



The Herald



APRIL 2024



Pastor's Corner

Thirty years ago, I received a phone call from "Cathy" a member of The United Church in Elk Point, South Dakota asking me if I wanted to remain an engineer or did I want to become a minister. As she waited for an answer, I had to answer her and God. God had been asking me that same question for several months. I had closed my ears and had tried to hide from God during those months. For me, it was not Cathy on the phone, it was God, and I couldn't hide any longer. I said I wanted to go to seminary. For

me, God's name is Cathy. My engineering life ended that day.

Much has changed since that evening. There have been many days of celebration, many days of sadness, and many days of unknowing. I now begin a new journey into an unknown future with all the uncertainties that accompany all journeys. There will be times of celebration, sadness, and unknowing. My kids are grown and enjoying successful careers of their own. I have been divorced, married and widowed. I have met hundreds of loving people. I am concerned as some churches have sought to narrowly define God's love permitting only a select few to qualify for that love. I take solace knowing that all past efforts to restrict God's love have always failed. I will have more to say on May 19th.

As the calendar moves toward May 19 and beyond, I have faith that I will walk through that unknown, dark valley with God beside me, "your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

Pastor Mike

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 5 will be Confirmation Sunday. We will confirm eight young adults at Ebenezer and three young adults at St. John.

Please mark your calendars for this time of celebration.

Pastor Mike's Farewell Service

May 19th, we say goodbye to Pastor Mike as he prepares for retirement at the end of May. We will have one combined service that day at St. John. There will not be a service at Ebenezer on the 19th. Service will begin at 9:30 am. We look forward to this bitter/sweet day as we send him off into the next adventure in his life and ministry.



READER SCHEDULE

April 7: Pastor Mike

April 14: Bethany

April 21: Nic

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Tanner Winkler 4/5

Tammy Paulson 4/10

Garry Preder 4/13

Bradley Paulson 4/18

Rachel Schwark 4/20

Amy Zahringer 4/22

David Valleskey 4/27

Youth

Alexander Bender 4/8

Riley Danes 4/15

4/14:

*Scott & Trudy
Wink*

4/19:

*Daniel & Sandra
Christopherson*





Beginning Wednesday, April 3, the Women's Fellowship meeting and all future meetings will be held at Lakehouse at 1:30 p.m.

On March 6th, the Women's Fellowship and guests gathered for their annual Lenten Breakfast at Seven Angels in Chilton. A short business meeting followed.

Chancel Choir Schedule



April 14th
Alleluia! Sing Your Praise

April 28th
Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You

May 12th
Holy Manna

**Tribute to Linda Hau, St. John Choir Director
June 2, 2024
10:15 am church service**



There will be a special farewell service on June 2nd at the 10:15 am service to honor Linda Hau's retirement as the beloved choir director of St. John. During the service, former choir members will join current members singing three anthems. Wendy Jacobs

will also sing a solo.

Following the service, there will be a reception in the church lounge. Everyone is invited.

More information will be shared in the May edition of the Church Herald.

CHURCH COUNCIL

~ Open Council Position ~

We will have a position opening on our church council beginning June 1st. Linda Hau will be leaving the council, and we need to add a new member for the remainder of her term which will run until January, when a new council is approved at the annual meeting. This does not mean that one would automatically be required to assume the duties of president, the council members elect this position. We thank you Linda for your leadership as president and dedication during your time on the council.

This is a fantastic opportunity to participate in the management of our church while gaining knowledge and understanding of our conference governance.

Please consider becoming a member of this outstanding team, the experience will be rewarding and will allow your talents to shine. If you are interested in serving or would like more information, please contact Kelly Sippel 920-418-2534 or Jim Sommers 920-894-2350 by April 20th, we look forward to hearing from you.

SECURITY MINISTRY



2024 WISCONSIN STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL

As we enter spring and summer this is the most active time of the year for tornadoes, however they can occur at anytime throughout the year. Wisconsin averages twenty-three tornadoes per year according to the

National Weather Service.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024, TORNADO DRILL
1:45 P.M. & 6:45 P.M.**

During the drill Wisconsin National Weather Service offices will conduct tests of NOAA weather radios. If you have one of the weather radios programmed to activate test alerts, you will hear the alert information. During the test period communities may test their outdoor warning sirens. Local radio and television stations may also provide a test alert message and you may also see social media posts. In the event of severe weather in Wisconsin the test will be rescheduled until Friday, April 12, if severe weather is expected on Friday the drill will be cancelled. There will not be any wireless emergency alerts, push notifications on phones or test watch/warning during the drill.

IMPORTANT TERMS

TORNADO WATCH – means conditions are right for a tornado to develop. Continue with normal activities but continue to monitor the situation.

