

## **March 2021**

Stay Informed. Be Inspired.



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### **Pastor Ponders**

by Pastor Brian Halverson

As I have probably written before and most likely to write again, March is the month of transition. We find ourselves between winter and spring. There are days in which it feels that winter will never let go of its grip. There are other days when it feels spring is just around the corner. March feels like it is the longest month of the year, but curiously enough, when I check the calendar, it has the same number of days as July, October, and December.

Transitions – when the old is ending or has ended but the new has not quite yet begun.

Do you ever wonder why the Holy Spirit led Jesus immediately into the wilderness after he was baptized? Why not lead him straight into Galilee to begin his public ministry of preaching, healing, and leading his disciples? Was it just to show us that Jesus could resist temptation? And what was the temptation? Perhaps he was tempted to go back to his old life, where he knew he would not have to die on the cross, where he could live out his days in peace.

Like the Israelites who were freed from slavery, they too had to be in the wilderness – for forty years, as the Bible says. What was their temptation? To go back to Egypt, because it was preferable to the great uncertainty they were facing. As they said in the story, it was preferable to know their misery than the anxiety of not knowing where they were going.

Could it be both Jesus and the people of Israel were being prepared for their mission in these wilderness places? The people of Israel were no longer Hebrew slaves but emerged out of the wilderness as a nation, called and formed by God through whom they would be a blessing to the world. Jesus became not only a carpenter's son but a teacher of Israel and, most importantly, became known to us as the Christ.

In our transitions, do we believe God is preparing us for the new thing that God is doing in the world? Or in our anxiety, are we simply going back and repeating the same old thing?

How is God preparing us for the mission ahead? How is God preparing you in these wilderness times?

Paster Brian

# Follow Us-Like Us-Share Us

Attention Facebook uses! We hope you always share the good news about St. John's. Our Preschool is part of that good news. St. John's Preschool will be focusing our Fall enrollment drive on Facebook.

- Find us at https://www.facebook.com/MakeDisciplesSJL
- Like our page
- Share our posts

With your help, we will help families to discover the good news of our wonderful preschool.

### What's New?

#### **Building Begins to Open**

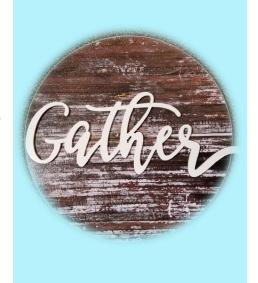
The Transition Team met on February 16 to review the current COVID-19 conditions and discuss the possibility of reopening the building in a safe manner for inperson small groups and services.

Based on the current conditions, we are happy to announce St. John's will begin opening up the building to groups effective March 8. If your group would like to begin gathering at St. John's, please email Dan Thompson, Building Supervisor at buildingsup@makedisciples.com to schedule your meeting. To reduce overlapping and to conduct proper cleaning between groups, all requests are subject to approval. Thank you for your understanding.

If you should have any questions, thoughts, or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Praying for good health to all!

Brian Zach – President & Transition Team Chair brianzach@gmail.com 608-279-3577



## March and Holy Week In-Person Worship Info

St. John's is beginning in-person worship in March, on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Virtual, pre-recorded services will continue to be available on our website and on our YouTube channel. Please contact Pastor Brian or the church office if you have any questions. See you in worship!

#### In-person in Sanctuary

- Congregation will wear masks
- Congregation will sit physically distant from those not in their bubble
- Congregational will not sing
- Attendance is limited to 70.
   Please register for worship by clicking on the SignUp Genius button on the website.

#### **In-person Outside**

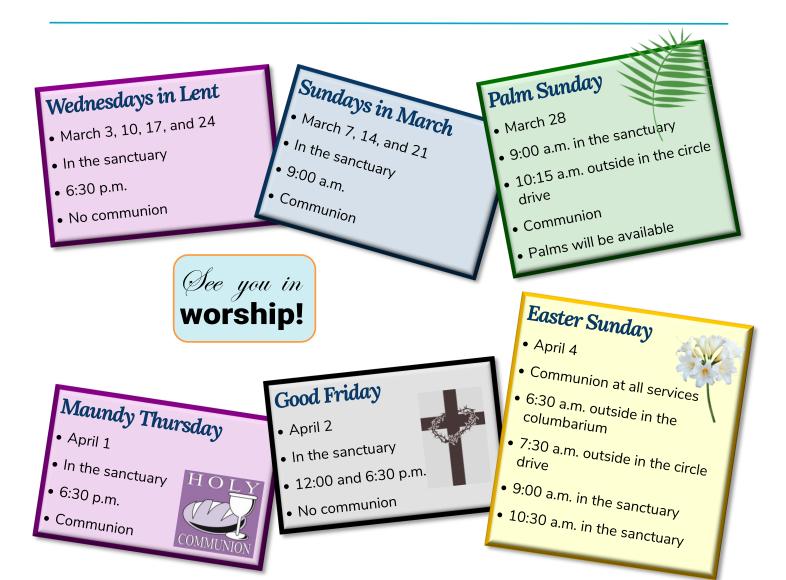
- No need to register
- Please bring a chair if you wish to sit
- Congregation will wear masks
- Congregation will sing hymns together

