

St. John/St. Stephen Lutheran Parish 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, February 21, 2021

Prayer Concerns

Ray & Wendy Chojowski —(Wendy is Mark Bargender's sister) their home was a total loss following a fire.

Scott Baeseman—in rehab following cancer surgery.

Judy Totzke—Recovery from hip replacement surgery.

Ann Bonsall—Living with chronic, severe back pain.



GIVING STATEMENTS are in your mailboxes!

**Praise
GOD!**

Last Sunday when it was bitter cold outside, we were able to worship in warm comfort due to the dedicated time & effort of Steve Robers! He even maintained a good, even pleasant, attitude while he invested many hours of his time. *You have our sincere WARM thanks Steve!*

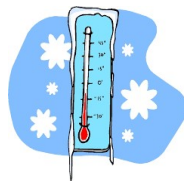


After spending time UP on a ladder, and DOWN on his knees, smoke coming from the chimney was a pleasant sight indeed!

Last Sunday (February 14, 2021)

On-site attendance: 19

Offering: \$525.00



This Week at a Glance

Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 6pm—MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE
at St. John. NO Soup Supper.

First Communion Sunday 2021



A special welcome to our First Communicants:
Paxton Mueller and Paige Strasser and their families,
sponsors and friends

Paige Kristine Strasser
Baptized: 2-15-2010

Parents: Chris & Lana Strasser
Sponsors: Lynn Czech, Sheila Brewster

Paxton Mitchell Mueller
Baptized: 2-21-2010

Parents: Mitchell & Morgan Mueller
Sponsors: Matthew Mueller, Gina Knetter, Travis Knetter

In preparing to receive their first communion, these young people have learned about the origins of the sacrament we call The Lord's Supper:

- The story of Moses, and the Passover of the angel of death,
- God's command that the chosen people celebrate their deliverance from slavery every year,
- Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, and his command to *remember him* when they gathered.

We've also talked about how important it is to know our sins are forgiven each and every time we repent of them, and how receiving the Lord's Supper—the *eucharist*, or *thanksgiving meal*—helps us *feel* that forgiveness. As we receive, we remember that our Lord Jesus *died* to give us this sacrament.

Families, friends and the whole congregation of St. John:

- We can surround these young people with love and support as they continue to grow in faith.
- We can help them understand that faith doesn't make *us* perfect; it's *God's love* that's perfect.
- We can pray for them as they mature along with the rest of us as part of the body of Christ.

Paige and Paxton, the church rejoices to welcome you to the Lord's Table, to receive with us his body and blood, given and shed *for you*.