TORNADO WARNING – means radar or weather spotters have identified a tornado. The emergency sirens will sound a steady tone for three minutes or longer if there is danger in the immediate area.

In the event of a tornado warning, seek immediate shelter preferably in a basement or below ground evacuation location. A steel-framed or reinforced concrete building will provide some protection. In a multi-story building find shelter in an interior hallway or the lowest floor. Basements and interior hallways, and bathrooms on lower floors provide good shelter. If you find yourself surrounded by debris, be extremely careful in attempting to remove any of the material as there may be a danger of building collapse. If it is not safe or possible to leave the area remain there until help arrives.

This is the perfect time to practice your emergency plan to protect yourself and family members. Know where to go and have a "Go Bag" ready with those important items that you might not be able to replace. Being proactive in advance of an emergency is extremely important.

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

Jim Sommers
Director – Security Ministry

In loving memory...

**Merlin M. Kuester
October 16, 1936 - March 5, 2024**

Merlin M. Kuester, 87, of Kiel, passed away



Tuesday, March 5, 2024 surrounded by his loving family, at Aurora Medical Center, Sheboygan. Merlin was born October 16, 1936, in the Town of Meeme, to the late Harvey and Luetta (Mueller) Kuester. Merlin graduated from Kiel High School in 1954. He met the love of his life, Geraldine, on a blind date. On December 27, 1958, he married the former Geraldine Rabe. Merlin proudly served his country in the United States Army and was stationed in Korea. He was employed by Land-O-Lakes, retiring in 2001.

Merlin enjoyed gardening, wood crafting, fishing, and hunting. He also enjoyed a good Brandy Old Fashioned Sweet. Merlin was a fan of gaming, game shows, playing cards bowling, as well as the Wisconsin sports: Brewers, Bucks, and the Packers. Merlin was always up for an adventure, even attending the Green Bay Packers Ice Bowl in 1967 with his wife, Geraldine.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Geraldine, his sister, Gloria Jean Buchmann, his step-brother, Eddy (Karen) Arnold, his step-sisters, Jean (Robert) Spalding and Nancy (Dwight) Petersen; his brother-in-law, Ruben Rabe, Jr.; his sister-in-law, Rachel (Bob) Schwark; his nieces and nephews, Doug Schwark (longtime companion, Brenda), Todd Rabe, Kevin Rabe, Tina Rabe and Dan (Mary Ann) Schwark; his great-nieces, Megan and Kaitlyn Rabe, Andrea, Alexis and Alayna Schwark and his loving dog, Buddy. He is further survived by many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Everett Kuester, his step-mother, Marilyn Kuester, his mother-in-law, Anna Rabe, his father-in-law, Ruben Rabe, Sr., his sister-in-law, Mary Ellen Rabe, Donna Rabe and his brother-in-law, Jim Buchmann.

Funeral Services for Merlin were held on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Meiselwitz-Vollstedt-DeTroye Funeral Home (815 6th Street, Kiel) with Rev. Mike Safford-Kennedy officiating. Please visit www.meiselwitzfh.com to send online condolences. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of Aurora Medical Center, Sheboygan that took care of Merlin.

Marcella "Red" deCoster
June 24, 1925 - March 6, 2024

Funeral Service at St. John
Tuesday, April 2nd at 4:00 p.m.

Marcella "Red" G. (Wink) deCoster, age 98, of New Holstein passed away Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at the Homestead Care Center in New Holstein.



She was born June 24, 1925, in the Town of Holland to Adolph & Clara (Timm) Wink. Red graduated from a one room grade school in Forest Junction and from Kaukauna High School in 1942. She played the trombone and was in the marching pep band. At age 17, she started working for the

Institute of Paper Company and was responsible for the paper whiteness for mills across the US and abroad.

On June 9, 1945, she married William "Bud" deCoster. Together, they built the greenhouse known as New Holstein Floral which opened for business on October 1, 1948, and operated for 54 years until retiring in 2002. Red & Bud had retail and wholesale flowers for all occasions. Bud preceded her in death on June 4, 2009.

Red was a member of St. John United Church of Christ in New Holstein. She enjoyed snowmobiling, bowling, walking, Strong Womens, but mostly talking with family and friends. She had a never-ending memory which she shared with all.

Survivors include her two daughters-in-law, Sharon deCoster of New Holstein and Chris deCoster of Chilton; her brother, Dean (Gertie) Wink of Appleton. Red is further survived by many nieces; nephews; other relatives; and friends.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Adolph & Clara Wink; her husband, Bud; her three sons, James, Jef, and Douglas; her brothers & sisters, Willie (Aves) Wink, Gertie (Harvey) Just, Bernice (Harold) Krueger, LaVern (Mike) Ott, Dorothy (Lloyd) Wolf, Lloyd (Germaine) Wink, and Jerome (Lois) Wink.

