

Dear Members of St. Jakobi,

Let's take a look back at 2023 because we have so much to be grateful for. Our God has blessed St. Jakobi with another year of remarkable spiritual opportunities and growth.

Our baptized membership is now at 660 members. We had 10 Baptisms, 9 youths were confirmed, 1 Adult Confirmation, 21 new members transferred in, 11 members transferred out or were released, 4 weddings and 6 members passed away. Of note; St. Jakobi is one of very few congregations that has seen its average weekly church attendance increase to more than pre-COVID numbers. Our average attendance for 2023 was 190. There are many comments on how nice it is to see so many children in church. Thanks be to God!

Attendance at Bible studies continues to grow. I encourage you to attend one of the three studies and enjoy fellowship and have fun learning the Bible. Bible study is held on Sunday after church, Wednesdays at 6:30PM and Thursday at 1:00PM. Pastor is truly gifted in his ability to make learning fun and rewarding. He is a great teacher and we really do enjoy the time spent with him.

Walk through the Bible was a success as about 185 people attended on February 3rd of this year. Many thanks to all who made this possible and special thanks to Mark Schuster for heading the group to make this event a reality. I know this took place in 2024 but the feedback was so positive I wanted to make sure you watch for information on our next Walk Through the Bible and learning the New Testament.

American Red Cross Blood drives now take place at St. Jakobi about once every 3 months. It started out with 9 people at our first drive and is now at 25 on our last drive. The demand for blood is at an all-time high. Please consider donating. Although not affiliated with St. Jakobi It is great community outreach.

529 Savings Account Opportunity – A donor made a donation of \$100.00 for each child in the congregation to be placed in a 529 Savings Account for educational expenses. There are 148 children eligible for the \$100.00 gift. Contact the church office to find out more about this generous donation.

Higher Things event was held at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale with 13 youth from St. Jakobi attending. All who have attended have come back sharing comments on what a wonderful experience this is for our youth and chaperons. Thanks to all who make this happen.

VBS again was very well attended. This is a very large task to put this all together but also very rewarding. I have no idea how the Board of Christian Education and all the volunteers are able to pull this together and make it happen.

The Church Picnic was held as part of our Outdoor service and again was very well attended with plenty of food and games for all to enjoy. Thanks to all who helped with this outreach event.

St. Jakobi was the host congregation for the North Wisconsin District Spring Pastoral Conference. About 100 pastors from North Wisconsin and the UP were at St. Jakobi for the 2-day event. Some members attended service on the first night of the conference. What an amazing service this was. The unbelievable singing still gives me goose bumps. When we host this event again, I would encourage you to attend this service.

Charlie's Red Barn Brat Stand and Qualheim's True Value Brat Fries were again very nice fundraisers for special events. At Charlies we average about \$2,500 in profit for a 3-day brat fry.

The Potato Pancake Dinner was very well attended with about 650 people served. It was nice to see the congregation come together to put together such a large event. Jessica VanBuren did a super job chairing the committee this year. We also introduced a silent auction that did very well and look forward to this auction in the future.

St. Jakobi Spiritual Outreach continues to grow and help families in need. They have a balance of \$7,240 in checking and last year had \$3,834 in disbursements. This is a way to help families that are dealing with difficulties. It is great to see our church family reach out to those in need.

2023 Year End Financials: St. Jakobi remains financially healthy. Thank You to all for your continued financial support

- \$77,805 is in various Savings accounts compared to \$62,760.29 at year end in 2022.
- Check Book Balance was \$70,371
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund had a Balance of \$18,617
- Education Aid Fund had a Balance of \$6,509
- Total Giving in 2023 was \$475,979.
- Total Expense in 2023 was \$405, 931
- We Opened a CD worth \$30,000
- 2024 Approved Budget: Offerings of \$466,000 and Expenses of \$418,599.
- We have a Loan Balance of \$1,396,502 for our addition.
- Monthly Loan Payment is \$7,369.52
- \$309,175 was pledged for our next three-year commitment to make our loan payments. This exceeds what is needed to make the payments for the next three years.