#### Communion

 Pre-packaged communion kits will be available at communion services



• Communion will be self-serve



## Children, Youth & Families

### 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class

#### March 7 and 21

Meet via Zoom, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Every Other Sunday Evening



#### Summer Update

sic@beverlein.com

What will summer look like for our kids at St. John's? Join our planning team as we explore new and exciting opportunities! Contact Sonja for details.

### **Sunday School Theme**

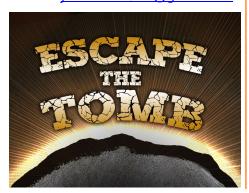
Join us Sunday evenings during Lent for our Sunday School Pajama Party Zoom!

Can you solve the puzzles and escape to the new life of Easter?

#### **Escape the Tomb**

Feb 28, March 7, 14, & 21 6:30-7:00pm Online via *7* oom

Program details are available from Joanna. josalinas 2014@gmail.com



### 5<sup>th</sup> & 6th Grade Pre-Confirmation Class

#### March 14 and 28

Meet via Zoom, 4:00-5:00pm Every Other Sunday Evening

Join us for Fellowship, team building, and to continue our journey through the Bible!



#### **Faith Awards**

Starting in March, all students and scouts in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade will have the opportunity to participate in a 4-6 week class series and earn the P.R.A.Y. Faith Award for their appropriate grade level at St. John's. We offer this programming every two years. All information is available

here: <a href="https://">https://</a>

mailchi.mp/2ffac67e4b36/ faithawards?e=91fc2c5bc7

### Contact Joanna with Toddler to 8th Grade Questions

Joanna is currently working from home and picking up mail a few times a month. She is available by email at <u>josalinas2014@gmail.com</u> or by call or text at 262-278-8021. M-F from 8:00 - 1:00.

Joanna sends out weekly Children, Youth and Family emails with the Sunday School video links and other resources. If you are not receiving those emails and would like to, let Joanna know!

### **Preschool Prayer**

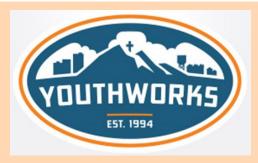
Here at Preschool, our children gather on their carpet squares and say this prayer together before heading out into their world.

In its simplicity there is trust in God and love for one another.

We learn to share in Preschool. We share this prayer with you.



## Children, Youth & Families



### YouthWorks Summer Mission Trip

Location: Milwaukee

Date: June 28 – July 1

Ages: incoming freshmen – graduating seniors

Registration Fee: \$50

Registration Link: <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/">https://www.signupgenius.com/</a>

go/10C084CADAA2DA0F85-youth



Meet via Zoom every Sunday evening

7:00-7:45 p.m.

For all high school age youth. Invite your friends! Contact Stephanie for the Zoom link.

### 9th Grade Confirmation

March 14 4:30-5:30 p.m.



### No Classes on Palm or Easter Sunday



### My Faith Statement

Someone in my life who has influenced my faith is my mom. With every decision I make she helps me to remember how God is there for me and remind me of his constant love for me. She guides me in the right direction throughout my day and my life. My relationship with God has changed from what it was because it is stronger. I know how much love God has for me and that he is there to guide me and support me through every challenge I may face in life and leads me in the right direction. God has shown me his love more than ever over the past few years, I have felt myself losing confidence and telling myself I can't do things or I will fail. But God is there to remind me how capable I am and that I can do whatever I put my mind to. He is with me always, on my good days and bad. He celebrates by highs and helps me through my lows. He is a constant in my life who I can always count on.

"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11





This is the last of a series of faith statements from our 2020 confirmands.