Funeral Services will be held at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at St. John United Church of Christ, 2111 Church Street, New Holstein, WI 53061. Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy will officiate.

Visitation: There will not be any gathering prior to the service. Please arrive at the church 15 minutes prior to the service.

For further details, please contact the Sippel Funeral Home in New Holstein (920) 898-4300 or visit www.sippelfuneralhome.net.

Ledgeview Nature Center Event

W2348 Short Rd, Chilton, WI 53014



Fairy House Workshop
April 6th 10am-12pm



Join the adventure and craft a whimsical fairy house of your own! We will use a jar, clay, fairy lights, and other trinkets to craft our own unique creations. This workshop is great for adults or older children. \$12 per person.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Wired Word @10:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship @1:30 p.m. (Lakehouse) Chancel Choir @ 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class @ 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m. w/ Communion No Sunday School	8 Council Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	9	10 Wired Word @10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir @ 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class @ 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Worship Service @ 10:15 am Sunday School Chancel Choir	15	16	17 Wired Word @10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir @ 6:30 p.m. *No Confirmation Class*	18	19	20
21 Worship Service @ 10:15 am Sunday School	22	23 Herald Articles Due	24 Wired Word @10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir @ 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class @ 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Worship Service @ 10:15 am Sunday School Chancel Choir	29	30				

71st Annual Pancake Supper April 28, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church

1702 Van Buren
New Holstein
Serving: 3-6 p.m.

Also Serving:
Brats, Hamburgers,
Applesauce, Dessert, Milk &
Coffee

Cost:
Adults-----\$14
6-12 years-----\$8
5 and under-----free



FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. John United Church of Christ
Minutes of Council Meeting
February 12, 2024 / 5:30 PM

Opening:

The regular monthly meeting of the council was called to order on February 12, 2024 at 5:30 PM by Linda Hau, President.

Attendees List:

Linda Hau, Mike Kovach, Derek Beyer, Pastor Mike and Jill Sippel

Secretary Report:

Mike Kovach made a motion to approve the January 8, 2024 Secretary report, Derek Beyer seconded the motion, motion carried.

Treasurers Report:

Beginning balance January 1, 2024 - \$4,929.63- Ending balance January 31, 2024 - \$2,743.27. Derek Beyer made a motion to approve the Treasurers report, Mike Kovach seconded the motion, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Buildings/Grounds: - Mannenbach Heating and Cooling has repaired both of the boilers.

- Getting quotes for a 52" and 60" broom for the tractor.

Pastor/Parish: - Pastor Mike requesting a single service on May 19 for his final service per approval of the Ebenezer council. Time to be determined.

Old Business:

-Jill informed us about the search committee working on the church profile and updating membership numbers.

-Search for a new council member to replace Linda when she moves.

New Business:

-Mike Kovach made a motion to purchase a new TV for the Sunday school, Derek Beyer seconded the motion, motion carried.

-We received two eligible applications for scholarships. Will wait till next meeting to see if we get anymore applications. Plan to present at Easter service.

-Discussed advertising for a choir director/keyboard player. Linda will write up a job description.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Closing

Lord's Prayer was led by Pastor Mike.

Next Meeting

According to today's meeting decision, our next meeting will be held on Monday March 11, 2024 at 5:30 pm at St. John UCC.

CONTACT THE CHURCH

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

2023 Council Members

Pastor Mike

Email: pastormike79@hotmail.com
sjuccpastor@outlook.com
Cell: 920-286-1956

Linda Hau - President

Email: hau.linda@yahoo.com
tomhau67@gmail.com
Cell: 920-242-9982

Mike Kovach – Vice President

Email: mkovach@nhsd.k12.wi.us
Cell: 920-483-0406

Derek Beyer - Treasurer

Email: derekbeyer89@gmail.com
derekjennieb@gmail.com
Cell: 920-979-2017
Home: 920-898-1777

Lynn Kind - Secretary

Email: ljkind4@gmail.com
Cell: 920-378-2173

Penny Geiger - Trustee

Email: pennygeiger@gmail.com
Cell: 920-266-6324
Home: 920-827-2087

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
(Home)
(920) 215-2520 (cell)

Indoor Custodian:

Mike Kovach (920) 483-0406

Outdoor Custodian:

Kelly Sippel (920) 418-2534

Choir Director:

Linda Hau (920) 242-9982

Organist:

Penny Geiger (920) 266-6324

Bell Choir:

Jill Sippel (920) 418-1534

Sunday School Superintendents:

Michelle Kraus (920) 418-4899
Jenna Bratz (920) 418-2049

Quilting:

Sue Hawk (920) 286-6094

Women's Fellowship President:

Carol Balz (920) 418-5259

Prayer Chain:

Ruth Larsen (920) 898-1704



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

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