



Saron United Church of Christ  
W3830 County Road J Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

# The Tidings

## April—2025

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“after the comma”

### Casseroles

Sometimes it's all in the name.

Legend has it that in the Krueger household many years ago, a major discussion revolved around the preparation and serving of casseroles. You may hear more about this in future messages, but needless to say it created a controversy which continues to this day. Let's look at the facts of the matter.

The definition of a casserole comes all the way back from the Greek term “kuathion” which means “little cup”. It then morphed into Latin as “casse” meaning “pan”. Eventually being spoken by eighteenth century English as the word “casserole” which named a dish of cooked rice with a meaty styled filling, then baked in the oven. Casseroles had a major resurgence in the twentieth century with the introduction of more processed foods and canned ingredients allowing the preparer a quick and convenient homemade style meal. Busy family life and lighter preparation time gave these meals a place in many a home. Seems pretty straightforward doesn't it?

When our daughters heard that Mom was making a casserole and it was being served for dinner...it was met with protests, hiding behind furniture, claims of “leaving home”, not hungry and even some tears! Why the drama? In later years, Brenda and I were able to determine the naming of anything as a casserole brought with it resistance and anguish based on the “mystery” of what was contained in said casserole(s). I added the plural because different recipes and ingredients would carry the same terror when called by the name.

Here is the rub on the question of casserole cuisine. When Brenda would put together one of these one pan style dishes-casserole carried with it a history of doubt, but if I claimed it was a “Hot Dish”, it would not carry the fear of “what's in it?” to the waiting hungry children sitting at the table. No resistance, no cries of anguish and punishment, just a “looks kinda good” commentary followed by spoons and forks dispersing the rations into their mouths.

What's in a name?

Hot dish from a commentary I found on the MasterClass.com website is described as the following (under the category of “Casserole”);

**Hotdish:** In this classically Midwestern preparation, the meat gets combined with some kind of canned soup (like cream of mushroom) and vegetables and then topped with a starch, like noodles or tater tots.

Hmmm sounds like a casserole to me. ☺

I know what you, my dear reader, are thinking...what is Pastor Dan rambling on about and what does this have to do with Church?

We many times are given a name for what we are. In our lifetimes we will also be given names or titles for what we do and who we are. In our lives as followers of Jesus Christ, we too take on the name, label or title with which others will claim to know us. We are called Christians and for many this title is a wonderful reflection of who we are. Unfortunately, as a whole, sometimes the world sees us differently. In a quote I found (AI generated) Mahatma Gandhi famously stated, "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians," expressing a preference for the teachings of Jesus over the actions and perceived hypocrisy of some Christians. He loved the teachings of Jesus Christ, especially the message of love, humility and service found in Christ's teachings.

We as children of the One God are siblings learning what our name is in how we live and love in the world. We have also been heirs to a legacy of our ancestral Christians who originally were classified as "the Way". Jesus Christ gave us the direction (parables and Beatitudes) by which we can learn, practice and teach to others.

We have the opportunity as church to continue serving others as the Way, following Jesus to reclaim and proclaim the high calling attested to Christians. This is our time to bring the best of ourselves into our lives in order to be servants to others in being present, loving and humble. We can call ourselves good, beloved, blessed, givers, friends, child of God, but my fervent wish is of us to be called Christian and in being so named, that we strive to live our lives in service, compassion and sacrifice in Christ's Way.

As we journey together in these weeks to the Cross and the Resurrection, we take on one more title. We are the Easter People, knowing our belief and faith carry with it not just thoughts, but the actions of God's Holy Love given for ALL, where none are left behind and all are welcomed. Yes, the Good News people! Spread the Word!

O Holy One by whom we are loved, may we reclaim the honor and brightness of our lived name in Christ, be steadfast in our compassion and reflect your light of love to shine for all the world...no matter what they call us, we know we are yours. Amen

Blessings!

Pastor Dan



On Sunday, April 6th, following the worship service there will be an **Open House** for the congregation to see the newly renovated Parsonage. Feel free to come and see all of the updates.

## Lenten & Holy Week Schedule

**Wednesday, March 26th**—Simple Supper @ 5:30 p.m. Hosted by the Senior Choir—Grilled Cheese & Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwiches. Service at 7:00 p.m. **Worship Color—Amber**

**Sunday, March 30th**—Worship @ 9:30 **Worship Color—Purple**

**Wednesday, April 2nd**—Simple Supper @ 5:30 p.m. Hosted by the Mission Team—Chili and Chili Dogs. Service at 7:00 p.m. **Worship Color—Black**

**Sunday, April 6th**—Worship @ 9:30 a.m. Communion **Worship Color White**

**Wednesday, April 9th**—Simple Supper @ 5:30 p.m. Hosted by the Sunday School—Pancakes. Service at 7:00 p.m. **Worship Color—Silver/Bronze/Gold**

**Sunday, April 13th (Palm Sunday)** - Worship @ 9:30 a.m. **Worship Color—All Colors**

**One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be dedicated.**

**Thursday, April 17th**—Maundy Thursday Seder Meal—5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

**Friday, April 18th**—Good Friday Worship 7:00 p.m. Communion will be served.

**Easter Sunday, April 20th**—7:00 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Worship Service—weather permitting. **Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.** Communion will be served at both services.



