

# THE HERALD

*September 2025*



## Pastor's Corner

*Mary said, "My soul glorifies the Lord," "God's mercy extends to those who fear the Divine," "God has filled the humble with good things and sent the rich away empty."*

*Isaiah wrote, "if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness."*

*Paul wrote to the Colossians, "And whatever you do, whether in word or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

*In the gospel that John wrote we see, "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."*

*To the Hebrews it says, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that openly profess the Holy's name."*

*In the gospel that Luke wrote we see a familiar story, "As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'Truly I tell you,' Jesus said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but [this poor widow] gave out of her poverty. She put in all she had to live on.'"*

I think I'll stop there for now. Does anyone see any sort of a repeating theme here? I do. I see a theme of love, praise, and service. The Holy deeply embraces in a very loving and seen way, the poor, the weak, the lowly, the humble. As Mary proclaimed, "the Holy will fill the needy with good things and send the rich away empty."

It's all too easy to turn our attention towards our own needs, wants, and desires. It's easy to praise God when something good happens in our own life. It's easy to praise God when "my" life is going well and "I'm" getting everything "I" need, want, and desire. But what about our neighbor? Who are we called to serve? Ourselves? Or our neighbor?

A couple of weeks ago, our message spoke to "God's Verbs." And if we understand that a verb is an action word, then what actions are we taking to serve our neighbor? Much like the poor widow who was bent over in pain and misery for 18 years, people rarely paid much attention to her and she became pretty invisible. What can we do? Maybe it begins with really "seeing" our neighbor and "seeing" what the potential needs of our neighbor really are. Then once we genuinely see our neighbor, I'm confident that the Spirit in our hearts will lead us to the next step.

(One more quick observation – I realize that summer is a time for rest and regeneration, but don't forget about our congregational family. We miss seeing you on a regular basis. We miss your smiling faces. We miss hearing your voices. And remember that if you have a need, please do not hesitate to reach out to either myself or the church office.)

## *Wisconsin Conference Minister to Visit St. John*



On Sunday, September 14, St. John UCC will host the Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ, at 10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship.

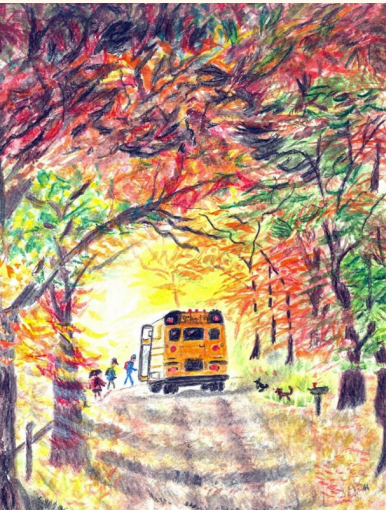
Rev. Rigert, in cooperation with UCC ministers and members, represents and oversees the mission of the Wisconsin Conference, one of 36 geographical

divisions of the UCC in the United States.

Raised in Delavan, Wis., Rev. Rigert obtained a Masters of Divinity Degree in 1992 from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., going on to serve nearby Kingswood United Methodist Church in Buffalo Grove. He returned to Wisconsin to serve Pilgrim UCC in Grafton for nearly 20 years before receiving the calling of Conference Minister in 2014. He and his wife, Trinn, live in Cedarburg, Wis. and have three children.

All are welcome to join St. John UCC at 10:15 a.m. on September 14th as we welcome Rev. Rigert and listen to his inspiring message.

## SECURITY MINISTRY



### AUTUMN SAFETY

Fall is a wonderful time to witness the changing of the seasons. The landscape begins to show a panorama of beautiful colors and cooler temperatures are noticed. If we are fortunate, we may see some of God's creatures preparing for the coming winter months during this time.

As our students return to school, we need to be extra vigilant of their presence on our streets and surrounding school areas. Always follow school zone speed limits and watch for pedestrians. As daylight is becoming less, remember to turn on your headlights so you can be seen.

This is also a time to prepare our homes for the colder weather. Heating equipment should be inspected to be sure it will safely perform in the months ahead. Weather stripping and other draft prevention items should be reviewed and replaced if necessary. Just a few of the items to be aware of in preparation for the wintry weather ahead.

Enjoy this new season and all that it brings.

### SECURITY UPDATE

During the past month I have reviewed new security data from FEMA, FBI, and church security organizations. While many of the updates have focused on a variety of topics, my interest has been in the increasing number of incidents involving churches nationwide. Having an in-depth knowledge allows us to be proactive in our approach to our safety and



security at St. John.

We are expanding our security team. This is a fantastic opportunity to help us keep our church and members safe and secure. Please consider becoming a member of the team.

Stay safe and remember if you see something, say something!

