



413 E. Madison St., Waterloo, WI 53594

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APRIL 2023

OUR MISSION

Christ is committed to us, so *through* him
we commit to connect families *to* him
through excellence in education
...for learning, for life, forever.



APRIL 2023

Grace Overflows

It is even more certain that God's grace, and the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many! Romans 5:15b

The Price of Love

“The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it” (Mt 13). As far as we know, Patrick of Ireland had been a slave in Ireland before escaping to Christian England, where he became a Christian priest and then a missionary to the same Irish, who had enslaved and mistreated him. Who returns to evangelize those who were his persecutors and tormentors? Only someone who knows the worth of the redemption that the Lord paid on his own behalf. Such a one must share the tremendous message of indefatigable love shown to him to those who showed him no love. The risk and price cannot be reckoned in human terms, or the price would never be paid. It is too costly. The price can only be paid where God's reckoning is used to determine the price. Our heavenly Father was willing that the full price should come from His true and only Son.

We often take the pearl of great price to be the Savior; as though, if we could put down a sufficient price, we could buy the field and then possess our salvation. Then we could say, “Lord, look at how much I did for you. What a great price I was willing to risk for you. See how much I love you.” Fortunately, the pearl of great price is you, not Jesus. Jesus is the merchant who is willing to risk everything to buy the field and to possess the pearl. He is willing to spend everything, even Himself to possess it. Our claims to the passion of our love and our willingness to follow Him become ludicrous in the face of His passionate love for us. Look at the difference in those loves. Of course, if we loved Him, He would be worth our love. Absolutely. But are we worthy of His love for us? Never. Ask an unattractive man, who has won the love of a fabulously beautiful woman, if she is worth it. Of course she is! That calculation makes sense. But we suspect the fabulously beautiful woman of some fault if she wins the love of an unattractive man. He is worth being loved by her? We doubt it.

The beauty of divine holiness is at stake in His loving of us. We continually claim our love of Him: “Lord, Thee I love with all my heart!” This is a thing which is most certainly owed to Him by us. He is worthy of our love. Yet, we withhold it time and again, in our thoughts, words, and acts. The remarkable thing is that though we constantly abandon Him, He never abandons us. Though we have come to love other persons, our money, our power, our home, or our hobby more than Him, He never ceases to love us. He never ceases to seek and to save the lost ([Lk 19:10](#)). We pass Him by, and He reaches out to us. We proudly point out our sufficiency without Him, and He humbly begs us to return to Him. We flee to other loves, He chases us to wherever those counterfeits lead us, proving His love for us at every turn. We play hard to get. He gets us the hard way: by suffering and dying. The most fabulous beauty of holiness has been offered for us. That is love. He, who is love, has paid the price to the utmost.

Memorial Moment devotion, Rev. Dr. Scott Murray

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Quick Notes

Sunshine Committee will meet Tuesday, April 4, in the fellowship hall at 5:30pm. We plan to send Easter cards to shut-ins. We hope you can join us as the Bible study has been moved to the second Tuesday of the month. Please join us.

LWMS will meet Tuesday, April 18. The meeting will be in the fellowship hall beginning at 6:30pm.

LWMS Capitol Circuit Spring Rally

The spring rally will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel. The address is 220 W. Gilman St. Madison, WI. The rally will begin with registration starting at 8:30am. Opening devotion will be at 9am. Following the business meeting, there will be a presentation titled "Taking Christ Light to Campus" by Pastor Jon Bilitz of WI Lutheran Chapel.

Dorcas Society will be meeting on April 26, at 12:30pm for their luncheon at the Barrell Inn in Marshall. The meeting will follow at 2pm.

Monthly Newsletter Articles Due

- * All articles for the May Monthly Newsletter are due in the office by **April 14!**
- * Email your article to: office@stjohnwaterloo.com.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries list can be picked up in the tract rack, located in the church narthex.

Elder Communion Service

Due to popular demand, we will be returning the "Elder Communion Service" on the first Wednesday of the month, at 3:45pm, starting May 3. During the school year, especially, do not come before 3:30pm, so as to not interfere with the picking up of our St. John students.

Easter Worship

Holy Week Worship:

Palm Sunday	April 2	K-8 Palm Processional 10:30am service
Maundy Thursday	April 6	4pm and 7pm (with communion)
Good Friday	April 7	4pm and 7pm (no communion)
Easter Sunday	April 9	6:30am—Early Service 7:45am—Easter Breakfast 9am—Festival Worship



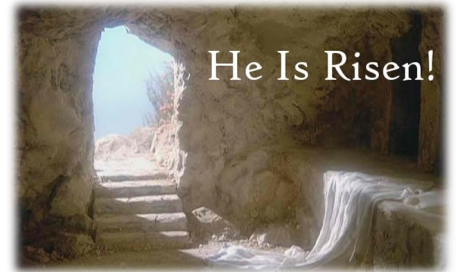
Easter Breakfast

We are looking for people that would be willing to make baked goods this year for the Easter breakfast. If you would love to contribute, please have the baked goods in the fellowship hall the night before the Easter breakfast (Saturday, April 8). This will allow enough time to get other baked goods, if none are contributed. The menu this year will be pancakes, sausage patties, fruit, hashbrowns, Crave's cheese curds and rope cheese, and hopefully some baked goods! If anyone would like to help out with Easter breakfast please reach out to Tony Bosnak: 920-630-0022 or tonyb29206@gmail.com.



Living Tomb

There are many people in Waterloo who are unchurched and have no understanding of the love of Christ in their lives. Volunteering to “guard the tomb” is a unique and wonderful way that we can share the gospel, or good news, of Christ to the people in or traveling through Waterloo! It is a visual reminder to our community of this special holiday. It is only a 3 hour shift, and many who have volunteered in the past continue to do so, but we have a lot of spots available for teams or families. We only ask that we don't have young people guarding the tomb without an adult. We want this to be a fun, yet safe way to show God's love to people who don't know Him, and to remind those who do believe-of the joy of God's promise - fulfilled!