## Spring Cleaning of the Church Building and the Grounds

**Saturday, April 26th**

**8:00 a.m. until finished**

We need your help at the Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 26th to get the inside and outside of the church in shape for the upcoming spring and summer seasons. A list of the what needs to be done will be posted on the kiosk in the Narthex. If you can't make it on April 26th, but could complete one or more of the tasks ahead of that time, PLEASE sign off by the task(s) you have completed. Coffee, juice and donuts will be provided. Bring your work gloves and enjoy some fellowship while we work together!



## Confirmation, Sunday April 27th

The following young people will be Confirmed into the membership of Saron during worship on Sunday, April 27th. Please join in congratulating them as they take the next step in their faith journey.

Jackson Christy  
Kara Jankus  
Koralyn Kuzulka

Katelyn DeHart  
Danika Kaat



Thanks to Saron member Ralph Knuth for making the crosses that the Confirmands received.

## Grilled Smoked Pork Chop Dinner

Mark your calendars for the Annual Smoked Pork Chop Dinner on Thursday, May 1st. The choir will once again host the drive-through, pick-up dinner. The dinner will include a large grilled smoked pork chop, potatoes, a vegetable, and dessert for \$15.00. Pick-up will be held from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.



**Reservations are required** to allow more precise planning while limiting the number of reservations taken to keep things manageable. This event will be open to interested people from Saron as well as the surrounding areas.

We had such an amazing response to our request for the apple dessert, that we are again asking for volunteers to assist the choir by making the apple dessert in a 9" x- 13" pan. A sign-up sheet, with the recipe, will be posted at church, or inform your willingness when making reservations.

Dinner reservations can be made any time before Sunday, April 20th by:

Purchasing before/after the church service on April 6<sup>th</sup>, April 13<sup>th</sup>, or April 20<sup>th</sup>

Calling Joan Laack (920) 946-4652, and Judy Glander (920) 980-0748 on or before April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Profits will be used to continue redecorating various areas of the church. Profits from the past have been used to carpet, paint, and upgrade the upstairs Sunday School rooms.

Thank you for your support!

## REMINDER: Saron's Cornhole Tournament & Brat Fry

Saturday, March 29th

Laack's Hall

From 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Proceeds to help offset the Parsonage improvements



## An Update from Saron's Mission Team

### Thank You!

The Mission Team would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone that has recently supported the various mission opportunities we have presented to our congregation. Through your graciousness we have been able to provide the following (and more!):

- **Two hot cooked meals** for the warming shelter during the 2024/25 season. These meals benefited 58 people in January and 52 people in March.
- **50 goody bags for the homeless** to help fuel them and provide essential products during off-hours from the shelter.
- **An overflowing bin of hygiene products** for the homeless. This collection served roughly 11 local organizations and over 5,000 people!
- **Five volunteers each month** to serve a lunch at the Community Café.
- **Ongoing food donations** to support our local food pantry.

Whether it was your time, money, or just a little extra care, thank you for the support you have provided!

### Get Involved & Save the Date

Below are several opportunities for Saron members to serve the community in the name of Jesus. Please consider supporting one or more of these worthwhile projects.

**Immanuel UCC Food Pantry**— We encourage Saron members to continue to support this food pantry. Canned fruits and vegetables are the suggested food items to donate for April.

**Sheboygan Community Café**—Check the kiosk in the Narthex to sign up to help serve lunch at the Community Café in Sheboygan. Volunteers work from 10:30 AM—2:00 PM. Saron has committed to provide 5 volunteers on **April 10**.

**Bridge Builders**—Saron is committed to provide at least 8 volunteers for a one-day mission trip to help revitalize homes in a Milwaukee neighborhood. Saron members that participated in this mission project last year reported that it was very rewarding. This year's date is **Saturday, June 14**. Sign-up sheet will be posted closer to the event date.

**Saron Mission Team Meeting**—The Mission Team welcomes you to their next meeting on **Thursday, April 24th at 6 p.m.** Join us to discuss different mission opportunities and how we can give back to our community.

**Mission Information continued:**

**Support the Mission Challenge!**

Please record any volunteer time by completing the online form using the QR code or submitting a paper copy that can be found on the table in the Narthex. To date we have had 32 different volunteers step up to support our various missions. Our goal is to reach 80 volunteers in 2025. How can you support this challenge?



Member's of Saron's Mission Team are Sara Dassow, Darlene Gumm, Erin Gumm, Brian Gumm, Laura Gumm, Joan Laack, Kari Mooney and Barb Post. **Be alert for more opportunities to serve Christ in the future! If you are interested in serving on the mission team or have any suggestions or feedback please contact any of these people.**

Wyatt Richard Schmidt, son of Daniel and Crystal Schmidt was baptized on Sunday, March 9th.



