

# April/May 2026

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SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH • SAXEVILLE, WI • 920-622-3371



## The Trumpeter

Dear friends,

Easter does not arrive as a sentimental moment. It breaks in. A stone rolled away. A grave left empty. For people like us, who know long winters both outside and inside, that matters.

Because let's be honest. Winter is not picturesque by the end. By March, most of us are tired of it. The gray. The cold that settles deep. The sense that everything has stalled out. And if we are paying attention, we know that feeling is not just out there in the weather. It shows up in grief that lingers, in strained relationships, in quiet worries we carry and rarely name.

So when the thaw comes, it is not cute. It is hard won.

The ground softens, but only after being frozen solid. The rivers move again, but not without breaking up ice. Spring does not erase winter. It pushes through it.

That is much closer to what Easter is about.

The resurrection of Jesus is not God putting a cheerful spin on a bad situation. It is God going straight through death and coming out the other side with something entirely new. Not a reset. Not a simple fix. New creation.

As Flannery O'Connor once said, "All the grace I have known I have known in spite of everything." That is Easter faith. Not because life is easy, but because God refuses to let death, failure, or sin have the last word.

And Martin Luther wrote, "Where there are no trials, there is no faith." It is not a soft line, but it is honest. It lines up with what we see this time of year. Life shows up by pushing through resistance.

So when you are outside these next weeks, whether walking the woods, checking the fields, or just standing in the driveway taking in a little sun, pay attention in a grounded way.

Notice what it takes for new life to show up.

And carry this with you: "Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy." (Psalm 126:5)

That verse does not skip the tears. It assumes them. But it also insists they are not the end of the story.

Easter tells us the same thing. Christ is risen, not as an idea, but as a reality that meets us right in the middle of real life. Which means whatever still feels frozen in you, whatever feels stuck or worn down, God is not finished there.

Spring will come. Spring has come.

Christ is risen. That is not sentiment. That is defiance. And it is a hope you can stand on.

Peace,

Pastor Kristina

# HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>Maundy Thursday</b> (includes communion and absolution)	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Good Friday</b> (Tenebrae service)	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Easter Morning Prayer Service</b> (at cemetery entrance)	<b>7:30 am</b>
<b>Easter Breakfast</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>
<b>Easter Worship</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>

Again this year, we will have a short, 10-minute sunrise prayer service at the Saxeville Union Cemetery at 7:30 am. We will gather just inside the gate at the North Entrance, the entrance just off of the church's main parking lot, next to the playground. Sunrise services in cemeteries have been a tradition that stems back thousands of years to early Christianity, when groups of Christians commemorated a Saint's birthday by sharing communion at their grave. We gather, in the midst of those who have died but who have risen, on Easter, to tangibly proclaim Christ's victory over the grave. We do so with all creation bearing witness to Christ's rising as the sun rises to greet the new day.

\* Note: The kitchen will be open prior to the service with the ovens ON for anyone wanting to keep a hotdish warm prior to the 8:00 am Easter Breakfast. And all are welcome in to the church to enjoy coffee following the

**THANK  
YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who prepared and served soup and sandwiches at our Lenten suppers.

Thank you to those donating to and serving at the Easter Breakfast.

Thank you to everyone who helped clean the church so it shines.



St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 4 at 10:30 am



### **National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 7**

The 75th National Day of Prayer Gathering will be held at the Waushara County Government Center at 380 S Townline Rd, Wautoma from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force will commemorate two historic milestones: 250 years of prayer in America and 75 years of prayer for America.

**Movie Date**



**Sunday April 19 at 1:00pm**

**"The Way Home"**

*The Way Home* storyline shows the contrast between the Simpkins' fears and the overwhelming love they feel when as family, friends, and even complete strangers pitch in to help find their little boy. Randy and Crystal (Lori Beth Edgeman) struggle to keep their marriage and hope afloat. After crying out to God and seeing the hundreds of volunteers out scouting for his son, Randy has the chance to return home and support his wife. The story is full of differing characters. Some have no hope at all, while others won't give up until they find Joe. The movie's bottom line is one of hope, faith, and what is truly important in life.

The story gets you right from the beginning. Joe disappears and you actually feel the emotions rise as the characters become more and more afraid about the possible outcomes. Dean Cain and Lori Beth Edgeman both deliver good performances. Cain, of *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* fame, especially does a good job as the conflicted father. He kicks the door down on his Superman stereotype and shows his vulnerable, human side. From start to finish, *The Way Home* draws you in until you find out what happens to the family.

