

St. John Lutheran Church ELCA
120500 County Road N
Edgar, Wisconsin 54426
Pastor Gail Sowell

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Secretary Hours: M-F, 9am-1pm
Office Phone: 715-352-2524

April 21, 2024
Easter 4

Pastor's cell: 715-352-2492
(also for Pastoral emergencies)
Office Hrs: T-F, 9am-1pm
and by appointment

Welcome to St. John ELCA



We're glad you chose to worship with us this morning!

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep.

So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away.

Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.

The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—

John 10: 11—14

St. John/St. Stephen Lutheran Parish ELCA, Mission Statement:

*"Saints united to be the body of Christ in the world, freed by grace to
live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully."*

Other Sheep . . .

*I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.
I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.
—John 10.16*

*We think we're being open-minded
when we include "all of us," Protestant and Catholic,
Orthodox and Coptic, as if we see the whole landscape.
But the pasture and the Shepherd are far greater than that.
Believer, unbeliever and other-believer alike
are all shepherded, each in their own language.
And still there are more, and more other, sheep.
Like, well, sheep.
Do not the deer and otter, whale and fungus
follow the Shepherd faithfully?
Is not the bird migrating its continents shepherded as well?
Christ is not the partisan figurehead of a religion,
Christ is the infinite embodied grace of God,
the Shepherd of all Creation,
who leads rivers to the sea and winter into spring
and each of us into life.
So there are still other, and more "other," sheep.
For Copernicus isn't done with us yet:
we admit the sun doesn't revolve around the earth,
but we still think God does.
No, little one: we are in a small corner.
Yet even the far galaxies,
the trillion trillions of stars and their planets,
and yes, their doubtless forms of life,
are also under the calm eye of the Shepherd,
and follow the Shepherd's voice.
All of us, Baptist and Sufi, fish, bug and bird,
earthling and alien, village and nebula, all are one flock. One.
And, behold, even on the remotest planet
in the farthest flung galaxy—like ours—
or the most desolate spot in a life like yours,
under the loving gaze of the Shepherd who seeks out the one,
there is no one who is not at the center.*

*Deep Blessings,
Pastor Steve*

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Unfolding Light
www.unfoldinglight.net

St. John Lutheran Church, ELCA Pastor Gail Sowell

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*Joint Mission Statement: Saints united to be the body of Christ in the world,
freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.*

Keeping in Touch, April 21, 2024

THIS WEEK

Monday, April 22—Pastor Gail's day off. She's available for emergencies, otherwise leave a message with Rose, or on the answering machine.

Wednesday, April 24, from 1-3pm—Senior Edgar Community Event. BINGO at St. Stephen. If you have any questions, or need a ride, please feel free to call Mark @ (715)348-5802 OR Colleen @ (715)571-8277.

Saturday, April 27 from 9am-11am—Confirmation Class with Pastor Gail, for those being Confirmed on Pentecost this year, May 19th. Class is at St. John.

Sunday, April 28—QUARTERLY MEETING! Please plan to support St. John with your presence. Your input is valued

Prayer Concerns

Mike Sebald—Continues to recover well at home.

Bev Umnus—healing of her right eye/protection of her eyesight.

Barb Borchardt—Continuing health concerns .

Winona—12-year-old granddaughter of Eugene & Millie Borchardt(St. Stephen) is in Children's Hospital in Milwaukee with multiple cancers.



Lorraine Martyn has a NEW ADDRESS:

Copperleaf Assisted Living Center

Lorraine Martyn

663 Maratech Ave.

Marathon, WI 54448

Last Week:

April 14 Attendance: 69

Offering: \$1055.00

Sincere apologies from the Secretary . . .

Tim Raleigh and **Gary Schacht** were Honorary Pall Bearers for Kurt Umnus Jr. on Saturday. There were errors on the back of Kurt's funeral bulletin.



The **EXECUTIVE JOINT COUNCIL** meeting of St. John & St. Stephen has been **moved** to **Tuesday, April 30th at 5:30pm.**

The **TRANSITION TEAMS** from both congregations are invited/encouraged to attend.

Our TRANSITION TEAM: *Cindy Manecke, Marianne Mueller, Shirley Rosien, Jayne Tackes, and Mary Jo Werner*



Collection Box in Narthex

WOMEN of St. John **SPRING** Community Missions Projects—There is a box in the Narthex to receive your donations to help support St. Stephen's Community BINGO games by providing **PRIZES**. These should be fun, simple items (less than \$5). Also, your donations for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits/Baby Care Kits can be placed in this box as well. *If you have ideas/suggestions for other outreach opportunities, please talk to Shirley Rosien or Pam Stahel.*