
The Messenger

ST. JOHN - ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

From The Pastor's Desk:

The Easter Season

This month of April begins with us journeying to the cross. We take these days of Holy Week to slow down, to not make up reasons or excuses, or even to find the joy in everything. We sit in the reality, we do not shy away, Christ does not shy away. We reflect, we grieve, we are simply and fully human.

I think we often want to skip this part. As a church, as Christians we want to skip to Easter right away. We want to jump from our "Hossana!" to our "Alleluias!", yet there is a whole week of real life, real moments, that include God's promise of life through the Last Supper. Jesus reveals the purpose of his ministry through washing the feet of his disciples and calling all his followers to live in the same living service.

As we journey through this first, then we get to Easter and exclaim our "Alleluia!". As we enter this season of Easter may we journey together, being led by the blessing and poem from Meta Herrick Carlson: The Easter Season

Fifty days for impossible,
Unlikely encounters,
Signs of new life,
Creative resilience,
And speechless joy.

Fifty days for scars shown,
Real human bodies
Alive, telling stories
About what has hurt
And been made whole.

Fifty days for peace enfleshed,
Moving through locked doors,
Down dirt roads,
And on the beach
Smoking fish to eat for
breakfast.

Fifty days for Spirit breathed,
Forgiveness unleashed,
Presence that's pure,
Courage that finds us
Together for good.
Fifty days for jubilee,
Debts fully repaid,
Broken life restored,

People rejoicing
And raised from the dead!

Blessings,

Vicar Jay Kiel

ST. JOHN COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 9, 2026

St. John's council began its meeting at 6:30 pm with President Dana Cook calling the meeting to order. Other council members present were, Jeanne Trachsler, Kathy Hintz, Jill Stone-Brisky, Gail Meyer, Sally Ladsten and Vicar Jay Kiel. David Rischmueller was absent.

Vicar Jay opened with a message from D365 Daily Devotional.

Secretary Report: Kathy Hintz made a motion to approve, Jill Stone-Brisky seconded.

Treasurers Report was read and discussed. A motion was made by Kathy Hintz to place the treasurer report on audit.

Pastor Report: Vicar Jay reviewed Lenten services. Discussed membership, Confirmation, and Communion. Vicar Jay asked for a vacation day April 19, 2026, approved. Vacation Bible School was discussed and landed on June 14, 15, 16th. More to come on that!

Old Business: Discussed roof replacement bids. Dana secured four bids. The ramp was also discussed about its current state. We need someone to replace Sarah R. for the Synod Assembly May 15 & 16th. Jill discussed the

upcoming "yard" sale at her home May 14, 15, 16 with proceeds to our "Neighbor in Need" fund.



New Business:

There will be NO service on Sunday April 19th. This will be posted on social media and the messenger. Spring clean up date scheduled for April 18, 2026 with a rain date of April 25th. Two fixtures in the church need electrical attention.

Messenger deadline – March 19, 2026

Usher for April Sally Ladsten

Next council meeting is Monday, April 13th at 6:30

Kathy Hintz made a motion to adjourn, Jill Stone-Brisky seconded.

Closed with Prayer

In Peace,

Jeanne Trachsler,
Secretary

ST JOHN WELCA

Thank you to all that contributed items for the Bazaar and helped with the Chili Luncheon. Special thanks to the committee. You did a great job!



Bible Study: April 1 - 1:00 pm

Greeters: Fahrenkamp Family

Wash Communionware:
Megan Haag & Victoria Yanke

The WELCA Conference Spring Gathering will be held at St. John's Lutheran church in Prairie du Sac on April 25 with registration from 8:30-9:00. Anyone wishing to attend please register with Becky Mitchell.

Thank you to whoever donated the batting for our quilting projects. It is much appreciated.

Ruth Evert,
Secretary

JOIN US AT THE SAUK/COLUMBIA WELCA CONFERENCE SPRING GATHERING.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 100 OAK ST., PRAIRIE DU SAC, WI, 53578

-REGISTRATION 8:30-9:30 WITH COFFEE AND GOODIES

-OPENING DEVOTIONS 9:30

-FEATURED SPEAKERS: JOHN AND SARAH RAMTHUN (FOUNDERS OF THE 6:8, INC. Sauk City, WI)

-BUSINESS MEETING

-LUNCHEON AT 12:00 NOON IN THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM

Contact Becky Mitchell for more information.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS: JOHN AND SARAH RAMTHUN
FOUNDERS OF THE 6:8, INC. Sauk City, WI.

This is a Christian non-profit organization. (One of the 6:8 verses: Micah 6:8--- "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God".) The primary goal of 6:8 is to empower families to be self-supporting by focusing on "HAND-UP" (NOT HAND-OUT) PROGRAMS. They have accomplished miraculous things the past several years, including many faith-building programs for youth, such as mission trips to places where help is needed instilling a love for volunteering. They collect and donate non-perishable food items, shelter assistance, tutoring, senior support, They have SO MANY very interesting true stories of helping people in need and at the same time teaching them to help themselves. This will be an outstanding program and you won't want to miss it!

St. John Lutheran - Leland

YARD SALE

Proceeds will go to St. John's "Neighbor in Need Fund"

When?

In conjunction with the Sauk-Prairie City Wide Garage Sales.

Mid May 2026

Where?