Movie Night



Starting April 19, Wednesday will be movie night here at church! Every third Wednesday of the month the Encouragement Committee will be showing a movie. On May 17, we will serve snacks and drinks starting at 5:30pm. The movie will start promptly at 6pm. After the first Wednesday showing we will mix it up and the snack/food choices will change for every movie night. Come for fellowship, come for the movie, or just come to spend time with your fellow Christian brothers and sisters!

What's Coming to OWLS

Ever wonder why a communist country like Vietnam is allowing WELS to build a Seminary there? Hear about it at our next OWLS meeting on April 18th at St John Lutheran Church (Pastor Allen Tetzlaff) of Ixonia (1.3 miles south on County Rd F). Rev Paul Prange will bring a "Vietnam Update" along with photos of the new seminary building. As always, the meeting starts at 1:30, is handicap accessible, lasts about two hours, and is followed by treats and time to socialize. **LOOKING AHEAD**, we will be ending our current season with the May 16th OWLS meeting at St Paul's (Pastor Andrew Meyer) in Marshall with the topic, "World Mission Expansion". Rev Andrew Ewings will have the latest on the surprising WELS outreach opportunities in Africa, Asia and elsewhere. WELS and ELS people in our congregations who are retired and/or 55+ years are encouraged to become members, and guests are especially welcome. Please email dplocher@msn.com or call 920-478-7337 for more information about the Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors. Also on the agenda for the May 16th meeting will be **OFFICER ELECTIONS**. The positions of vice-president and treasurer need to be filled. Due to advancing age and ability to get around Dave and Naomi are stepping down. Nominations will be open to members of the Rock River Area Chapter 64 for the offices of vice-president and treasurer. Both are two-year terms. Please consider volunteering to serve Christ and his people in this way.



July—February 2023 Financial Report

Per the church and school auditors, and in an effort to be more transparent, efficient, and good managers with the Lord's resources, the books are in the process of being consolidated. 3K/4K expenses are included in preparation for the new fiscal budget.

Church Operating Income	295,256.69	School Operating Income	476,821.44	
Church Operating Expenses	(358,226.17)	School Operating Expenses	(420,023.62)	
Church Transfer	<u>5,669.95</u>	School Transfer	<u>5,790.15</u>	
Balance	(68,639.43)	Balance	51,007.67	
Remaining Balance:	School refurbishing	\$10,877.87	3K/4K preschool	\$3,234.01

"God so loved the world so that he gave...thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!" John 3:16, 2 Cor. 9:15

Twice is Nice

Shop

Easter items will go on 50% off beginning Monday, April 3. Spring/summer clothes have been on the sales floor since the end of March! It's time to get serious (and by that, get some serious bargains) toward an updated warm weather wardrobe. We will be closed Good Friday.

Donate!

Purging this spring? Bring donations to the door on the backside of the store from 10am-3:30pm any day we are open. Did you know? Twice is Nice wants your used or unwanted candles and wax. The season for campfire starters is coming soon, and we have volunteers who make 1000s of firestarters with your used wax! Throw your wax into its own box or bag and donate it at the back door too. Questions? Call 920-674-6868, ask for the day manager.



February 14, 2023 Church Council Highlights

Executive Board: All boards meetings will now be the second Tuesday of each month and the council meeting will now be the third Tuesday of each month.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Esmay is taking a class. Pastor Adomeit requested vacation time for specific weeks. He also asked for permission to start an elder service.

Membership Changes In: None.

Membership Changes Out:

- Mark and Wanda Eternick, Marcella Eternick to St. Paul's Lake Mills

Board of Christian Education: Discussion of resignations and meetings to follow.

Properties Board: Jeff Sellnow presented the bids for refurbishing the church, including carpet, acoustics, etc.

Ministry Support Board: There are problems with the piano in the balcony.

Next meeting is on Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30pm.

St. John Lutheran Church and School

413 E. Madison St., Waterloo, WI 53594

Phone: 920-478-2707

Website: www.stjohnwaterloo.com

Email: office@stjohnwaterloo.com

Pastors

Pastor Chris Esmay
office: 920-478-2707 ext. 301
cell: 785-409-0634

Pastor Jim Adomeit
office: 920-478-2707 ext. 302
home: 920-478-2436
cell: 920-463-0339

Faculty

Daniel Busch - Principal & 7-8
Sophia Dorn - Grades 5-6
Allan Boeder - Grades 3-4

Tara Winecke - Grades 1-2
Erin Krebs - Kindergarten
Kerri Esmay - Director & 3K/4K
Emily Brusenbach - 3K/4K

Staff

Whitney Baumann - Administrative Assistant
Karla Haley - Office Assistant

John Skalitzky - Custodian
Shari Kiesow - Head Chef

2022-2023 Church Council & Board Members

Congregational Officers (Executive Board)	President	- Eric Haley	920-988-8389
	Vice President	- Ron Draeger	920-478-3868
	Treasurer	- Steve Leistico	920-988-3557
	Secretary	- Don Gay	920-253-8775
Member Care Board:	Chairman	- Bob Topel	920-988-3230
Properties Board:	Chairman	- Jeff Sellnow	920-988-8845
Ministries Support Board:	Chairman	- Jonathan Schoemann	920-478-2722
Board of Education:	Chairman	- Tony Bosnak	920-630-0022
Lakeside General Board:	Members	- Ryan Skalitzky	608-513-6515
		- Todd Schleef	920-285-4221
		- Larry Holzhueter	920-285-3963