



Connections

April 2017

In This Issue

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

- 1 Holy Week and Easter Schedule
- 2 Jill Ness Installation as Director of Community Ministry
- 3 Reminders, Memorials
March Council Minutes
- 4—5 April Calendar
- 6 April Birthdays
April Worship Assistants
- 7 Easter Flower Order Forms, Emergency Fund Contribution Forms

Maunder Thursday Worship
April 13 7:00pm

Good Friday Worship
April 14 1:00 and 7:00pm

EASTER FESTIVAL WORSHIP
April 16 Easter 9:30am

*A Modern Creed,
United Church of Canada*

We are not alone. We live in God's world.

We believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works for us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to see justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God!



Marc Williamson (Church Council Chair, left) and Pr. Ken (right) applaud following the installation of Jill Ness (Center) as Director of Community Ministry during services on March 19th

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Congregational President: Tom Rivers Council Chair: Marc Williamson
 Council Secretary: Victor Forberger Treasurer: Alice Gould
 Parish Secretary: Dick Gundlach Parish Bookkeeper: Debra Cook
 Director of Music: Kristie Halverson Emergency Fund Director: Hasan Mohr
 Custodian: Berhanu Edao
 Worship with Holy Communion is at 9:30 a.m.
 Children's Sunday Learning Place and Confirmation, Adult Forum (fall thru spring)
 and Brunch follow the service at 10:45am.



Women's Circle



The Women's Bible Study is the first Thursday of the month at the Prairie Rose Café at Oakwood East

Reminders

-----The second Friday is the Oakwood East service at 11 a.m.
 -----The third Sunday of each month we collect food items for area food pantries.
 -----The third Sunday of each month we provide the evening meal for the homeless men's shelter at 7pm
 -----Articles for the May *Connections* are due by noon, Friday, April 21th.

Memorials

No contributions since last *Connections*

Council Minutes March 2017

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH — COUNCIL MEETING — 21 MARCH 2017

ATTENDANCE: Marc Williamson (chair), Alice Gould (treasurer), Victor Forberger (secretary), Jim Johnson, Barbara Meyer, Sierra Mueller-Owens, Teena Wagner, Teresa Wagner, Tom Rivers, and Pastor Ken.

DEVOTIONS: Marc

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING: Approved.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH FEBRUARY 2017

Total YTD Actual income:	\$44,364
Budgeted YTD:	\$41,683
2016 YTD:	\$51,588
Total YTD Actual Expenses:	\$61,940
Budgeted YTD:	\$63,283
2016 YTD:	\$63,476

Offerings through February total \$36,657 (\$657 over budget) compared to \$28,476 for the same period in 2016. In February, we transferred \$1,300 of the additional monies beyond the outreach formula applicable in 2017 from reserves to Outreach to supplement the 1st Quarter benevolence payments. It is likely that in March we will need to transfer money from the reserves to meet other expenses.

All expense categories are under budget except for Building Expenses. Building Repair & Services includes a new sink in the men's bathroom, repairing the lights above the altar, and resetting the clock and login for the heating system and fire alarms.

The balance in the building fund at the end of February is \$99,147 with \$70,000 designated for landscaping, outside signage, and other building repairs. The Building Fund paid \$970 for a new circulating pump for the heating system to even out the heat in the building. The Oak Bank loan balance to \$74,408. Over \$3,200 of each \$3,500 monthly loan payment now goes to debt reduction.

At the end of February, the Off the Square Club Shower project has a balance of \$165.

We have set up a new fund for the Community Ministry. The money resides in a BMO Harris checking account along with the General, Fair Trade, & Blanket Workshop funds and the Prepaid Expenses for LAB. This accounting procedure will allow St. John's to process expenses including payroll using our normal software and create reports for receipts and disbursements specific to the Community Ministry project. In March, the \$15,000 grant from Seibert was moved into the fund to establish a balance for the start of the project. The fund will be replenished quarterly from the \$100,000 Reserve savings that the congregation designated for this project.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Outreach: Recipient for Lenten soup and supper donations still being debated. All Wednesdays in Lent now covered.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Finance: Nothing to report.

Minutes cont'd on top of next page

Minutes cont'd from p.2

Worship Planning: Lent underway, and Easter plans will be in place next week.

Building Fund: See above.

Maintenance (was Building Vision): Despite the report last month, outside electrical work actually not done (parking lot lights not quite as straight as they should be). Electricians should return to St. John's around mid-spring to correct. The coffee maker needs to be looked at, as brewing has been risky of late.

