



# PRAIRIE FAITH COMPANION

Volume 24 Issue 5  
May 2024

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Check Out the  
PFSM Website at  
[www.prairiefaith.com](http://www.prairiefaith.com)



The Prairie Faith parish nurse ministry will continue to receive donations throughout May to help complete a remodeling project for Kristi and Matt Morton's home to make their bathroom accessible for Kristi to be able to shower independently—currently Matt has to be at home to physically lift Kristi from her wheelchair to the shower. Our goal is \$2,100, to supplement funds provided by Kristi's family and funding from a Lutheran Disaster Response grant. Anyone in the community is invited to contribute. Checks may be made out to Prairie Faith Parish Nurse Ministry and mailed to Prairie Faith Shared Ministry, 338 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., WaKeeney.

**Thank you in advance for your support!**

*(Please see the April 2024 Parish Nurse News for more information about this project.)*

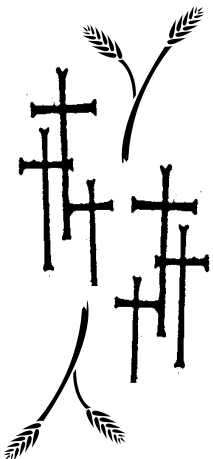
Dear God, Thank you for the gift of motherhood. Thank you for the blessing it is to be called "Mom." Thank you for the good plans you have in store for those who still wait to be a Mom. Thank you for the numerous spiritual children you have given to so many "spiritual moms" and mentors. We pray that you would fill this day with favor and grace as we honor Moms all around our nation.

We ask for comfort for those who are grieving loss and heartache, especially on this day. We ask for strength for those who wait for children to come back home. We ask for healing for those who have been hurt by relationships that were intended to be loving and nurturing. We ask for faith for those who will someday be Moms, who find themselves on a journey that seems so hard. We ask for great encouragement and grace to cover those who have made a brave and loving choice for adoption. We ask for incredible provision and care over every single parent mom who works so hard on behalf of her children. We ask that you would remind many of those who, though they do not have "physical" children, have the gift of being amazing hope-bringers to many spiritual children they've been blessed to nurture through these years.

God, thank you, for the gift of life. Thank you that your heart is for us, and that you are with us, in all our unique journeys and pathways. Thank you that you are Sovereign over every part of our lives. Thank you that your ways are perfect and you make our footsteps secure. Today we pray for refreshing, for joy, for grace, for wisdom, for great peace...for all moms, for moms to be, and for women who nurture and lead. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

*Debbie McDaniel*

**SUNDAY, MAY 12**



It is central in the biblical tradition that God's love for his people should not be forgotten. It should remain with us in the present. When everything is dark, when we are surrounded by despairing voices, when we do not see any exits, then we can find salvation in a remembered love, a love that is not simply a wistful recollection of a bygone past, but a living force that sustains us in the present. Through memory, love transcends the limits of time and offers hope at any moment of our lives.

Henri Nouwen

*"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness."*

*Lamentations 3: 21-23 (NIV)*

*The mission of Prairie Faith Shared Ministry is to gather in God's name, share ideas & concerns, and actively shape the future of spiritual growth for our member congregations. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and through ordained and lay leadership, we offer this ministry to serve Christ in our communities.*



Prairie Faith Shared Ministry  
 Pastor Jon Anderson  
 Church Office Location:  
 338 N 7th Street  
 WaKeeney, KS 67672

Phone—(785) 743-2005  
 Email - blc1@ruraltel.net  
 www.prairiefaith.com

### PFSM Council Members and Phone Numbers

- Katie Dreiling, St. John,.....
  - Robert Schonthaler, St. John, President.....
  - Richard Jensen, Bethlehem, Treasurer.....
  - Margaret Schmitt, Bethlehem.....
  - Kathleen Fabrizius, Emanuel, Secretary.....
- Please Call the Church Office at 785-743-2005

### PFSM Council February Meeting

The February 6, 2024 meeting of Prairie Faith Shared Ministry Council was held at Bethlehem Church library in WaKeeney.

The following churches and representatives were in attendance: Bethlehem – Richard Jensen, Margaret Schmitt; St. John – Bob Schonthaler; Emanuel –Kathleen Fabrizius. Also in attendance was Pastor Jon Anderson. Called to order by President Bob. Devotions were given by Richard. An agenda, minutes and financial packet was given to all attendees. Minutes from the December 12, 2023 meeting were accepted as presented.

Richard gave the report on the financial packet. Treasurers report was approved as presented.

