
The Messenger

ST. JOHN - ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

From The Pastor's Desk:

Good News

*“¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.” -
Philippians 3:17-21*

In this text from Philippians, we read about imitating others and following the examples that they have in front of them. Paul is writing to the church in

Philippi and reminding them that there are examples to look up to for how to live, love, and gather as community. These examples are ones that are grounded in the life and love and teachings of Christ Jesus.

This reminds me of one of my modern-day heroes and someone that I look up to as an example, and that is Mister Rogers. He says this “Everyone longs to be loved. And the greatest thing we can do is to let people know that they are loved and capable of loving.”

As imitators of Christ, we are freed through Christ to live out these words from Mister Rogers. Together, through the guiding of the Holy Spirit, we can live in a way that reminds others and us that we are capable and worthy of love. Each of us are made worthy love through Jesus Christ.

Mr. Rogers also says this “Anything that’s human is mentionable, and anything that is mentionable can be more manageable. When we can talk about our feelings, they become less overwhelming, less upsetting, and less scary. The people we trust with that important talk can help us know that we are not alone.”

As we continue to journey through this season of Lent, may we journey with the quote in mind. Lent invited us to honesty, to name things for what they are, to name things for how they feel. As we name things to ourselves, to each other to God, they become more manageable and we are reminded that God goes with us, God is with us in all we name. This is good news.

In Christ,
Vicar Jay Kiel

ST. JOHN COUNCIL MEETING - FEBRUARY 9, 2026

February 9, 2026 St. John's council began its meeting following the joint council meeting with Zion. Vice-President David Rischmueller called the meeting to order. Other council members present were, Jeanne Trachsler, Kathy Hintz, Jill Stone-Brisky, Gail Meyer, and Sally Ladsten. Vicar Jay and Dana Cook were absent.

Treasurers Report was read and discussed.

Old Business: Zion thanked St. John's for reducing the cost share to 20/80. The steeple repair is completed and paid for. Bathroom is complete, waiting for the electrician bill. Jill gave a brief update on the upcoming yard sale that she will be hosting in May. Dana Cook will be getting bids for roofing on the church, garage and parsonage. He is hoping for bids to present at the next council meeting. US Cellular account should be closed as we now use Lightspeed. Contract with Zion was given to President Todd Theiding for signatures. Zion presented the signed contract to us when we reconvened. David Rischmueller will get this to Dana Cook.

New Business: A discussion about the ramp and its' condition. Will be discussed in the future. Lenten Services confirmed for Wednesdays at 6:30 starting with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. Chili luncheon is fast approaching.



Messenger deadline – February 19, 2026

Usher for March – Jill Stone-Brisky

Next council meeting is Monday, March 9th at 6:30

Kathy Hintz made a motion to adjourn, Sally Ladsten seconded.

Returned to joint meeting with final words.

Closed with Prayer

In Peace,

Jeanne Trachsler,
Secretary

Contact **THE MESSENGER**

by e-mail at sjznewsletter@gmail.com

ST JOHN WELCA

St. John WELCA met February 4 for Bible Study led by Vicar Jay. The topic was "Who is Jesus?"

Quilting continues every Wednesday at 9:30. Donations of full, queen, or king flat sheets would be appreciated.

Chili Luncheon - March 1 2026 11:30 - 2:30 pm
Committee: Laura Richmond, Gail & David Meyer, Sue &



Bryan Jaedike, Kathy & Mark Hintz, Terrinen & Drake Bradbury.

Hostess: 11:30 - 1:00 Jacki Jaedike

1:00 - 2:30 Deb Moses

Bazaar: 11:30 - 2:30 Norma Fenske, Linda Boettcher, Helen Jaedike & Becky Mitchell

Bible Study - Wednesday, March 4, (1:00 pm)

Greeters: Dan Brisky & Jill Stone-Brisky

Wash Communionware:

Donna Grauvogl & Kim Adler

Ruth Evert,
Secretary

Choir Practice - All are welcome!

Practice March 15, 22 and 29 after Church, to sing on Easter Sunday!

It's a familiar song and you aren't expected to be at all of the practices.

Contact Terrienne or Gail if you have questions.

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.

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING - FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Present: Jill, Sally, David, Gail, Cathy, Jeanne, Larry, Todd, Sue, and Phyllis

President Todd Thieding called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on February 9. He started the meeting with introductions.

The secretary's report was read. David made a motion to approve the report, while Cathy made a second.

The cost share agreement was given to Todd to sign.

Churches broke off into their separate meetings and reconvened at 7:30.

Brief discussion about when joint meetings were scheduled. We definitely need a meeting in September and possibly November.

Jeanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phyllis made a second.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.



Sue Strutz,
Secretary

ZION COUNCIL MEETING - FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Present: Todd, Larry, Sue, and Phyllis

President Todd Thieding called the meeting to order on February 9.

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

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

Old business: None

New business:

Discussed surveying the church property. Sue will contact Wes Kraemer to do this. Phyllis made a motion to hire Wes Kraemer. Larry made a second.

Phyllis would like to switch accounts to Reedsburg State Bank from Associated Bank.

Larry made a motion to allow Phyllis to do this. Sue made a second.

Todd will check with Jay about a council dinner.

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Phyllis.



Sue Strutz,
Secretary

Pastoral Acts

Baptism of Pierce James Ladsten at St. John February 15, 2026

Your Help Needed

Messenger by Mail?

Messenger by E-Mail?

A form was included with a previous Messenger. If you'd like to receive the Messenger by mail or email, please return the form. You can also text 608-963-7388 (Jeanne Trachsler) or Email: jmtrachsler@gmail.com

Mark your calendars!

The 2026 SCSW Synod Assembly is May 15 and 16, 2026 at the Woodman's Center in Janesville, WI. The Assembly will open on the evening of Friday, May 15 and will continue through the day on Saturday, May 16. Planning is underway and more details, including registration information, will be shared soon.

Messenger Deadline

The Third Thursday . . . The April issue deadline is Thursday, March 19. Contact the Messenger by e-mail at sjznewsletter@gmail.com or send by mail to 249 Holly Court, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578. Thank you.

March

Birthdays

- 4** Tyler Jaedike
- 5** Roy Thieding
James Balfanz
- 7** Danette Mielke
- 10** Lindsey Frey
Elizabeth Oxberger
- 12** Daniel Koenig
Ritter Fahrenkampf
- 13** Patricia Cook
- 17** Jill Stone-Brisky
- 20** Robert Bergman
Brenda Schwartz
Caden Schwarz
- 21** Janice Bergman
Emmett Ladsten
- 22** Silas Frey
- 24** Corbin Fahrenkampf
- 26** Jim Langdon
- 30** Brooklyn Trachsler
- 31** Sandy Boettcher

St. John~Zion Lutheran Churches

E7519 County Highway C

North Freedom, WI 53951



Mark Your Calendars

Calendar

Important Dates for January

March 8, 2026

Zion Council Meeting

March 9, 2026

St. John Council Meeting, 6:30 pm

March 15, 22 & 29, 2026

St. John Choir Practices after
service

March 19, 2026

Deadline for April issue
of the Messenger

Chili Luncheon (& Bazaar)

St. John March 1

11:30 - 2:30