Senior Care Team: Meeting this Saturday. Around a dozen under care right now.

PASTORAL REFLECTION

See below.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

Fund for a cellmate of Bruce Burnside will be administered by a member at St. Stevens, as the administration raises long-term management issues for an organization like St. John's that do not exist for an individual administrator.

Refugee funding: The initial amount of forgiven rent at issue was off by several hundred dollars. So, some questions were raised about whether the full offset should be pursued or just a partial amount for the four months.

After motion, second, and discussion, the council agreed to postpone all rent for April, May, and June, with future action and any further rent abatement to be considered at the June council meeting.

Community ministry: Jill has started, her office is running, and Sierra has joined the advisory committee for the project.

Reconciling in Christ notice: Jill adding some logos to her efforts. More research is needed for additional signage at church, however.

Landscaping: final cement and new plantings may happen sometime in mid to late April.

PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT (next meeting on April 18th)

Individual, Committee and Group News

-----**Special Thanks to all** who have prepared soup for the Wednesday night Lenten suppers. **Doug Peterson**

-----**Jill Ness was installed as the Director for Community Ministry for St. John's** on Sunday, March 19, during the worship service. Welcome Jill! see photo on p. 7.

-----**Corinne Groehler died on February 24th.** A Memorial Service was held at Cress on Speedway on **Wednesday, March 1st.**

-----**Vignettes, a collection of pastels from the work of Susan Hunt,** is the first of a series of exhibitions to be hung in the Gathering Space here at St. Johns. Susan's work will be exhibited through spring. Landscapes and animals take center stage in Susan Hunt's colorful pastels. Her early work was in oil and watercolors until the day she decided to use an old set of pastels that belonged to her grandmother. The deep colors and rich textures achievable with pastel sticks – pure pigment with a binder – immediately captured her imagination and she put her paints aside. Susan has shown her work in Minnesota and Wisconsin and is an active member of the Wisconsin Regional Artists Association. The program continues the creative growth of nonprofessional artists.

Vignettes: On my life journey I experience vivid momentary impressions that fade into the background as they are replaced by new ones. Images travel along time's slipstream, gradually losing definition. And they disappear..... Susan L. Hunt

-----**WISDOM'S Madison Action Day March 30:** Join WISDOM's Madison Action Day where 700-900 people from WISDOM affiliates all over Wisconsin will visit their legislators at the State Capitol to advocate for criminal justice reform. This event is taking place **Thursday, March 30, from 8 am until 4 pm** including a light breakfast and lunch. The morning will be spent learning about the issues such as solitary confinement, revocation, and parole. In the afternoon there will be a march around the Capitol, a press conference, and meetings with state representatives.

-----**Matthew's Ministry of Teaching and Learning**

This is the year of Matthew. Over the last three years we have been looking at each of the gospels as foundational works which express the particular and specific mission of the congregation out of which it came. Mark's focus was healing. Luke's focus was economics. John (which is spliced here and there in the lectionary) is the spirituality of a monastery. Matthew's focus is that of a school, and it lifts up Jesus as a teacher of wisdom.

Matthew assembles the various sayings of Jesus to compose these five discourses or teaching sections. Each one is preceded by a collection of stories about the events in the life of Jesus which introduces the theme of the next discourse. And each discourse or teaching section ends with the refrain "And when Jesus had finished....." Together the discourses are the foundation for the curriculum of the academy of Matthew's community focused on the teaching ministry of the church. Then a beginning (genealogy and birth story) and an ending (the passion story, death, and resurrection) bookend the gospel.

In Lent this year March 8 through April 5, each Wednesday evening begins with soup supper followed by Holden Evening Prayer which includes an opportunity for reflection or discussion as we consider the theme in one of the five discourses each