Pastor Jon reported that Lenten Season is starting, February 14 is Ash Wednesday and there will be a service at BLC at 6 p.m. and St. John’s at 8 p.m. Maundy Thursday services will be held at BLC at 6 p.m. and St. John’s at 8 p.m. Pastor Jon will be taking vacation beginning April 6<sup>th</sup> and he suggested that a combined service be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> with Ethan Feistner filling the pulpit. The service will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> at BLC at 10:30 with potluck following. The new Covenant and budget was passed at all congregational meetings. Next step is to appoint a call committee from all three churches and then the Synod will come and do an orientation. After that the profile will need to be put together about PFSM, the churches and the communities. Each church needs to be asked for volunteers to serve on Call Committee, possibly 2 from each church and an alternate.

Pastor Jon would also like to host a site for discussion on what we want in a new bishop as the current Bishop is retiring in 2025.

The call process was discussed.

Nancy submitted a written report for the Parish Nurse to the council. Please give Nancy any feedback or ideas on the Parish Nurse program.

Communications: A thank you note was received from Pastor Jon.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Richard presented a proposal for an office professional. A contract position would be created to move Gail into a more permanent position. The contract would be just to manage the office. If Gail is gone and she finds someone to take those duties it would be paid out of the contract wage we pay Gail. PFSM agreed to do the contract with Gail for Office Management.

Next meeting will be April 9th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Library and Kathleen will have devotions.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.


Kathleen Fabrizius, Secretary

Pastor Jon & Bethlehem Lutheran Church:  
 Address: 338 N. 7th St.  
 WaKeeney, KS 67672  
 Office Phone: (785) 743-2005  
 Cell Phone: Please Call Office  
 Pastor E-mail: pjzionem@yahoo.com  
 Office E-mail: blc1@ruraltel.net

St. John Church:  
 Address: 394 St. John-St. Andrew Road  
 Ellis, KS 67637  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171  
 Ellis, KS 67637  
 SJ Office Phone: (785) 726-3207  
 PF Office Phone: (785) 743-2005

Emanuel Lutheran Church:  
 Address: 27037 Hwy 147  
 Ogallah, KS 67656  
 (7 Miles South of Ogallah I-70 Exit 135)  
 Mailing Address: c/o Kathleen Fabrizius  
 32086 S Rd.  
 Ogallah, KS 67656  
 PF Office Phone: (785)-743-2005

Parish Nurse—Nancy Bollig, BSN, RN  
 Address: 338 N 7th Street  
 WaKeeney, KS 67672  
 Office Phone: (785)743-2005  
 Cell Phone: Please Call Office  
 E-mail: parishnurse@ruraltel.net



**Pastor Jon is available by appointment.**  
**To get in touch with Pastor Jon, please call his cell phone or the church office.**



## Bethlehem

Sunday Worship—9:00 a.m.  
 Mid-Week School, Wed @ 6:00 p.m.  
 (during public school year)  
 Office: 743-2005  
 (Please leave a message)

## Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship/Communion — 9:00 a.m.  
 (Every 1st & 3rd Sundays)

May 5—Pastor Emer. Randy Gibbs  
May 19—Pastor Shelly Klingensmith

### Volunteers for May

Worship/Communion begins at 9:00 a.m.

May 5—Pastor Jon Anderson  
 Organist/Pianist—Chris Trogstad  
 Lector—Laura Anderson  
 Head Usher—Sarah Gibbs  
 Acolyte—Elias Hille

May 12—Pastor Jon Anderson  
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!  
 Organist/Pianist—Mary Cunningham  
 Lector—Lisa Garrett  
 Head Usher—Richard Jensen  
 Acolyte—Gage Garrett

May 19—Pastor Jon Anderson  
CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION  
 Organist/Pianist—Laura Anderson  
 Lector—Carolyn Riggs  
 Head Usher—Laurita Burbach  
 Acolyte—Thaddeous Albers

May 26—Pastor Jon Anderson  
 Organist/Pianist—Cindy Level  
 Lector—Bridget Cook  
 Head Usher—Bridget Cook  
 Acolyte—Levi Conness



**BLC Church mowing opportunities  
 are available!**

**Please see Volunteer board for  
 sign-up sheet.**

**THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!**

### St. John

### Volunteers for May

Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.  
 Communion Every 1st & 3rd Sundays  
 Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. during the School Year

May 5—Pastor Jon Anderson  
 Greeter—Bee McElroy  
 Lector—Dennis Keller  
 Communion—Bob & Vonda Ackerman  
 Organist—Katie Dreiling  
 Sound—Lyle Johnston