El Salvador Scholarship Program - Love Life

Life isn't fair. December 21, 2010 changed my family's life forever. It was the Tuesday before Christmas and my youngest daughter, Holly, had just finished her last final and was headed home from the University of Minnesota for winter break. She called me around 6pm to let me know she was on her way. I told her to drive safe and that I loved her. She said "I love you too, Mom". That was the last time I spoke to her. Holly and her boyfriend were cut off by a semi truck near New Lisbon, WI. Holly didn't survive.

Holly was truly an inspiration. She lived life to the fullest and never waited for opportunities to come her way, she created them. She was diagnosed with a learning disability in reading when she was in 3rd grade. She never let this disability stop her from achieving her dreams. She worked hard all through grade school, middle school & high school. When she was told that she should not consider taking a foreign language in high school, she proved everyone wrong and completed French 5 and earned 16 college credits in doing so.

Holly wanted more than anything to go to college and pursue a degree in Interior Design. This was a passion of hers from the time she was in grade school. When she got her acceptance into the University of Minnesota she was so excited! She initially did not get into the Interior Design program, but in typical Holly fashion, she worked hard, got good grades and in the spring of 2010, she got accepted into the program she always dreamed about.

In the fall of 2010, she told her college roommates that she decided that she wasn't going to leave by saying goodbye, but instead would say "Love Life". This phrase helped to inspire my family to start a foundation in Holly's name. We also knew how hard she

worked in school and how much her accomplishments meant. We decided that giving back by providing scholarships to others was a perfect way to keep her memory alive.



The Los Héroes Scholarship
Program has been such a
rewarding program to be part of
and something we know that Holly
would be extremely proud we have
been supporting for the past eight
plus years. We have had 3
students graduate from the
university level, including one with
a law degree! We have heard the
stories of their struggles as well as
their successes. We are so proud
of every achievement of these
amazing students.

I have had the privilege to travel to El Salvador twice and have seen firsthand how important this program is to the community. From preschoolers to university, every



student who is supported is given a chance for success in the future. It is truly so rewarding to know you are making a difference in the lives of these kids. And through supporting a student in this program, you ARE making a difference!

Supporting the Los Héroes
Scholarship Program has helped
our family in more ways than I can
express. When we get a letter from
a student telling us their story, it
makes us feel that Holly is here
encouraging us to serve others.
Life isn't fair, but through tragedy,
we are trying to make a difference
and help others as we know Holly
would want us to.

So far, 59 students have scholarships for this year!
That's is amazing!

Which of the remaining five is God calling you to sponsor; either through finances, correspondence, or prayer.

Learn more about the remaining five students on the back page, page 12.

## Troop 16

We all look forward to meetings in the fellowship hall again!
Meanwhile, we scramble to find meeting locations and activities.
We've had meetings at the town of Brookfield Town Hall community room and even have gone sledding.

COVID-19 caused our annual Council First Aid Meet to be cancelled. We still reviewed First Aid at the town of Brookfield Town Hall, despite not having our competition. We reviewed Tenderfoot First Aid requirements and Patrol Leaders led their patrols in some patrols activities along with our monthly uniform inspection. Due to the chilly weather streak we had a game of Steal the Bacon inside.

One of this year's snow storms caused us to postpone our Duckpin Bowling activity to the next week. This type of bowling is played on a sixteen foot alley, fatter pins and a six inch ball. The activity was played at the Thirsty Duck in Sussex with live pinsetters. The game is scored like regular bowling.

We had a town sponsored roller skating event at the Waukesha Skateland rink. Mr. Hoeppner planned a meeting where we went sledding at Park Arthur in Muskego. It got down to a chilling ten degree temp. A big thanks to Mr. Balzer for supplying the hot chocolate and snacks!

by Troop Historian, Dominic Eggert

The Equipment Quartermaster position is currently not filled as we have not had many opportunities to go on campouts. Normally, the quartermaster would keep the room straightened, pull equipment for camping, and then return the equipment to its place afterward.