Jim Sommers

Director – Security Ministry



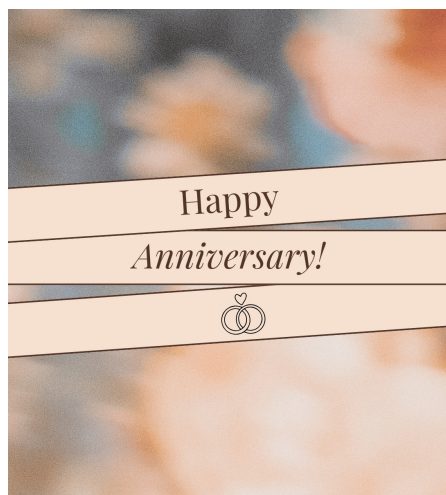
Ilene Conrad	9/03
Jason Mueller	9/04
Kim Preder	9/06
Jennie Beyer	9/07
Anna Wink	9/11
James Conrad	9/12

Derek Beyer	9/24
Steven Conrad	9/26
Michael Kovach	9/27
Roland Thede	9/27

*YOUTH BIRTHDAYS*

Lydia Feider	9/17
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## *September Anniversaries*



9/10  
**Rick and Penny Geiger**

9/17  
**Kelly and Jill Sippel**

9/29  
**Steven and Theresa Conrad**

# *Congratulations!*

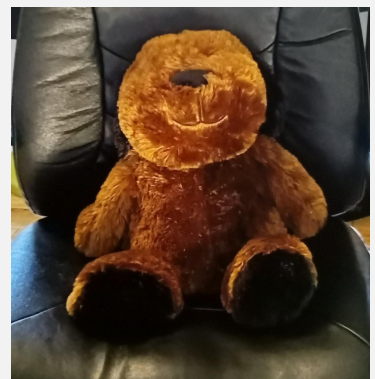


Congratulations to Pastor and Mrs. David & Ann Kohls,  
who were married Saturday, August 9 at St. John.



## **MISSING: "DRIVE-IN"**

Drive-In, the stuffed dog, is missing. If you have seen him or know where he is, please return to Pastor's office. Typically seen on a sanctuary chair or in the pulpit, Drive-In is a medium-sized dog with floppy ears and soft fur. He is an important part of St. John's history and is much missed.





## DEVOTIONALS

September - November copies of the "Our Daily Bread" devotionals are available on the table and book rack in the narthex.

## BIBLE STUDY RETURNS



*Bible  
Study*

Wednesdays  
@10:00 AM

*Wednesday, September 17th  
10:00 a.m. in the St. John Lounge*



**SUNDAY NIGHT**

**Bible  
Study**

Returning  
September 7<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 p.m.

**@ EBENEZER UCC**



# HEALTHY LIVING

## W/ CHRONIC PAIN

St. John UCC will be hosting *Healthy Living with Chronic Pain* this fall, with classes on Tuesday from September 23rd to October 28th.

This class is an evidence-based program developed at Stanford University for adults of all ages who have chronic pain or live with someone who does.

In just six weeks you learn:

- Goal setting and problem solving
- Practicing healthy eating, relaxation techniques, and fitness for exercise and fun
- Coping with stress & depression
- Medication usage and evaluating treatments
- Quality sleep and fatigue management
- Communicating effectively with friends, family, and your medical team

### WHERE:

St. John UCC  
2111 Church Street  
New Holstein

### WHEN:

Tuesdays, September 23rd -  
October 28th

### TIME:

9:00am-11:30am  
(Typically done early!!)

### QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER:

Contact Nancy Krueger at  
920-849-1451 Ext. 4036 or  
[nancy.krueger  
@calumetcounty.org](mailto:nancy.krueger@calumetcounty.org)

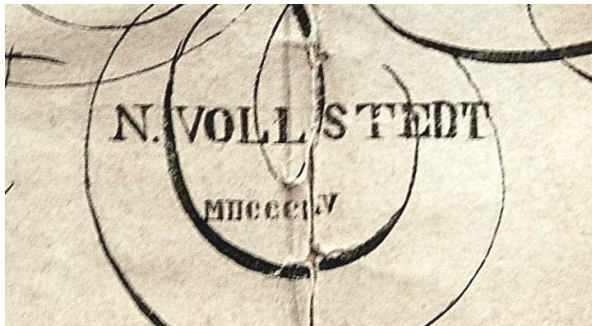


**Congregational UCC** in Ladysmith, WI is assisting a Christian refugee family seeking asylum from violent religious persecution in their home country.

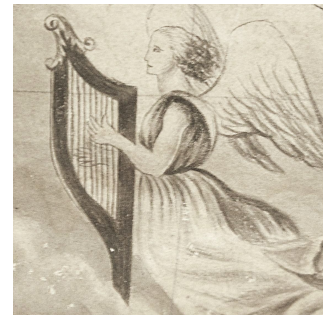
Congregational UCC will be holding a community wide fundraiser, "Helping Hands - Reaching Out - Here in Rusk County" on September 6 from 4 - 7:00 p.m. at the Worden Avenue Exchange (310 Worden Ave, Ladysmith) featuring entertainment, silent auction, and a baked potato bar. Donations can also be sent to the mission fund of Ladysmith United Church of Christ, PO Box 41, Ladysmith, WI 54848. For more information, please contact Congregational UCC, Ladysmith at 715-532-3252.

