

January 2026

St John Messenger



COMMUNION

January 4, 2026
January 18, 2026

LIVESTREAM

YouTube

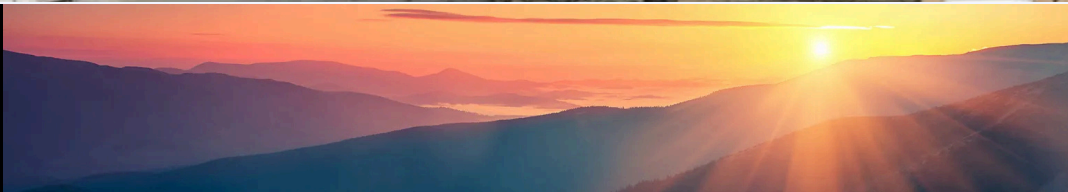
St John Lutheran, Athol

FACEBOOK

St John Lutheran, Athol

WEBSITE

stjohnlutheranathol.com



"But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. —John 16:13"

Dear Members of St. John,

Blessings to you and your families in 2026! I'd like to share a little devotion with you from Guideposts called, "Abide in God in the New Year."

The first day of the New Year may began with a spectacular sunrise, bright oranges and pinks peeking out over the leafless trees in your front yard, enticing you out of your warm house, with cocoa in hand, to enjoy the view. Sooner or later, something in this day will go wrong, You may burn your finger as you cook eggs, or your child may be sick. Your car won't start.

The year had started so beautifully, only to disintegrate in an instant, into a mess of pain or fear.

A verse comes to mind, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you [and together we] will bear much fruit" John 15:4-5 The New Year will certainly bring spectacular sunrises full of color and promise, but it may also bring moments of tremendous pain and desperate sorrow; times when you might wonder how to take another step forward. You have no choice but to choose—intentionally, wholeheartedly, and lovingly—to abide in God. My prayer is that together at St. John, we will bear much fruit and abide in God together during the sunsets and the rain!

In His love,
Pastor Ann

Prayer Concerns this Month

Blondina Kuhlmann

Virginia Engelke

Darlene Haun

Jenny Kramer

Bob Caspers

Roy Dean Bell

Tracy Oliver

Mike Hutchison

Irish Kussmann

Dorothy Seems

Bob and Dorothy Wire

Evelyn Wilson

Lee Oliver

Leah Thayer

Armi McPherson

Joyce Giese

Please let Penny know if anyone needs added.
penny.mckenzie@yahoo.com

TALK TO GOD
ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT
CONCERNS YOU.

THAT'S
WHAT
PRAYER IS.

Adult Bible Study - Tuesday Evenings - 6:30-8:00 PM Led by Pastor Ann

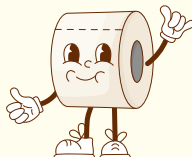
If someone asked you to explain the gospel, what would you say? What is the good news of the Christian faith? Writing to the Galatians, Paul made it clear how easily we can be tempted to turn toward fraudulent gospels, especially those that teach we can earn God's love through our works. Though they may have the appearance of truth, they are lifeless and leave us empty in the end.

In this Book of the Bible series, Kyle Idleman dives into the book of Galatians, one that contains some of the clearest explanations of the gospel in the New Testament. Through biblical study and engaging lessons, Kyle shows that true freedom is found in surrender, not self-dependence. Because our gospel is not one based on our works, but faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.



FOOD PANTRY FOR JANUARY:

"Any of the hamburger or tuna helpers, peanut butter, toilet paper, soups are always good. We don't change much as we think what we are doing works, so that's why we stay with the same things. Thanks for all you do!" Thanks for providing for those in need.



Upcoming Youth Events:

- *January Sunday Meeting TBD
- *Mission Event - Serve a meal at Crossroads Mission in Hastings, NE
- *Annual Ash Wednesday Soup Supper Fundraiser on Feb. 18th.

Watch for more info!