News cont'd on p. 7

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						5pm ◀ From Mar 31 Winter Retreat 8pm Men's Shelter
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5pm ◀ From Mar 31 Winter Retreat	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	10am Emergency Assistance	9am Women's Group	6:30am Send Bulletin and Prayers	8pm Men's Shelter
8:15am Choir Rehearsal	12pm OA	8pm Men's Shelter	1pm Women's Mosaic	12pm OA	10am Emergency Assistance	
9:30am Worship	5pm NA		5:45pm Soup Supper - year of Matthew	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon	
10:45am Brunch	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal		7pm NA		8pm Men's Shelter	
10:45am Godly Play, Confirmation	7pm NA		7pm Lenten Service			
8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter		8pm Men's Shelter			
9 Palm Sunday	10	11	12	13 Holy Thursday	14 Good Friday	15
8:15am Choir Rehearsal	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	9am Blanket Workshop	12pm OA	6:30am Send Bulletin and Prayers	8pm Men's Shelter
9:30am Worship	12pm OA	6:30pm Safe Space Restorative Circle	10am Emergency Assistance	7pm Maundy Thursday Service	10am Emergency Assistance	
10:45am Godly Play, Confirmation	5pm NA	8pm Men's Shelter	11am Donald Halverson Memorial Service	8pm Men's Shelter	11am Oakwood East Communion Service	
10:45am Brunch	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal		1pm Women's Mosaic		12pm Alanon	
8pm Men's Shelter	7pm NA		7pm NA		1pm Good Friday Service	
	8pm Men's Shelter		8pm Men's Shelter		7pm Good Friday Service	
					8pm Men's Shelter	
16 Easter	17	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day
Easter Day	Tax Day	12pm Alanon	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm OA	6:30am Send Bulletin	8pm Men's Shelter

8:15am Choir Rehearsal	10am Emergency Assistance	7pm Council	1pm Women's Mosaic	8pm Men's Shelter	10am Emergency Assistance	
9am Food Collection for local food pantries	12pm OA	8pm Men's Shelter	7pm NA		12pm Alanon	
9:30am Easter Festival Worship	5pm NA		8pm Men's Shelter		12pm Connections Articles Due	
10:45am Brunch	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal				8pm Men's Shelter	
10:45am Godly Play, Confirmation	7pm NA					
5pm Serve Evening Meal at Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter					
8pm Men's Shelter						
23 Divine Mercy Sunday	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:15am Choir Rehearsal	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	Administrative Professionals Day	12pm OA	6:30am Send Bulletin and Prayers	Synod Assembly
9:30am Worship	12pm OA	8pm Men's Shelter	9am Blanket Workshop	8pm Men's Shelter	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter
10:45am Godly Play, Confirmation	5pm NA		10am Emergency Assistance		12pm Alanon	
10:45am Brunch	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal		1pm Women's Mosaic		8pm Men's Shelter	
8pm Men's Shelter	7pm NA		7pm NA			
	8pm Men's Shelter		8pm Men's Shelter			
30						
8:15am Choir Rehearsal						
9:30am Worship						
10:45am Brunch						
10:45am Godly Play, Confirmation						
8pm Men's Shelter						

April



04/01	Cory Miller Gaben Donovan	04/12	Chris Gencheff Thomas Siewert Malina Schneider Marissa Schneider	04/19	Kevin Knuteson Danielle Greenlee Samuel Rapacz
04/02	Clarence Goldbin Joe Pelletier	04/13	Lois Anacker Brooke Hauge	04/20	Donald Blom Barbara Jull Linda Puls Jeff Peters Keegan Trapino
04/03	Jada Anderson	04/14	William Borchardt Kelly Nornberg Andrew Steinhauer	04/21	Susan Heidenreich David Knudtson Dawn Knudtson Bradley Borchers
04/04	Elisabet Pietz	04/15	Delia Lang Sondra Abraham Gerald Fitzgerald Robert Scott	04/23	Steve Eddy
04/05	Nicole Bowden	04/16	Kyle Dopkins	04/26	Marty Micke
04/06	Linda Bradley Timothy Braund	04/17	Mark Rolfsmeyer Carrie Pettey	04/27	Sue Rosenbaum Liz Payne
04/07	Dean Meier Zackery Riddle	04/18	Arthur Garske Brian Pease Michael Stebnitz Leanne Tessmann	04/28	Carol Katz Gary Steinhauer Meg Bowden Lillian Brimmer
04/08	Gordie Herrington Lindsay Nelson	04/19	Joy Urban-Piette Tamara Hamilton Kayla Miller	04/29	Winnie Severson Linnea Hubrick
04/09	Carol Ann Griffin			04/30	Keith Tripp Larry Taff Lori Holt Rene Dopkins
04/10	Teresa Halvorsen Jennifer Fahey Lee Holt Jacob Femrite				
04/11	Linda Scott Erin Mount				
04/12	Rodney Homburg Barbara Bentz				