Beginning in May, movies will take a break until fall. In the fall I think we will start the series of God's Not Dead movies of which there are now 5 in total.



**Game Days will continue through May and then take a break.**

**Dates are Tuesdays: April 7, April 21, May 5 and May 19. Games begin at 1:00pm. All are welcome to check us out. We love new people.**

If you have ever thought about seeing the an option for you without having to drive tour 5 days and 4 nights from Monday, is just \$720 pp and includes transportation, Museum, 1 day admission to Ark Encounter including buffet, 4 breakfasts, and 3 dinners. And they have a pickup spot in Oshkosh.



**Ark Encounter** or the **Creation Museum** there is to Kentucky. WRVM radio is sponsoring a bus June 22 through Friday, June 26. The Senior price 4 nights lodging, 2 days admission to Creation

The state of the art Creation Museum allows you to venture through Biblical History, stunning exhibits, botanical gardens, planetarium, petting zoo, zip lines and more. The 75,000 sq. ft. facility has welcomed over 2.5 million guests since opening in St. Petersburg Kentucky.

The Ark Encounter is 3 exhibits in one - the massive Ark structure itself, the incredible craftsmanship, and fascinating teaching exhibits. the combination of all 3 will amaze and inspire you to think differently about the Biblical account of Noah's Ark. The Ark Encounter features a full size Noah's Ark built according to Biblical dimensions. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. The Ark Encounter is situated in beautiful Grant County in Williamstown Kentucky.

You can get all the information by going to WRVM radio and clicking on the link at the top that says bus tours. There is info and a registration form.

This would be an amazing church trip and a reasonable cost and minimal driving. Pat and Steve Sorenson are planning to go so they can get 2 more to Oshkosh.

## St. John's Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 9, 2026

President Steve Sorenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present: Steve Sorenson, Scott Beck, Lori Szczublewski, Cindy Emrich, Steve Straw, Pete Duesterbeck and Tammy Simons. Absent: Pastor Kristina Jensen.

In the absence of Pastor Kristina, Steve opened with a devotion regarding stillness and knowing that God continues His work, providing us quiet and personal time for reflection.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion by Scott Beck, seconded by Lori Szczublewski to accept the minutes from our meeting on January 10. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Steve Straw, seconded by Cindy Emrich to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Despite her being ill, Pastor Kristina submitted the following: Personal Care (5 pastoral visits), and 15 pastoral conversations with members/others in need of support. Worship & Lenten Preparation: Much of this period has been devoted to worship planning and preparation for the Lenten season.

Our midweek Lenten services will center on "Holy Conversations," featuring three reflection questions offered to the congregation each Wednesday, based on the previous week's Gospel lesson. These questions will also be printed in the prior Sunday's bulletin to encourage prayerful reflection throughout the week.

During Sunday worship throughout Lent, the congregation will also be introduced to selected Desert Fathers and Mothers, Christian mystics and saints whose wisdom guided seekers across generations. This series is intended to help our community engage more deeply with the practices of discipleship, spiritual rhythms, and faithful living during the Lenten journey.

**Committee Reports:** none at this time

### **Old Business:**

Pastor's insurance: no new information has come to light.

Mutual Ministry Committee: Discussion entered on reactivating this committee but suggested guidelines for committee members still need to be put into place. Steve and Scott will get together for next month's council meeting.

Music Remodel Project: Steve Straw provided highlights which took place when the committee met. Music, lighting, carpet in the gathering area. Deb Denker will lead the committee with the assistance of Mike Smaby due to Smaby's travel schedule over the coming months.

### **New Business:**

This year's Lenten/Easter offerings will be designated at next month's council meeting.

Synod Assembly is scheduled to take place in Oshkosh during June 4-6, 2026. If any member is interested in representing St. John's, please speak with Steve Sorenson.

Chair purchase: Two samples of different chairs will be made for the congregation to try for size and comfort.

Communion: The practice of taking intinction at the communion rail will be paused for the foreseeable future in favor of using the common practice of "walk-through".

Community Outreach: Motion by Scott Beck, seconded by Tammy Simons to provide \$400 rent money for an individual in dire need, to be taken from Thrivent Choice Dollars which has accrued over the past several years. Motion carried.