Where They Are Now: Caleb and Tayln Meyer (McKenzie)

Celebrating the Mission Beyond Our Walls

Citylight Kearney is a vibrant evangelical church in Kearney, Nebraska, launched with the mission to “magnify Jesus by multiplying disciples and churches of all nations.” It is part of the broader Citylight Family of Churches, a network of autonomous congregations committed to gospel-centered discipleship, community life, and mission. Citylight Kearney holds weekly Sunday gatherings that include worship, biblical teaching, communion, and baptism, and encourages members to grow deeper in their faith through City Groups — smaller communities that study Scripture, build relationships, and serve locally. The church’s public launch on December 7, 2025, drew an enthusiastic crowd, with approximately 475 people in attendance for the first official Sunday service at The Hub, reflecting strong community interest and support for this new spiritual home in Kearney.

A notable ministry of Citylight Kearney is its college outreach called The Salt Company — part of The Salt Network, a national college ministry aiming to reach university students with the gospel and train them as disciples on campus. The Salt Company takes its name from Matthew 5:13, where believers are called to be “the salt of the earth.” It offers students opportunities to gather for worship, biblical teaching, fellowship, and mission-focused community events.

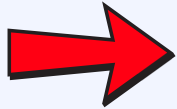
Leadership and resident staff play key roles in both the church and SALT Company. Among the SALT Company residents is Caleb Meyer (husband of Tayln Meyer), who serves alongside others in cultivating student engagement and spiritual growth in the ministry. Together, Citylight Kearney Church and The Salt Company are striving to be a meaningful spiritual presence in the city and on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus, equipping both students and local residents to follow Jesus and make disciples in their circles of influence.



Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 6 - 6:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
10:30 AM - Bible Study at Sunporch & SCHR
- Jan. 13 - 10:30 AM - Bible Study at Sunporch & SCHR
6:30 PM - Adult Bible Study begins again.
- Jan. 14 - 4:45 PM - 3rd & 4th Grade Bible Camp
6:00 PM - Confirmation begins again.
7:00 PM - Council Meeting
- Jan. 19 - 2:00 PM - Afternoon Women's Circle
- Jan. 25 - SCMA Soup Luncheon - First Christian Church
- Feb. 1. - St. John Annual Meeting

Ongoing Events: Wednesdays 9:00 AM Women's Morning Circle
Thursdays 1:30 PM Bible Study at Sunporch



Our church website now includes the bulletin for services, including scripture texts and liturgy! If you are unable to attend church it will be available for you as you worship. The newsletter and a schedule of events is also posted!

Member Celebrations

Birthdays

1/1 Quintin Lehmann
1/1 Emersyn Lehmann
1/9 Lynnette Voorhees
1/9 Duane Engelke
1/16 Betty Kirchhoff
1/18 Jerry Voorhees
1/22 Sierra Kirchhoff
1/23 Bree Kuhn
1/30 Bob Wire
1/30 Rod Snyder

Baptismal Birthdays

1/20 Jessalyn Kirchhoff
1/24 John Timmons

Anniversaries

1/14 Mr&Mrs Cory Frieling

For additions or corrections, text Penny 785-282-0216

JANUARY 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:30AM Sunday School	29	30	31 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline	1 ■ 1:30PM Senior Bible Study at Sun Porch	2	3
4 ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:30AM Sunday School	5	6 ■ 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast ■ 10:30AM Bible Study at Sun Porch & SCHR	7 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 10:30AM SunPorch Communion Service ■ 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline	8 ■ 1:30PM Senior Bible Study at Sun Porch	9	10
11 ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:30AM Sunday School	12	13 ■ 10:30AM Bible Study at Sun Porch & SCHR ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	14 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline ■ 4:45PM Bible Camp ■ 6:00PM Confirmation ■ 7:00PM Council Meeting	15 ■ 1:30PM Senior Bible Study at Sun Porch	16	17
18 ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:30AM Sunday School	19 ■ 2:00PM Afternoon Circle	20 ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	21 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 12:00PM Bulletin/News-letter/Annual Report Deadline ■ 4:45PM Bible Camp ■ 6:00PM Confirmation	22 ■ 1:30PM Senior Bible Study at Sun Porch	23	24
25 ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:30AM Sunday School ■ 12:00PM Soup Luncheon at First Christian Church	26	27 ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	28 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline ■ 4:45PM Bible Camp ■ 6:00PM Confirmation	29 ■ 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	30	31