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	2-Apr-2017	9-Apr-2017	16-Apr-2017	23-Apr-2017	30-Apr-2017
Greeters	Ronda Collins	Pat Biba	Dee and Merle Zimmerman	Lindsay and Marcus Nelson	Charlene Caucutt
Acolytes	Anja Forberger	Kelsey Wagner	Caden Collins	Truman Rafferty	Annika Mueller-Owens
Assisting Minister	Bob Block	Charlene Caucutt	Shari Stephenson	Dave Vogel	Gary Stebnitz
Lector	Karl Gutknecht	Ken Groehler	Margit Gundlach	Miriam Mueller-Owens	Rob Mueller-Owens
Communion Assistants	Tammy and Kole Knickmeier	Pat Biba and Elaine Mittlestadt	Carol and Tom Rivers	Barb Meyer and Dee Zimmerman	Teena and Theresa Wagner
Ushers	Team #1 - Dick Paulson	Team # 2 - Marcia and Marc Williamson	Team # 3 - Jim Johnson	Team # 4 - Asplund/Pietz Family	Team #5 - Teresa and Randy Halvorsen
Altar	Team #3 - Garmai and Esther Wolobah	Team #3 - Garmai and Esther Wolobah	Team #3 - Garmai and Esther Wolobah	Team #3 - Garmai and Esther Wolobah	Team #3 - Garmai and Esther Wolobah
Welcome Center	Carol Rivers	Ronda Collins	Charlene Caucutt	Pat Biba	Ronda Collins
Brunch	Carol and Tom Rivers	Phyllis and Marty Micke	Easter Brunch	Barb Jull and Matt Rolfsmeyer	Marcia and Marc Williamson
Adult Forum	No Adult Forum/ Retreat (March 31-Apr 2)	Palm Sunday No Adult Forum	Easter No Adult Forum	none scheduled	Hand Work Projects

Individual, Committee and Group News

News cont'd from p. 3

Wednesday evening. We will focus on the theme not only in Matthew but also in our lives. The five discourses and themes are:

March 8 Matthew 5:1-7:29 What should we seek?

Congregational Council Hosting

March 15 9:36-11:1 What is the basis of authority?

Musical Groups and Worship Hosting

March 22 Matthew 13:1-52 How should we handle oppositions and divisions?

Outreach Committee Hosting

March 29 Matthew 17:25-18:35 Can we get beyond "insiders" and "outsiders"?

April 5 Matthew 4:3-26:1 How is this all going to end?

Holy Week and Easter:

April 13 Maundy Thursday, Worship at 7:00pm

April 14 Good Friday, Worship at 1:00 and 7:00pm

April 16 Easter Festival Worship at 9:30am

-----**LIRS office at St. Johns:** As the flow of refugees and immigrants declines, resources available nationally for LIRS programs may decline substantial, and this may affect the office here at St. Johns, at least in the short term.

-----**Refugee Acceptance and Settlement:** This has been a challenging time for refugees and those who work with them in their settlement. Lutherans have been involved in refugee settlement for decades. A Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services (LIRS) office is located here at St. Johns and has been an active partner in mission in our building for some time. You can read David Larson's (David is the president of LSS in Wisconsin) remarks regarding immigration, and the work of LIRS and LSS at <http://us3.campaign-archive2.com/?u=eb33f7bc745e0ee7ff679ade1&id=8d5a40f7ad&e=0295620c91> Bishop Eaton, the presiding bishop of the ELCA addresses the challenges facing us in accomplishing this ministry of hospitality and settlement in her address on the ELCA website: <http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7873> In her address you may find links to other Lutheran resources on refugee settlement. And you can follow the international Lutheran community's comments and response on the Facebook page for the Lutheran World Federation: <https://www.facebook.com/lutheranworld/> And you may also be interested in [An Open Letter to President Donald Trump from Bishop Younan](#) Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, sent the letter to President Trump about his recent executive order about refugees and immigrants.

EMERGENCY FUND DONATIONS are a fitting way to celebrate Easter at St. John's. Please use the form below and place in the offering plate, mail, or bring to the church office. **Forms must be in the office by noon, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12th for inclusion in the Easter bulletin.**

Given by: _____

In memory / honor of (choose one): _____

Amount of gift to Emergency Fund: _____

Orders for **EASTER TULIPS** to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Day are now being taken. Forms must be in **by noon, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12th**; Cost is \$14.00 for each tulip plant with foil.

Please use the form below to order your Tulips, and place in the offering plate, mail, or bring to the church office. **Payments need to be received with the order form.**

Given by: _____

In memory / honor of (please circle one): _____

Please make checks payable for exact amount to St. John's Lutheran Church

of plants ordered: _____

Total Amount @ \$14.00 each: _____

St. John's Lutheran Church
322 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703



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