302 Jackson Street, Sauk City

PLEASE: Donate items, Volunteer (as the time gets closer) and Spread the Word! **Donation Drop Off:** 302 Jackson St., Sauk City Saturday mornings in **April (8:00-12:00)**

WATCH: For updates in Social Media, Church Publications and Worship Announcements. THANKS!

Donations Needed Please!

Gently used items. Suggestions but not limited to

Holiday Decor Kitchen Items
Gardening & Yard Decor (planters, watering can...)
Knick Knacks & Collectibles Household Decor
Framed Art/Pictures Small-Medium (stools, accent chairs, tables)
Children's Books Cook Books Costume Jewelry
Old Canning Jars with lids (Old Tins) Old Calendars
Barn Treasures (galvanized pails, wash tubs...)
Tidbits: Spools of Thread, Old Clothespins, Buttons...

Most of the inventory can be stored in our garage until the sale.

We will **not** be able to accept clothes, outerwear, boots/shoes, large furniture/appliances/tools or children's toys.

Thanks in advance for your understanding.

ZION COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 8, 2026

Present: Todd Thieding, Phyllis Schwartz, Larry Wiese, Megan Schulenburg, and Sue Strutz

On March 8 at 9:30, President Todd Thieding called the meeting to order.

Vicar Jay has been visiting shut-ins as he's able.

The secretary's report was read. Phyllis made a motion to accept it as read. Larry made a second.

The treasurer's report was handed out and placed on file for audit.

Old Business:

Wes Kraemer has agreed to do the survey of Zion. He said he'd put it on his calendar, but to expect a

couple of months before he would start the process.

New Business:
None

A motion to adjourn was made by Megan and it was seconded by Larry.

We closed with The Lord's Prayer.



Sue Strutz,
Secretary

Dairy Breakfast

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sauk County Dairy Breakfast

June 13th , 2026

Windi Ridge Farm, The Luxton Family, S5424 County Road G, Hillpoint, WI 53937

Hosting a Dairy Breakfast would not be possible without the help of many volunteers. Breakfast will be served this year on Saturday, June 13, 2026 from 7:00-11:00 A.M. We are planning our work schedules and need volunteers to prepare, cook, and serve the meal as well as provide for cleanup at the conclusion of the breakfast. We will have 2 shifts of roughly 2½ hours each: 6:30-9:00 a.m. and 9:00- 11:30 a.m. to prepare, cook, and serve the meal as well as a cleanup crew. Volunteering for the cleanup crew would start around 10:45 a.m. Assignments are on a first come, first serve basis and workers will be notified of their assignments.

Friday Morning: General set-up

Saturday Morning:

Food Preparation

Pancake Grill

Mix Pancake Batter

Cook Eggs (5:45 start time)

Cook Ham

Brew Coffee

Batter Runner

Cook Sausage

Serving Line:

Eggs Applesauce Cheese

Milk and Juice

Sausage Links

Yogurt and Cottage Cheese

Other duties: Coffee Servers at Tables Line Helpers, Restock Serving Lines Clean Tables Empty Garbage Bags, Wash Dishes, Milk and Juice server at Tables Butter/ Syrup refills Volunteer Table Check-In person Table Host/ Usher Plates Line Director

Cleanup Crew beginning at 10:45 a.m.

Come & Join the Fun – Sign Up Below

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Children, List Names and Ages

E-mail Address: _____

1st Choice 2nd Choice

Time Shift: _____

Job Wanted: _____

Send To: Tracy Waldinger, 839 Dorothy Drive, Portage, WI 53901

Call or Text: (608) 477-1283 or E-mail: SaukCoDairybreakfast@yahoo.com

St. John

will have a brief meeting after the April 12th worship service to discuss the roofing needs and options.

The Zion Cemetery Association

will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, April 12th, immediately after the church service.

Messenger Deadline

The Third Thursday . . . The May issue deadline is Thursday, April 16. Contact the Messenger by e-mail at sjnewsletter@gmail.com or send by mail to 249 Holly Court, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578. Thank you.

April Birthdays

- 2 Irma Reimer
Derek Yanke
Bradyn Krumenauer
- 3 Brandt Turner
- 7 Sharon Nowland
- 8 William Yanke
- 10 Dale Schwanke
- 12 Adam Yanke
Ranae Oxberger
- 13 Sawyer Richard
- 14 Brian Yanke
Randy Krumenauer
- 16 Dawn Alt
- 18 Jacob Yanke
- 19 Kathryn Schwartz
Doug Yanke
- 20 Sarah Cook
- 21 Dana Cook
- 27 Scott Boettcher
Gloria Foye
Tatum Pickarts
- 28 Garrett Trachsler
- 29 Kathy Hintz

St. John~Zion Lutheran Churches

E7519 County Highway C

North Freedom, WI 53951



Mark Your Calendars

Calendar

Important Dates for April

April 2, 2026

Maunder Thursday, SJ 6:30

April 3, 2026

Good Friday, Zion 1:00; SJ 6:30

April 13, 2026

St. John Council 6:30

April 16, 2026

Deadline for May issue
of the Messenger

Resurrection of Our Lord; Easter Day Sunday, April 5

Zion Worship 8:30 am

St. John Worship 10:00 am

April 18: Spring Clean Up (25th Rain date)

April 19: No Church Service