May 12—Pastor Jon Anderson  
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!  
GRADUATION & CONFIRMATION RECEPTION~10:00 a.m.  
 Greeter—Terry Kortan  
 Lector—Vonda Ackerman  
 Communion—Brenda Lucas & Rodger Fischer  
 Organist—Katie Dreiling  
 Sound—Lyle Johnston

May 19—Pastor Jon Anderson  
 Greeter—Bill Dietz  
 Lector—Terry Kortan  
 Communion—Dennis Keller & Darrell Keller  
 Organist—Katie Dreiling  
 Sound—Lyle Johnston

May 26—Pastor Jon Anderson  
 Greeter—Rodger Fischer  
 Lector—Josh Keller  
 Organist—Katie Dreiling  
 Sound—Lyle Johnston



### CHURCH CLEAN UP

Saturday, May 4th  
 at 10:00 a.m.

Any & All help is very  
 much appreciated!  
**THANKS!!**

To All who selflessly serve Prairie  
 Faith, our Congregations and  
 Communities...THANK YOU!!!

*You're*  
**amazing!**



# FROM THE PASTOR

## **1 Corinthians 5:8a**

“Therefore, let us celebrate the festival...”

In the month of May, there is much to celebrate, and many of the celebrations start with the letter “M”. We celebrate milestones-confirmations at Bethlehem and St. John, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, and college graduations. We celebrate mothers on May 12<sup>th</sup> (the same day we celebrate three confirmations at St. John). And on May 27<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Memorial Day, when we remember with thanksgiving the lives of our beloved friends and relatives who have gone before us and are at rest, especially those who fought and died in service to our country. The church year includes other celebrations this month that don’t start with “M”-on May 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Jesus’ ascension into heaven; on May 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the Church (the same day we celebrate a combined baptism and confirmation at Bethlehem). And the following Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the wonder and mystery (another “M” word!) of the Holy Trinity. May is a month filled with celebrations and festivals-I forgot to mention that students (and teachers!) will be celebrating the end of school! Each Sunday in May, no matter what else is going on or being celebrated, we will be celebrating the presence of God among us in Word and Sacrament, giving us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. All of these celebrations draw us to thank God-to thank God that He has brought people to important milestones; that He has given us mothers to love and nurture us; and people whose memories we cherish. It’s May-it’s time to celebrate and rejoice, and give thanks to God.

Pastor Jon





# Midweek at Bethlehem

Midweek Dismissed for the School Year on Wednesday, April 24.  
Have a Great Summer!!

If you would like information about Bethlehem's Midweek Program or any other Youth Education Program, please call the church office at 785-743-2005 and we will put you in touch with Pastor Jon or a Midweek Youth Education Representative.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION



Sunday, May 19 at  
9:00 a.m. Worship.  
Congratulations  
Maura Albers!



Congratulations to  
All Bethlehem's 2024  
Graduates!

May God guide your  
footsteps, your dreams be  
fulfilled and your future  
hold all that you hope!



## Sunday School/Confirmation at St. John

Final Sunday School for the School Year at St. John  
will be Sunday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m.  
Have a Great Summer!!

If you would like information about St. John's Sunday School Program or any other Youth Education Program, please call the church office at 785-743-2005 and we will put you in touch with a St. John Youth Education representative.

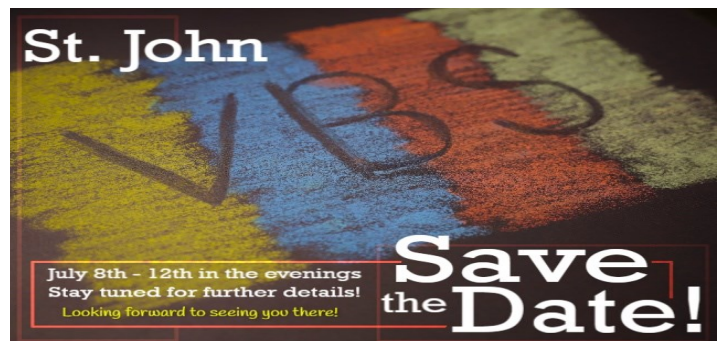
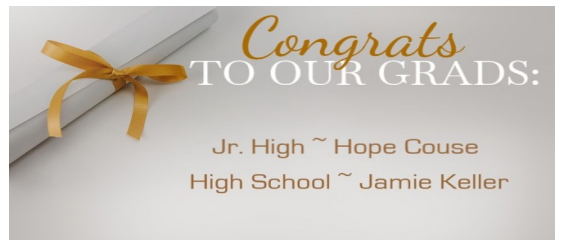
### GRADUATION AND CONFIRMATION RECEPTION

Sunday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Hope Couse, Korbyn Kroeger  
Raylen Morton