Community Outreach Fund: Motion by Pete Duesterbeck, seconded by Cindy Emrich to remove \$2,000 from Thrivent Choice Dollars to use as seed monies for this fund. Motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be Monday, March 9 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm after closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pete Duesterbeck, Secretary



# St. John's Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9, 2026

President Steve Sorenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Present: Steve Sorenson, Scott Beck, Lori Szczublewski, Steve Straw, Pete Duesterbeck, Tammy Simons, and Pastor Kristina. Absent: Cindy Emrich

Pastor opened with a devotion from Desert Fathers by Strahan Coleman regarding fasting during the period of Lent. In daily life we are surrounded by constant input—phones, conversations, music, news, and our own thoughts which often tend to race us away from God. Coleman reminds us that silence is not empty; rather, it creates space where deeper awareness can emerge. God is not necessarily absent when we hear nothing. Instead, we are invited to be more attentive of His word. Many of the early monks of the Desert Fathers intentionally withdrew into the desert because they believed noise and distraction made it difficult to perceive God's guidance.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion by Scott Beck, seconded by Steve Straw to accept the minutes from our meeting on Feb 9. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Pete Duesterbeck, seconded by Tammy Simons to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor asked for any feedback from council members on Lenten services. Discussion on church website. New member Sunday is targeted for Sunday, April 26 with Sunday, May 2 as an alternate date. Pastor inquired if there was interest for members to participate in her services for Palm Sunday. Since the last council meeting Pastor Kristina submitted the following: Pastoral Care (2 pastoral visits), and 10 pastoral conversations with members/others in need of support.

**Committee Reports:** Evangelism reported that the annual Spring Cleaning (interior version) is scheduled for Sat, March 21. Evangelism reminds members of the availability for Summer Camp Scholarships at Pine Lake.

## **Old Business:**

This year's Lenten/Easter Offerings will be designated for the newly created Community Outreach Fund. The council discussed ways that we might invite those we provide financial assistance to join us in worship.

Steve Sorenson presented a preliminary outline for the job description for the Mutual Ministry Committee. Pastor Kristina asked to table until next month so she could review and add her insight.

Music Remodel Project: No update other than Deb Denker and committee has met several times over the past six weeks, and their group is doing ongoing research to gather ideas.

Chairs & Tables: Samples of the different chairs are available for people to see and feel. Pete Duesterbeck will see if there is still availability on some of the postings for banquet chairs on Facebook Marketplace, then pass along a followup for council members to review.

St. John's Website: Discussion centered on concerns for making sure the website and the accompanying calendar was staying current and up-to-date. Pastor Kristina is seeking 2-3 individuals who could be trained to assist with this.

Synod Assembly: At this time no one has expressed interest in representing St. John's.

**New Business:** none at this time

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be Monday, April 13 at 6:00 PM. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM after closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Duesterbeck, Secretary



## **Noisy Offerings:**

April 5 — Waushara County Domestic Violence Outreach

May 3 — Waushara County Veterans Services



Twitter.....twitter.....twitter



May 10 - just in case you needed a reminder



Dear St. John's, Thank you so much for the scholarship and the support in my college journey! Time has flown by faster than I realize and I appreciate all the support I am given! God is good all the time! Thank you!  
Cally Manske

As sponsors for the Family Feud and the Faith Journey Concert we would like to thank all those who supported these two events. Your support means a lot to us and we are thrilled to have brought you these two opportunities. We always believe even with expenses we get more out of them than we put in. In fact we are so excited with the Faith Journey group that we are thinking hard about going to Shipshewana Indiana to the Blue Gate Theater to see them in August.  
Steve and Pat Sorenson

Our Lenten project of tying fleece blankets resulted in beautiful cozy blankets that will help comfort children entering foster care. Thank you to those of you who took the time to tie a few knots or many. Each of those thoughtful 220 knots per blanket will hopefully serve as a reminder to those children that they are valued and loved. Thank you to Steve Sorenson for leading this project and preparing the fabric. Thank you to Julie Attoe for preparing and delivering the foster care cases. If you would like to make a monetary donation to be used in purchasing items for the cases, please see Julie or indicate "Foster Care Cases" on your envelope.

The Council has generously offered to help defray the costs of up to four students attending Pine Lake Camp this summer. Students will be able to have 50% of their camp costs reimbursed for up to a week of camp experience. This includes both day and overnight camp. Check out the camp website at [crosswayscamps.org](http://crosswayscamps.org) for programs and dates. There are applications in the magazine rack in the gathering area.

It may only be early Spring but St. John's Rummage Sale will be here before we know. While you are in the midst of your Spring cleaning, make a pile of those "still usable" items that can be donated to the sale. The rummage sale is June 12-13.

As the ground begins to thaw, it's time to find your "I Love My Church" yard sign so you can locate it someplace where people will see it. We are the best ambassadors to bring new folks into St. John's.