Pastor Kleinschmidt; how blessed are we to have him as our pastor. He is a great teacher, very approachable, easy to talk to and the list goes on and on... I encourage you to reach out to him if you are struggling for whatever reason. I ask that you keep Pastor in your prayers as he continues to shepherd us and help us to grow in our knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Summary, St. Jakobi is truly blessed to have a small church warmth and comradery in a fairly large congregation. What makes St. Jakobi such a special place is you, the people who sit in the pews on Sunday and understand the importance of growing in faith and love for one another. We pray that we continue to grow in faith and love towards one another and may God continue to bless all of you and our church, St. Jakobi Lutheran.

Congregation President

Jeff Theis

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

We will hear on the Third Sunday in Lent, March 3rd, a reading from Exodus 20:1-17. You may not know just from the reference, but this is the account of God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. This event takes place at the beginning of the Exodus right after the people had crossed the Red Sea on dry ground and Pharaoh's army had died when the waters of the Red Sea had crashed back down upon them.

Moses goes to the top of Mount Sinai for 40 days and the Commandments that lay out how God's people (and all people) are to love each other is laid out. You have no doubt memorized them in Catechism class and we recited the first 5 on Ash Wednesday and we'll recite the last 5 on March 2nd/3rd.

There's one verse, verse 5, that is used in the Small Catechism as the conclusion of the commandments, but in the text is given between the 1st and 2nd Commandments, as a way of explanation.

Verses 5 and 6 explain why the LORD is God and why we are to have no other gods. It says, "You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a **jealous** God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

The word that jumps out at me is the word 'jealous.' If you're like me, then you probably think of jealousy as a negative thing. To be jealous of someone is to want what they have; or to use Biblical language, to covet their possessions. Usually jealousy is a word that's used in reference to relationships.

Why would this word that we think of negatively be used in reference to God? Is God jealous? If that's

the case, then it can't be that 'jealous' is only in reference to sinful desires.

The Hebrew word (כַּנְיָז) is almost exclusively used only in reference to God and it describes him as zealous or passionate. But, for what? God is jealous, zealous, or passionate for his people; for you!

The Lord God does not want to share you with any other god of your choosing. He doesn't want you to be following some god of the Old Testament like Baal, Asherah, or Moloch. He doesn't want you to trust in the things of this world more than you trust in him. He doesn't want a golden calf, your account balance, your leisure, your family, or toys to be your god.

He is a jealous God. His desire is for you. The description of God as jealous gives you an insight into the love of God for you. If that's the case, is his desire rightly placed? Yes, you are worthy of being loved for the LORD God has created you. Jesus is sent to be your Savior by his death on the cross and his resurrection on the Third Day.

It is good for God to be jealous. It shows that you have a God worthy of being worshiped by you. You are right to kneel before the one who created all things and still orders your life by his holy commandments. We listen to these commandments because we know that God desires what is good for us. In those commandments we learn what is good and what is love.

As you read the Bible, think about how the passage you are reading is describing a God who is jealous for

you. A God who desires you to worship him and him alone. This is a good thing for you. Revel in the fact that your God is jealous for you.

In Christ,
-Pastor



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

LENT SERVICES

Lent services will continue on March 6th, 13th, and 20th at 6:30pm. There is also a Lent Dinner at 5pm. Make a habit of coming and growing in your faith in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

February 28th: Pastor Zobel from St. James

March 6th: Pastor Palmer from St. Paul, Bonduel

March 13th: Pastor Kleinschmidt

March 20th: Pastor Palmer from St. Paul, Bonduel

EDUCATION SAVINGS ENCOURAGEMENT

St. Jakobi received a gift that is to be distributed to the children of the congregation under the age of 18. This gift is meant to encourage parents and family to save for the education expenses of their children. St. Jakobi will give \$100 into a 529 Savings Account to encourage and give a jump start to education savings. Forms to apply are in the Narthex and church office.

EASTER BREAKFAST

On Easter morning there is breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, following the Sunrise Service. The breakfast will include egg casserole, fruit salad, and Kringles. Come between 7:30am and 8:15am for a great breakfast!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will meet on Sunday, March 17th after Sunday School. There will be more information coming. This is for youth in grades 5th-12th.