Those who are homebound or in care centers: Marilyn Perronne (at home), Eugene Weiskopf (Sheboygan Community Center, on Cty Y) Shirley Schmidt (at Song Bird Pond), Sally Nohl (at Rocky Knoll), Vernon Reichert (Magnolia Trails at the Waterford), Gail Federwisch (Meadowview Nursing Home), Don Klemme (Sheboygan Senior Community) Virginia Karstaedt (Homebound)...



Eugene Rautmann would like to give a special thank you to the congregation for the card and plant he received for his Birthday. It was very much appreciated.

**We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Lou Menniart who died on February 25th, 2025. She was the Mother of Jeff and Barb and Grandmother to Emily Birenbaum & Matt Meinnert.....**



**TO UPCOMING GRADUATION**

If you or anyone in your family will be graduating this Spring from either High School, College, or any other school of higher learning please let the church know by calling Kathy in the church office (920-467-6202). We will want to recognize our graduates on Graduation Sunday, June 8th. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.



**Pastor Dan's Installation Service will be held on Sunday, May 4th. More details will be forthcoming.**

## **Treasurer's Update As of February 28, 2025**

First and foremost, the Consistory would like to thank you for your generosity. Without your financial support the mission and ministry of Saron United Church of Christ (UCC) would not be possible. The Consistory would also like to keep you, the congregation, updated on the financial situation at Saron.

The **General Fund** supports the work of the church through salaries, programs, building upkeep, office expenses, utilities, supplies, and insurance (the items that are included in our line-item budget). Year-to-date (YTD) financial numbers are shown below:

YTD income \$29,246      YTD expenses \$23,015      YTD Net Income \$6,231

**Please prayerfully consider your support of the daily and weekly vital functions of Saron Church as we enter the new year.**

The **Improvement Fund** supports all maintenance of the buildings and property that is not covered under General Fund expenses. Monies in this fund can be carried over from year to year.

YTD income \$8,649      YTD expenditures \$1,056 (Parsonage Updates)

Total Available Fund Balance \$59,648

The **Benevolence Fund** supports the Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) commitment and other mission opportunities and acts as a pass-through account for the UCC Special Mission Offerings.

YTD income \$2,336

Designated Disbursements:

OCWM (\$10,000 commitment; \$1,757 designated, = 17% of commitment)

Souper Bowl of Caring (\$372)

Other pass-throughs for special mission offerings and projects are distributed as they are collected throughout the year.

This update does not include all funds at Saron. An update on these funds is available from the treasurer. If you have any questions about Saron's finances, please contact Treasurer Linda Barthels or any Consistory member.

**Happy Anniversary** We hope you keep the following couples in your prayers as they celebrate their Anniversary this month. If we missed your special day or reported a wrong date please let us know by calling the church office at (920-467-6202 or email [adminoffice@saronucc.org](mailto:adminoffice@saronucc.org)).

- April 7 Brian & Debbie Feider
- April 11 Ron & Diane Matzdorf
- April 12 Ryan & Kathy Herzog
- April 16 David & Rachel Zeinemann
- April 19 Jeff & Peggy Lubach



- April 26 Paul & Dawn Williams
- April 28 Tim & Julie Chisholm
- April 29 Terry & Karen Boeldt

**Happy Birthday** We hope you keep the following people in your prayers as they celebrate their Birthday this month. If we missed your special day or reported a wrong date please let us know by calling the church office at (920-467-6202 or email [adminoffice@saronucc.org](mailto:adminoffice@saronucc.org)).

- April 1 Ricky Decker  
Diane Matzdorf  
Hazel Schmidt  
Alice Thomas
- April 2 Carl Laack  
Melanie Roehrborn
- April 3 Serena Christy
- April 4 Kara Jankus  
Luke Kwekkeboom
- April 5 Gladys Bitter  
Natalie Taylor
- April 6 Jacob Doebert  
Bryan Mauk  
Chris Reichert
- April 7 Don Ryan
- April 8 Louis Prange
- April 9 Hudson Schmidt
- April 11 Tanner Gumm  
Ben Lenz
- April 12 Levi Albright  
Lilly Charbonneau
- April 13 Jacob Barthels

- April 13 Kaden Beltran  
Sue Blasel  
Kim Hanke
- April 14 Jeff Meinnert  
Therese Schmidt
- April 16 Melissa Fleck
- April 18 Carson Anhalt  
Janice Morse  
Easton Opitz
- April 19 Matt Dulmes  
Vicki Imig
- April 20 Chase Anhalt  
Allen Nohl
- April 21 Evritt Abston  
Makayla Van Helden
- April 23 Owen Post  
Ralph Sebald
- April 24 Lois Herzog  
Jack Jarvis
- April 25 Ginny Feldmann—100 yrs. young  
Rylee Reichwald
- April 26 Jackson Picard  
David Zeineman

- April 27 Kurt Kuzulka  
Matt Miles
- April 28 Tammy Anhalt  
Jonathan Doebert  
Taylor Doebert
- April 29 Sara Christy  
Henry Zimbal
- April 30 Anthony Adamavich  
Mylee Nickel

