

“Council Corner”
Jan Mueller, Education

God Loves You!

I want to share the following article I came across with you. It is a wonderful reminder how we are unconditionally loved by God. God's great love for us transcends to us so we can show our love for one another. *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another* (John 13:34-35).

Reflection

At age 3, my daughter started speech therapy. She is 6 now and continues to work on her speech and language with a therapist. Her therapy sessions include practicing words, repeating phrases, and strengthening her mouth and tongue muscles. In the beginning I didn't understand the word "muscle" in relation to how we speak. Yet over the years, watching my daughter bring her [voice into the world](#) has taught me that it takes time, work, dedication and strength for her to communicate. I've watched my daughter's therapist use multiple props and techniques to apply pressure to her tongue. Over and over again, the goal is to strengthen her muscles for clearer communication. Just as my daughter has been bolstering her mouth muscles, I've been reflecting on how we can build our faith muscles, and specifically how we can increase our desire to love both ourselves and one another. In our homes we are given many opportunities to build our faith and capacity to love. We build our muscles to share love with others by praying together out loud, lighting candles to remember loved ones, baking cookies for neighbors, reading Bible stories, offering a calm presence during meltdowns, forgiving and blessing one another and attending church—either virtually or in person week after week. What practices do you and your family already incorporate into your daily lives to show and share love? Do you routinely call and check on neighbors or bring food to a family in which someone is sick or has just returned home with a baby? Do you offer prayers together, seeking ways for God to show you how to love more deeply? Do you invite God to increase your resolve to reach out to neighbors? Do you listen to people who have different opinions? God continues to love us. First and foremost, before we offer love to our neighbors, we need to remember that we are loved. In our remembering and with small actions done in love, we can increase our capacity to care for others and respond as God's beloved children. Knowing we are loved by God let us go forth and share God's great love to all.

Council Members. Here is a list of Council Members. Please contact them with any concerns or issues you may have. Council meets once a month and welcomes input from the congregation.

President: Jennifer Schwede – 715-432-6079; jenniferschwede@aol.com

Vice President: Barb Paulsen – 715-845-9884; ericbarbp@aol.com

Treasurer: Perry Kufahl – 715-675-1383; pnskufahl@outlook.com

Secretary: Shelley Kufahl – 715-675-1383; pnskufahl@outlook.com

Trustees: Curt Cooley – 715-571-4057; usfcool@gmail.com

Jim Borelli – 715-803-8282; jimb.newlife@gmail.com

Evangelism: Lane Bahr – 715-297-0017; lucylane35@hotmail.com

Fellowship: Madeline Grueneberg – 715-574-9095; MadelineSchwede@aol.com

Education: Jan Mueller – 715-675-9558; dmjm5455.wau@gmail.com

Worship: Sue Harris – 715-551-6282; smae53@gmail.com

Women of St. John. Please mark your calendars for the Wisconsin River Valley Conference **WELCA Sprint Event** to be held at our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Merrill on April 23, from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration forms are available on the table in the narthex. In-kind offering: women's personal care products (soap, shampoo, deodorant, maxi pads, etc.) for Merrill Community food pantry.

Council Meeting Minutes. Copies of the minutes from the most recently held Council meeting are by the mailboxes. Please feel free to pick up a copy. If more are needed, please contact the church office.

Financial Report for February, 2022

Income Received	February \$10,441.45	Year-to-Date \$19,994.34
Expenses Paid	\$7,685.23	\$15,307.37
Difference	\$2,756.22	\$4,686.97

Attendance Report

	2022	2021
Average Weekly/February	73	75
Average Weekly/Year-to-Date	62	109

2022 Offering Envelopes. The offering envelopes for 2022 have arrived – they are in your mailboxes in the narthex. Please stop by and pick them up.

Homebound Parishioners. The following parishioners are no longer able to consistently attend worship services. I visit them to remind them that they are loved by God and loved by their community of faith, St. John. Sometimes it is helpful to hear those reminders from someone in addition to me.

Carol Fitzke
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Weston, WI 54476

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4810 Barbican Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401

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