### Five Finger Prayers



Prayer is a conversation with God, not a formula. Yet sometimes we might need to use a "method to freshen up our prayer time. I recently came across this "Five-Finger Prayer" to use as a guide when praying for others: When you fold your hands, the thumb is nearest you. So begin by praying for those closest to you - your loved ones.

The index finger is the pointer. Pray for those who teach—Bible teachers and preachers and those who teach children.

The next finger is the tallest. It reminds you to pray for those in authority over you—national and local leaders and your supervisor at work.

The fourth finger is usually the weakest. Pray for those who are in trouble or who are suffering.

Then comes your little finger. It reminds you of your smallness in relation to God's greatness. Ask Him to supply your needs.

(Excerpt from The Bible in One Year)

# April 2026

SU	MO	TUE	WE	TH	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### April Birthdays:

Megan Smith, April 1  
 Michelle Benz, April 7  
 Pete Duesterbeck, April 7  
 Debi Smith, April 7  
 Kent Ropella, April 10  
 Paul Szczublewski, April 10  
 John Tucker, April 12  
 Jonathan Jensen, April 14  
 Andrea Konrath, April 17  
 Lauren Konrath, April 19  
 Jordan Konrath, April 22  
 Linda Duesterbeck, April 22  
 Luke Konrath, April 23

### April Anniversaries:

Paul & Debi Smith, April 26  
 Jeff & Michelle Benz, April 27

### Recurring:

1st Sunday is Noisy Offering  
 Choir is Wed at 9:00 am

### April Events:

Apr 2 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm  
 Apr 3 Good Friday 6:00 pm  
 Apr 4 Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 am  
 Apr 5 Easter Prayer Service 7:30 am  
     Easter Breakfast 8:00 am  
     Easter Worship 9:00 am  
 Apr 6 Quilters 8:30 am  
 Apr 7 Quilters 8:30 am  
     Game Day 1:00 pm  
 Apr 8 2nd Wed Meal 5:00 pm  
 Apr 13 Council 6:00 pm  
 Apr 19 Movie Day 1:00 pm  
 Apr 20 & 21 Quilters 8:30 am  
 Apr 19 Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 am  
 Apr 20 Easter Sunrise 7:30 am  
     Easter Breakfast 8:00 am  
     Easter Worship 9:00 am  
 Apr 21 & 22 Quilters 8:30 am

# May 2026

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FRI	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### May Birthdays:

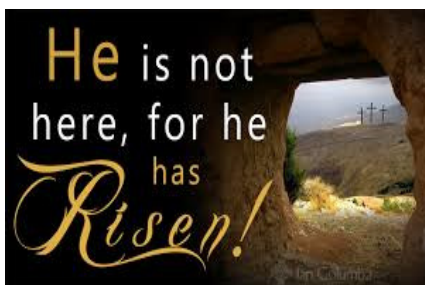
Russ Castner, May 1  
 John Dickson, May 3  
 David Schmidt, May 4  
 Cherie Gabriliska, May 8  
 Karen Karbowski, May 8  
 Steve Straw, May 8  
 Barb Castner, May 14  
 Barb Hansen, May 15  
 Sylvia Beson, May 15  
 Dennis Manske, May 18  
 Pastor Kristina Jensen, May 18

### May Anniversaries:

Jeff Rick & Chris Reinke-Rick, May 10  
 Steve & Cheri Schmid, May 20

### May Events:

May 4 Quilters 8:30 am  
 May 5 Quilters 8:30 am  
     Game Day 1:00 pm  
 May 7 National Day of Prayer  
 May 10 Bold Women's Day  
 May 11 Council 6:00 pm  
 May 13 2nd Wed Meal 5:00 pm  
 May 18 Quilters 8:30 am  
 May 19 Quilters 8:30 am  
     Game Day 1:00 pm  
 May 25 Memorial Day



# *Saint John's*

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Saxeville, WI

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[www.facebook.com/SjJohnsSax](http://www.facebook.com/SjJohnsSax)  
Pastor Kristina Jensen - 724-290-9988

Worship  
9:00 am Sunday

Coffee and Fellowship  
10:15 am Sunday

To have your name  
removed from this  
mailing list, just let us know.

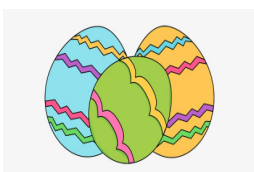
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## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2	Maundy Thursday	6:00 pm
April 3	Good Friday	6:00 pm
April 5	Easter Sunrise Prayer Service	7:30 am
	Easter Breakfast	8:00 am
	Easter Sunday Worship	9:00 am



St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt  
Saturday, April 4 10:30 am