#### **January Participation Honors**

1st Jacob Nienhaus
2nd Jon McMahon
3rd Nolan Nelson
4th Matt & Zac Watson
5th Will McCov

## March Birthdays

- 3 Jaidyn Barz
- 3 Isabella Fuchs
- 3 Jennalyn Mallmann
- 5 Peg Schellin
- 7 Alex Fuchs
- 7 Arlyn Meier
- 8 Ann Kopecky
- 9 Steve Mueller
- 9 Leslie Stollberg
- 10 Bruce Campbell
- 11 Mark Aamot
- 11 Rachel Paget
- 12 Gregg Miller
- 12 Debbie Morgan
- 12 Jane Vento
- 12 Deb Zaeske

- 13 Ken Bahr
- 13 Amanda Gumm
- 13 Dawn Kallin
- 13 Sam Nettekoven
- 14 Sue Cisz
- 14 Erika Steiner
- 15 Ruth Novak
- 15 Will Otten
- 15 Trent Remmers
- 15 Tucker Remmers
- 15 Henry Volden
- 16 Don Hintze
- 17 Pat Anderson
- 17 Tony Caravella
- 17 Dale Oistad
- 17 Ellie Visuri

- 20 Linda Brazin
- 21 Anthony Caravella
- 21 Sharon Grunau
- 21 Ellen Schwantes
- 21 Lauren Stollberg
- 22 Stephanie Dominguez
- 22 Dennis Rebisch
- 23 Judy Ertel
- 25 Barb Keymar
- 26 Alice Wafle
- 27 Amy Bingenheimer
- 28 Carrie Allbaugh
- 28 Mary Almasi
- 28 Sue Kaiser



### **Music Notes**

by Becky Whelpley, Music Director

Our organ pipes have been lovingly re-installed these past two weeks and we could not be more pleased with the results. In person the organ sounds lighter, brighter and more suited to the sanctuary. We look forward to worshipping with it for many years to come.



Left: installation of smaller pipes begins in the organ

case

Right: most of the pipes are in the case

Below: the big pipes are back flanking the organ case





## **Outreach Focus for March**

GIFT BAGS FOR SENIORS AT LUTHER MANOR

We generally do a cookie drive in the month of March for Luther Manor. However there is no cookie cart right now with the COVID restrictions. As we are all aware, the virus has been particularly tough on residents in senior care facilities. They have experienced isolation and loneliness. Many of these people have not seen their families in almost a year. In the past, we've made Easter cards for them, but we want to make it more personalized and uplifting for this Easter season.

We are asking St. John's to make and donate gift or "goodie" bags with either an Easter or springtime theme. We have so many gifted

craftspeople at our church, and their creativity is endless. For those, like me, who are "craftchallenged", you can find delightful gifts, notions, and gift bags at stores like The Dollar Tree.

We ask that you assemble your own bag and drop it at church in the designated box near the main (preschool) entrance by March 31. Please contact Mary Tollander with any questions. Thanks!

- Gripper or fuzzy socks
- Bird feeder or food
- Hand-made items like quilt squares, prayer boxes
- Lotions, skin-care or manicure products, powders
- Puzzle books (Sudoku, crossword, word search)
- Stationery
- Calendar (for wall or tableside)
- Goodies like wrapped candies to share



- Flowers (little glass flowers in vases)
- Sport team merchandise
- Costume jewelry (they love this!)
- Subscription (women's magazine, Reader's Digest, puzzle magazine)
- Games, or playing cards
- Walker caddy (handmade or storebought cloth tote, or metal)
- Craft supplies
- Scarves and accessories
- Perfume, cologne, or after-shave

## **Council Communications**

Fellow Disciples,

I pray this news finds you healthy and well. Following are highlights from the February 15 Council meeting.

#### President Report

- Thank you to those who attended St. John's first ever virtual Congregational meeting on January 31. A big emphasis of this yearly meeting is to review and approve the upcoming budget. Finance Team, thank you for all your diligent attention to detail on the budget.
- St. John's continues to collaborate with Gethsemane Lutheran in Brookfield.
   Throughout the season of Lent, we will have the pleasure of hearing messages around "Great Expectations" from Pastor Brian Halverson, Pastor Frank Janzow, and Pastor Karen Natterstad of Gethsemane.
- The third session of Adult Education with Gethsemane and St. John's in underway.
   Interested individuals can join any time and may do so by calling the office.
- The Child, Youth, and Family board held their second meeting. Their mission is to address our immediate needs, support the staff and leaders, and develop long-term goals.
- Work with GROTH Design and the Planning Committee is scheduled for February 23.

#### Visioning Report

• Council added a second monthly meeting beginning February 22.

The focus of this monthly meeting will be centered around visioning and supporting the short and long term needs of St. John's.

- The primary goal of the first meeting was to assess and reflect on the current state of St. John's.
- The resonating theme from the meeting was how blessed we are with our many passionate and gifted individuals throughout all of our ministries.