### Bethlehem

1 Macy Mattheyer  
 1 Gage Garrett  
 2 Laura Anderson  
 2 Lisa Garrett  
 3 Laverne Schoenthaler  
 5 Kerah Deines  
 5 Hazel Weber  
 6 Abby Benisch  
 9 Amy Cook  
 9 Lillian Large  
 10 Paul Schieferecke  
 13 Nancy Dietz  
 14 Jeremiah Burbach  
 18 Linzey Larson  
 19 Connie Hafliger  
 19 Brendan Karnes  
 20 Christi Sumner  
 21 Shawn Deines  
 25 Megan Ghumm  
 29 Brandon Katt  
 30 Levi Conness

### St. John



1 Alexa Armbrister  
 1 Mark Keller  
 3 Meredith Sherfick  
 4 Thomas Wanker  
 5 Charlie Keller  
 6 Rachel Keller  
 7 Jeff Keller  
 13 Andrea Lucas  
 15 Samantha McElroy  
 15 Macy Keller  
 18 Ian Mabb  
 20 Jayden Keller  
 22 Adam Armbrister  
 22 Dennis Keller  
 22 Tom McClelland  
 24 Emily Lucas  
 24 Joe Handley  
 29 Vonda Ackerman  
 30 Wahnetta Mills  
 31 Kristi Morton

### Wedding Anniversaries

2 Zac & Melissa Gibbs - Bethlehem  
 5 Arnold & Karen Sauer – St. John  
 9 Dennis & Connie Keller – St. John  
 12 Tim & Sue Benisch – Bethlehem  
 12 William & Donna Deines –  
 17 Chris & Melissa Nicholas – St. John  
 18 Gina & Patrick Deaver- Bethlehem  
 25 Richard & Gail Jensen– Bethlehem  
 27 Melvin & Mary Keller – St. John  
 30 Rick & Leta Deines - Bethlehem  
 31 Dave & Lucy Conness - Bethlehem  
 31 Dean & Sherry Papes - Bethlehem





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Tuesday, April 24 was the final PFSM Bible Study for Spring/Summer. PFSM Bible Study will reconvene in the Fall. Have a Great Summer!</p>			1 <i>May Day</i>	2 <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	3	4 10:00a St. John Church Cleanup
<p>5 <b>6th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00a BLC Communion 9:00a Em Communion 10:00a SJ Sunday School Final SS of the School Year 11:00a SJ Communion</p>	6 2:00p BLC WELCA Bible Study 4:00p Yoga @ Library	7	8 6:30p BLC Council Mtg.	9 <b>Ascension Day</b>	10	11
<p>12 <b>7th Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> <b>TCHS Graduation Day</b> 9:00a BLC Communion 10:00a SJ Reception 11:00a SJ Confirmation w/Communion</p>	13 4:00p Yoga @ Library 7:00p SJ Council Meeting	14	15	16 1:00p WaKeeney LTC Communion <i>WaKeeney ~ Last Day of School</i>	17	18
<p>19 <b>Day of Pentecost</b> 9:00a Em Communion 9:00a BLC Communion 9:00a BLC Baptism &amp; Confirmation of Maura Albers 11:00a SJ Communion</p>	20 11:00a BLC Worship at WaKeeney LTC 4:00p Yoga @ Library	21	22	23	24 <b>PFSM June Newsletter Deadline</b> 	25
<p>26 <b>Trinity Sunday</b> <b>1st Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00a BLC Communion 11:00a SJ Worship</p>	27 <b>Memorial Day Services</b> <b>9:00a Brief Service at St. John Cemetery</b> <b>9:00a WaKeeney City Cemetery</b> <b>10:00a Veterans' Cemetery in WaKeeney</b>	28	29	30 1:00p WaKeeney Senior Apt. Communion	31 	

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*Heavenly Father*

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the example of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with your strength and peace. Watch over those who are currently serving in our armed forces and keep them safe. Grant their families peace and strength. May we also remember and cherish the memories of our friends and loved ones who have gone before us. We pray through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Area Services*

CITY OF WAKEENEY: SERVICE AT CITY CEMETERY AT 9:00 A.M.

WAKEENEY VETERANS' CEMETERY : SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN CEMETERY : BRIEF SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.



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***May all your people from all the ends  
of Earth be gathered into one in you.***

Bethlehem Lutheran  
WaKeeney, KS

Emanuel Lutheran  
Rural Ogallah, KS

St. John Lutheran Church  
North of Ellis, KS

*Prairie Faith Companion*  
*The monthly newsletter for members and friends of*  
*Prairie Faith Shared Ministry*