# St. John UCC New Custodian of Local Artwork

St. John recently received a 170-year-old illustrated calligraphy of the Lord's Prayer, drawn by Nicholas Vollstedt, one of the first settlers of New Holstein. The piece was donated to the church by Heather Cooley, Vollstedt's great-great-granddaughter, who currently lives in Minneapolis but grew up in New Holstein and remembers attending services at St. John and singing in the choir. Created ten years before St. John's founding, the artwork is a testament to the faith and perseverance of New Holstein's earliest settlers.



Nicholas Vollstedt was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany in 1841 and immigrated to the United States in the 1850's. Heather notes that the prayer's wording "reflects the traditional German Protestant rendering of the Lord's Prayer as it would have been used in northern Germany." The artwork is signed and dated 1855, when he was 14 years old. Vollstedt's obituary places his date of immigration at 1859, indicating the artwork came over with him, possibly explaining the deep creases in the paper.



However, a later source also suggests an immigration date of 1854. Initially working in copper mines near Lake Superior, Vollstedt later moved to New Holstein and married Sophia Jens, with whom he had nine children; many stayed in the area and attended St. John. A butcher by trade, Vollstedt continued to draw and paint into his later years and several of his works have been displayed at the Pioneer Corner Museum.





This work, however, resides in the St. John Lounge, in the faith-filled context that inspired it – a reminder from a Confirmation-age young man to set out in hope and faith into the unknown future. Thank you to Heather and her family for entrusting St. John with this beautiful artwork!



## **2025 Council Members**

**Pastor Dave**  
*rev\_david\_kohls@yahoo.com*  
 Cell: 920- 522-2565

**Jim Sommers – Council President**  
*(2-year term starting 2025)*  
 Email: *jimsommers2350@gmail.com*  
 Home: 920-894-2350

**Derek Beyer – Congregational President & Treasurer**  
*(2nd 2-year term starting 2024)*  
 Email: *derekbeyer89@gmail.com*  
*derekjennieb@gmail.com*  
 Cell: 920-979-2017  
 Home: 920-898-1777

**Garry Preder – Vice-President**  
*(2-year term starting 2025)*  
 Email: *gkpreder@frontier.com*  
 Home: 920-838-0714

## **Other Contacts**

**Administrative Assistant:**  
 Mary Keran (920) 898-4259  
*sjucc.desk@outlook.com*  
 Office Hours: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm,  
 Tuesdays & Thursdays

**Financial Secretary & Treasurer:**  
 Jill Sippel (920) 418-1534

**Director- Security Ministry:**  
 Jim Sommers (920) 894-2350  
 (920) 215-2520 (cell)

**Indoor Custodian:**  
 Mike Kovach (920) 483-0406

**Outdoor Custodian:**  
 Kelly Sippel (920) 418-2534

**Organist:**  
 Gary Bieck  
*garybieck@gmail.com*

**Lynn Kind – Secretary**  
 (2nd 2-year term starting 2025)  
 Email: [ljkind4@gmail.com](mailto:ljkind4@gmail.com)  
 Cell: 920-378-2173

**Penny Geiger – Trustee**  
 (2nd 2-year term starting 2024)  
 Email: [pennygeiger@gmail.com](mailto:pennygeiger@gmail.com)  
 Cell: 920-266-6324  
 Home: 920-827-2087

**Sunday School Superintendents:**  
 Michelle Krause (920) 418-4899  
 Jenna Bratz (920) 418-2049

**Women's Fellowship President:**  
 Carol Balz (920) 418-5259

**Prayer Chain:**  
 Donna Schneider (920) 898-5657

## September Calendar of Events

# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Women's Fellowship @1:30 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Family Worship Service @ 10:15 am w/ Communion  Bible Study @ EUCC 5:30 p.m.	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Worship Service @ 10:15 am • w/ Rev. Franz Rigerl, Conference Minister Bible Study @ EUCC 5:30 p.m.	15	16 Council Meeting 4:30 p.m.	17 Bible Study @10:00 a.m.	18	19	20
21 Worship Service @ 10:15 am Sunday School	22	23 Healthy Living w/ Chronic Pain @9:00 a.m.  Herald Articles Due	24 Bible Study @10:00 a.m.	25	26	27
28 Worship Service @ 10:15 am Sunday School  Bible Study @ EUCC 5:30 p.m.	29	30 Healthy Living w/ Chronic Pain @9:00 a.m.				

[ST. JOHN UCC](#)



St John United Church of Christ | 2111 Church St | New Holstein, WI 53061-1300 US

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