#### Financial Report

- 2021 is off to a great start, as we are currently ahead of budget. Thank you for your faithful giving.
- Did you know St. John's is part of the Amazon Smile charity program? Amazon users can sign up for this free program and Amazon will donate a small percentage of your purchase(s) back to St. John's.

#### **Transition Team**

- The Transition Team met February 16 and recommended to begin in-person services starting Wednesday, March 3.
   Sunday in-person worship services will begin March 7.
- Virtual services will continue to be available for those who prefer that delivery.
- Additionally, the Transition Team recommended opening the building to small groups effective March 8.
- Council held a special meeting February 17 and approved the recommendations from the

## Lent Small Groups

#### Saturdays 9:30 a.m.

Holy expectations discussion – via Zoom

#### Sundays 9:00 a.m.

Lenten Devotional discussion – via Zoom

#### Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.

Holy expectations basics – via Zoom

If you would like to attend any of these sessions, email Stephanie Broussard at

ministry@makedisciples.com

### Thank You

A special thank you to the many St John's members who have recently donated both money and paper items for The Women's Center. Your continued support has enabled them to better help Waukesha area women and their families during these especially difficult times.

All of your donations are very much appreciated. You are making a difference.

Women's CENTER Safety. Shelter. Support

Transition Team.

Please reach out to me or the council members with any questions you may have.

Praying for peace and good health to all.

Brian Zach, President

### **About Us**

#### Welcome Statement

At St. John's we align with Paul's words in Romans 15:7 "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." We welcome one another all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race, age or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to physical or mental health, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in our commitment to the ways, grace and love of Christ.

### Core Values of St. John's:

- Serving our world, locally and globally;
- Inspiring worship and music that honor God;
- Nurturing relationships with one another as Jesus walks with us;
- Growing in God's grace through education and discipleship;
- Engaging children and youth in the life of the church.

### **Contact Us** Office Hours

The St. John's office is closed until further quidance from the Transition Team.

#### Church

phone/fax: 262-786-6887 email: to email a staff member, please click on the link by their photo on the website under Staff

#### Preschool

phone: 262-786-4298

stjohnspreschoolbrookfield@gmail.com

### Follow Us

Website: www.makedisciples.com

Facebook: @MakeDisciplesSJL Instagram: stjohnsbrookfield

## **Praying for Our Church Family**

We pray for those who are battling illness:

Mary S

Barb K

Doris K

Dorothy E

Floyd K

John G

Ken B

Steve W

Tim M

Hope H

Connie P

Frank J

Gregg and Joy M's Grandson Cole

Sharlene W

Peg M

Rand S

Sharon Mahoney's Friend Betty

Brittany L's Family Member

Kim S

Bonnie S's sister Jeanne and BIL

Dennis W

Katie A

We pray for those who have new and exciting adventures coming:

Paul and Steph M

We pray for the families of those who have died:

Gretchen Brueske

Mark Klemm

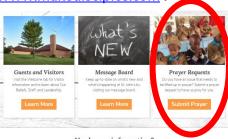
Kathy Wicklund

**Eveline Ziesch** 

To help us to stay connected, we will be sharing the list with you monthly. Prayers may be for thanksgiving, hope and/or healing. The requests may be immediate, short or long term.

Prayer requests may be submitted at the bottom of the website

www.makedisciples.com



Need more information?