LENT MEALS

Lent meals will continue before the Lent Services in March. If you would like to help with the meals, please sign up on the sheet located in the Narthex. The following groups will be in charge of the meals:

March 6th - Evangelism

March 13th - Higher Things Youth

March 20th - Board of Education

MEN'S NIGHT

All men of the congregation are invited to a Men's Night in the Gym on Thursday, March 14th at 6:30pm. We'll be playing dartball. This is a game that combines baseball and darts. No experience is necessary. Bring a snack to share and join us!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 28th is Maundy Thursday this year. We will recall how Christ has given to us the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar with a service at 10:30am and 6:30pm. March 29th is Good Friday when we recall the death of Jesus Christ. Services are at 1:00pm and 6:30pm. The Easter celebration begins with the Easter Vigil service on Saturday night, March 30th at 6:30pm at St. John, Tigerton. Jesus Christ rose on Sunday morning so we gather to worship the living Christ on March 31st with services at 6:30am and 9:00am. There is also an Easter breakfast beginning at 7:30am.



PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 24TH



At the Palm Sunday Service the Sunday School children will sing and process into church with Pastor while they carry Palm branches. Be sure to have the children here early so they can get lined up to walk in and then sing.

WRLHS TRIVIA EVENT

The Wolf River Lutheran High School will be holding the ninth Annual Trivia Event on Sunday, March 17th, in the high school gymnasium. This year's theme is 'Luck of the Irish'. Teams can have up to 8 people. The cost is \$10 per person in advance, or \$12 per person at the door. For more information and sponsoring information, see the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

EASTER VIGIL

We won't have service on the night before Easter, but you can still attend a special service. The Easter Vigil will be held at St. John Lutheran Church, Tigerton. Nine area congregations will be represented by their pastors. The service will begin at 6:30pm on March 30th. You are invited to attend.

ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB

The following is the list of books chosen for the upcoming meetings: March 5th - *The Echo of Old Books* by Barbara Davis; May 7th - *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown; and August 6th - *Raft of Stars* by Andrew J Graff. The Book Club will not meet in June and July.

A NIGHT WITH THE AUTHOR

The St. Jakobi Book Club will be hosting an 'A Night with the Author' event on Tuesday, April 9th. There will be a potluck meal starting at 5:30 pm, followed by an opportunity to talk with Tammy Borden, author of "Waltrud". The book is based on her mother's life growing up in Nazi Germany during WWII. To help plan the event, if you will be attending please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Copies of the book are available to be checked out from the church library. If you have any questions, please contact Marlene Weckwerth at 1-920-400-0013.

GIVING OPTIONS

You can now give online by visiting <http://bit.ly/DonateStJakobi> This easy way to give to church can be done as a one-time gift or recurring. You can give from your checking account or credit card. If you would like you can help offset the expense of offering this service, there is information at that website.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- 3/3 The Thankful One
- 3/10 The Kingdom of Children
- 3/17 The Passion Prediction
- 3/24 Palm Sunday - No Sunday School
- 3/31 Easter Sunday - No Sunday School

SENIOR CONNECTIONS

St. Jakobi Spiritual Outreach will be hosting a Luncheon for retired members of the congregation. There are no age restrictions, and it doesn't matter if you're fully or partially retired. You're invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am on Friday, April 19th for a devotion, a tasty meal, and some great conversation. Outreach members will be providing the main course. You can bring a dish to pass if you would like, but are not required to do so. For planning purposes, if you will be attending, we ask that you please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please speak with Nancy Thelen.

SPIRITUAL OUTREACH

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, March 9th, at 9:00 am in the Jerusalem Room. We will be discussing several items that we didn't get to at the last meeting, along with the final plans for the Senior Connections Luncheon and Fellowship event being held in April.

READINGS AT CHURCH

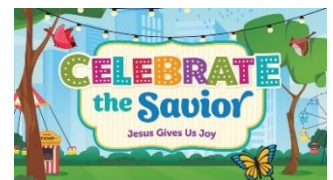
- March 3rd:** Exodus 20:1-17
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 2:13-22
- March 10th:** Numbers 21:4-9
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21
- March 17th:** Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45
- March 24th:** Zechariah 9:9-12
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47
- March 31st:** Isaiah 25:6-9
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

EASTER FLOWERS

Let's Celebrate! Please feel free to bring a plant to beautify our church for Easter! It can be an Easter lily, hyacinths, tulips, a pot of bright daisies or hydrangea; whatever you would like. Bring them on Saturday March 30th and we will have them on display for Easter Sunday! Please be sure and have your name on the bottom of the plant. After the 9:00 service on Easter Sunday you may take your plant home or, if you like, you may leave them in church! Thank You! St. Jakobi Altar Guild.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Plans are being made for VBS to be held the week of **June 10th - 14th** in the mornings. The theme this year is Celebrate the Savior. The week of VBS is the week after school gets out. Make plans now to have your children attend, help, or tell your grandkids and friends about this great opportunity to learn about Jesus. Look for registration material in the coming months.



SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour so you will be at church on time Sunday morning.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 - Marcia Buettner
2 - Mark Buettner
2 - Michael Waldvogel
4 - Darlene Wendorff
6 - Jennifer Murdock
6 - Sabrina Schmidt
7 - Oliver Buntrock
8 - Elizabeth Buettner
8 - Grayson Schmidt
8 - Allyssa Verstoppen
9 - David Buettner
9 - Grant Riesenber
10 - Ethan Pleshek
10 - Lucas Schoenike
11 - Tabb Magee
11 - Ella Stuber
11 - Cassius Tuma
12 - Robert Behrens
12 - Kadence Meyers
12 - Lynn Trochil
12 - Jesse Waldvogel
13 - Joel Buettner
13 - Jessica Goodreau
14 - Patti Burr
14 - Sandy Wendorff
15 - Darwin Drake
15 - Josh Ladwig
15 - Kaden Marcell
15 - Payten Thompson
15 - Kelsie Wendorff
17 - Payton Skalitzky
17 - Braden Teetzen
18 - Robert Buettner
19 - Allyson Popp
19 - Carson Popp
20 - Lindsey Cumberland
20 - Betty Lemke
20 - Ethan Magee
21 - Doug Berkhahn
21 - Oaklynd Gast
22 - Randy Schroeder
23 - Emily Pleshek
24 - Emma Prodell
24 - Josh Trochil
25 - Connor Stuber
26 - Westin Buntrock
27 - AJ Bedroske
27 - Revin Buntrock
27 - Luke Lindner
28 - James Felckowski
28 - Danielle Kuhn
28 - Zoey Riesenber
29 - Michael Bohm

A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on name as he/she celebrates his/her birthday. Grant that he/she may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen his/her trust in Your goodness and bless him/her with Your abiding love all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

01, 2008 - Justin & Sarah Engel
02, 1996 - Chris & Jamie Popp
03, 2014 - Bruce & Lena Johnson
03, 2023 - Kyle & Emily Raddant
03, 1973 - Wilbur & Connie Steinke
08, 1997 - Jason & Janelle Lange
11, 1994 - Carl & Holly Montoure
19, 2010 - Michael & Debra Daley
25, 1995 - Scott & Kerry Breitrick

AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PRAYER



O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Contact the Church Office if you find anything in need of correction to the Birthdays and Anniversaries.

MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elders: Sat: Mike Daley Sun: Mark Schuster Brian Sperberg Special: Darryl Prodell	Altar Guild: Betty Szucs Donna Lopez Carol Magee Mary Jung Joan Stoehr				1	2 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Brooklyn Krueger
3 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: McKenzie Kuhn	4 6:15 Choir 7:00 Altar Guild	5 1:00 Book Club	6 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Lent Meal 6:30 Service Acolyte: Colton Peters	7 1:00 Bible Study	8	9 9:00 Spiritual Outreach 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Connor Stuber
10 <i>DST Begins</i> 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Blake Weishoff	11 6:15 Choir	12 6:30 Elders	13 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Lent Meal 6:30 Service Acolyte: Khloe Wendorff	14 1:00 Bible Study 6:30 Men's Night	15	16 9:00 Old Testament Dive 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Cooper Clark
17 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour 11:30 Youth Group Acolyte: Blaze Ejnik	18 12:00 Blood Drive 6:15 Choir	19	20 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Lent Meal 6:30 Service Acolyte: Hailey Fischer	21 1:00 Bible Study	22	23 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Payton Skalitzky
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Lincoln Ejnik	25 6:15 Choir	26	27 4:15 Catechism	28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 10:30 Service (HC) 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Adam Kleinschmidt	29 <i>Good Friday</i> 1:00 Service 6:30 Service	30
31 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 6:30 Sunrise Service (HC) Acolyte: Layden Plaster 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Service (HC) Acolyte: Kavion Franklin						

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“We Preach Christ Crucified”



Church Services:

Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am

Bible Study:

Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 1:00pm, and Sunday at 10:30am.

Sunday School:

Sunday at 10:30am

