Hollister	Pam Stahl
Power Pt.	Wendy Heidtke	Scott D/Chris	Staci B/Klay	Jack Ziegelbauer	Wendy H.
Face Book	Raj Singh	Scott D/Chris	Staci B/Klay	Scott Kinter	Raj Singh
Cantor	Scott DeChant	Linda Grosser			

October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4 H Trotters	2 10:00 Chair Yoga	3 9:00 All People’s Church Breakfast 5:00 Worship & Holy Communion
4 9:00 Worship & Holy Communion 9:00 Facebook Live Quilts on Display	5 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Quilting 6:00 Grief Support	6 10:00 Chair Yoga 7:00 Jackson AA Meeting	7 9:00 Fellowship and Fitness 7:00 Confirmation Class	8 1:00 Ruth Circle	9 10:00 Chair Yoga	10 5:00 Worship & Holy Communion
11 9:00 Worship & Holy Communion 9:00 Facebook Live Quilts on Display & Boxed for Shipping	12 9:00 Bible Study	13 9:00 Vets Meeting 10:00 Chair Yoga 7:00 Property Committee 7:00 Jackson AA Meeting	14 9:00 Fellowship and Fitness 7:00 Confirmation Class	15 North Conference Clergy	16 10:00 Chair Yoga	17 5:00 Worship & Holy Communion – Service of Healing Prayers
18 9:00 Worship & Holy Communion 9:00 Facebook Live 9:30 Sunday School	19 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Quilting 6:00 Grief Support Dinner for One	20 10:00 Chair Yoga 6:30 Council Mtg. 7:00 Jackson AA Meeting	21 9:00 Fellowship and Fitness 7:00 Confirmation Class	22	23 10:00 Chair Yoga	24 5:00 Worship & Holy Communion 6:00 Trunk or Treat
25 9:00 Worship & Holy Communion 9:00 Facebook Live 9:30 Sunday School Estate Planning 10:15	26 9:00 Bible Study	27 10:00 Chair Yoga 7:00 Jackson AA Meeting	28 9:00 Fellowship and Fitness 7:00 Confirmation Class	29	30 10:00 Chair Yoga	31 5:00 Worship & Holy Communion

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



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

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Worship Services: Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am with Holy Communion

Facebook Live at 9:00 am on Sunday