## Calendar of events for March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 11:30a Hope Center meal	2 8:30a virtual property team 10:00a virtual staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 7:00p virtual adult ed	3 Online Lenten worship 5:15p virtual Kids of the Kingdom 6:30p sanctuary Lenten worship 7:00p worship team mtg	4 6:00p virtual Finance Team meeting	5 6:15a virtual men's group	6 8:30a virtual men's group 9:30a virtual Adult Ed
7 Online worship 9:00a sanctuary worship 10:30a Lent Devotion Grp 3:30p virtual 7/8 confirm 6:30p virtual Sunday School Pajama Party	8 9:00a virtual Bible study 11:30a Hope Center meal 6:30p virtual council mtg	9 8:30a virtual property team 9:00a virtual Bible study 10:00a virtual staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 7:00p virtual adult ed	10 Online Lenten worship 5:15p virtual Kids of the Kingdom 6:30p sanctuary Lenten worship	11	12 6:15a virtual men's group 10:00a virtual prayer shawl group	13 8:30a virtual men's group 9:30a virtual Adult Ed
14 Online worship 9:00a sanctuary worship 10:30a Lent Devotion Grp 4:00p virtual 5th and 6th 4:30p virtual 9th gr conf 6:30p virtual Sunday School Pajama Party 7:00p virtual HS Youth Grp	15 11:30a Hope Center meal 1:00p virtual women's Bible study	16 8:30a virtual property 10:00a virtual staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 7:00p virtual adult ed	17 Online Lenten worship 5:15p virtual Kids of the Kingdom 6:30p sanctuary Lenten worship	18	19 6:15a virtual men's group 9:00a virtual Friday Book Club 7:00p virtual Women of Faith book club	20 8:30a virtual men's group 9:30a virtual Adult Ed
21 Online worship 9:00a sanctuary worship 10:30a Lent Devotion Grp 4:30p virtual 7/8 confirm 6:30p virtual Sunday School Pajama Party 7:00p virtual HS Youth Grp	22 11:30a Hope Center meal	23 8:30a virtual property team 9:00a virtual Bible study 10:00a virtual staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal 7:00p virtual adult ed	24 Online Lenten worship 5:15p virtual Kids of the Kingdom 6:30p sanctuary Lenten worship	25	26 6:15a virtual men's group	27 8:30a virtual men's group 9:30a virtual Adult Ed
28 Palm Sunday Online worship 9:00a sanctuary worship 10:15a outdoor worship 10:30a Lent Devotion Grp 4:00p virtual 5th and 6th	29 11:30a Hope Center meal	30 8:30a virtual property team 10:00a virtual staff mtg 6:30p handbell rehearsal	31 5:15p virtual Kids of the Kingdom	1 Maundy Thursday 3:00p virtual Finance Team meeting 6:30p in-person worship	2 Good Friday 6:15a virtual men's group 12:00p in-person worship 6:30p in-person worship	3 8:30a virtual men's group 9:30a virtual Adult Ed

## 10 Tips for Mental Health Spring Cleaning

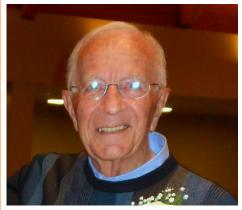
- 1. Start Journaling
- 2. Drop a Bad Habit
- 3. Let Go of Past Drama
- Tackle Projects You've Been Putting Off
- 5. Build Positive Relationships

- 6. Begin Healing Past Trauma
- 7. Make Gratitude a Priority
- 8. Kick Negative Thoughts to the Curb
- 9. Pick Up a New Hobby
- 10. Change Your Perspectives

## Featured Member

### Pastor Ralph Baumbach

March 13 marks the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday of Pastor Ralph Baumbach, founding pastor of St. John's. He is the eldest living charter member.



Pastor Baumbach, Wilma and their family arrived in Waukesha in August of 1962 accepting the call to serve St. John's, conducting its first service in October of 1962 with 220 in attendance. In 1972 Pastor Baumbach resigned to become assistant to the bishop in Janesville.

Pastor Baumbach gave to St. John's gifts of spiritual growth, leadership and faithfulness. Wilma shared her gift of music as an active choir member and director for many years. She was a caring partner in ministry. We share with Ralph and his family our heartfelt sympathy in the death of Wilma in June. May they be blessed with fond memories of the wonderful woman she was.

During a recent conversation with Ralph, we were reminiscing about the years at St. John's and he shared this comment "OH......THE MEMORIES, THE LOVE, THE INCREDIBLE BLESSINGS", we share these with him also.

### Bring Joy Through Education by Mary Beth Gubbins

Yes! Bring joy and hope to a child in El Salvador through the gift of education! It is proven that sponsored children are more likely to continue their education if they have sponsors to help them financially and to pray for them. Staying in school can be a challenge for many reasons. Many families can not afford the school fees, some need their children to work to help support the family and some are sadly influenced by the gangs. Keeping these children in school is their only hope for a better future. You can directly help by sponsoring a child or by donating to the Education for Life Scholarship Program. Either is a blessing! Shown below are the new students for 2021. Please consider being a part of this special partnership. Thank you!



Gabriela Azucena Flores Miranda

Grade: 5th

Scholarship: \$150

Wendy Elizabeth Fuentes Vasquez Grade: 8<sup>th</sup> Scholarship: \$275





Juan Rodrigo Ramos Henriquez

Grade: 7th

Scholarship: \$275

Juan Ramon Landaverde Grade: 5K

Scholarship: \$150





Maria Daniela Funez Elias

Grade: 8<sup>th</sup>

Scholarship: \$275

