

# ***St. John's Lutheran Church***

## ***Newsletter***

***Pastor***

***December, 2025***



***Have you remembered St. John's in your will?***

8 5th Street S.W.  
Waukon, IA 52172-0403

Phone 563.568.3623  
Fax 563.568.3922

stjohnswaukon@gmail.com  
www.stjohnswaukon.net

## **Share our Blessings Food Baskets**

Our food baskets for Christmas will be delivered the weekend of December 20. IF you want to donate, a grocery cart is located in the coat room with a list of items needed. We will be shopping on December 17, and the list will change according to donations. Checks can also be written to purchase perishable food and gift cards for grocery stores, just be sure to write Food Baskets in the memo.

## **Baby Kits for World Relief**

Baby kits are once again being assembled for World Relief. Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team contribution of \$250, and with supplies already collected, we were able to complete 20 kits!

You can help by donating any of the following items:

- A larger blanket (36"–50")
- A smaller blanket
- Two T-shirts (sizes 3–24 months)
- A sweatshirt with a hood
- Two sleepers or pajamas (without feet)
- Socks
- Cloth flat-fold diapers



Gently used items are welcome. Thank you to everyone who continues to support and sustain this meaningful project!

## **Home Visits**

We are seeking to update our list of individuals who would like a home visit and/or a communion visit. To ensure we reach everyone who wishes to be visited, please contact the church office at 562-568-3623 or email [stjohnswaukon@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnswaukon@gmail.com).

When you call/email, please provide your name, address, and phone number so we can schedule a visit at a time that works for you. Thank you in advance, and God bless you!

## **Giving Statements**

Please submit your 2025 contributions to the church office by December 30, 2025. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of St. John's Lutheran Church. Giving statements for 2025 will be emailed in the coming week and mailed to those without email. If you have any questions please contact the Church Office.

## Radio Ministry December 2025



Dec 7 Church Funds  
Dec 14 Church Funds  
Dec 21 Jane Dietrich- Sending  
Christmas Blessings to All!  
Dec 28 Church Funds

---

---

## Thank You Members

Your kindness and generosity do not go unnoticed.

Thank you for donating your time to clean up the church parking lot after the solar installation, helping with the bulletins, weeding around the church and polishing up the chancel rail. Your quiet dedication and service are truly appreciated.

Thank you,

Your St. John's Church Family



---

---

## Trustee Meeting

The Board of Trustees met on November 18, and the full minutes are posted. Key updates:

- Solar Project: We are waiting for Alliant to inspect and install the meter. The fence around the panels still needs to be completed.
- Driveway: The new driveway has been poured and is now usable.
- Christmas Eve Service with Pastor Mark Oehlert will be 4 pm and 7 pm.
- Giving statements will be distributed in December.

**\*\*SEE NARTHEX BULLETIN  
BOARD for details\*\***

---

---

## Looking for Volunteers

Advent is coming soon! The Deacons are preparing for the candle lighting at the beginning of each worship service with short readings and are looking for volunteers. If you or your family would like to take part in this short ceremony, please contact Linda Groe (568-1449 or [groeclcg@gmail.com](mailto:groeclcg@gmail.com)). ~Submitted by the Deacons

---

---

## A Note from The Call Committee

The Call Committee has a questionnaire to assist with the call process. This questionnaire will help us develop the ministry profile. Copies of the questionnaire are available at the church office or in the pews. We ask that you fill one out and return it to the church. Your input will be very helpful as the Call Committee continues working with the synod in this important process. Thank you for your participation and support!

---

## To Receive the Word ...

Sunday morning worship services are on the local radio station. Dial in 103.5 FM (KNEI) at 8:30 am or log into [www.kneiradio.com](http://www.kneiradio.com) to worship with St. John's. We also are video streaming on Facebook Live.

You may now receive the newsletter via email as a PDF document. Contact the church office if you would like to be on this email list.

St. John's is on the web at  
[www.stjohnswaukon.net](http://www.stjohnswaukon.net)

and Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnswaukon/>



---

---

## Sunday School & Confirmation News

Christmas Program Sunday, December 21 @ 10:30 am.

Congratulations on donating 77# of canned goods to the Allamakee County Food Shelf!

Confirmation students have been pursuing their faith journey with lessons on the Flood and Promise, Exodus, and the Commandments. They wrapped up November with a fun evening at the Waukon Wellness Center.



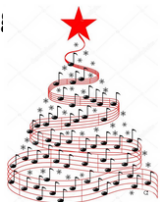
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6pm Youth Bell Choir 7pm Sr Bell Choir/ Confirmation	4 Church Office Closed	5	6
7 8:30 am High School Choir Worship 8:30&10:30am w/comm *Noisy Offering 9:30 Sunday School & Sr Choir 7pm Ecumenical Choir 8pm Men's Choir	8 5 pm budget Hearing Mtg	9	10 6pm Youth Bell Choir 7pm Sr Bell Choir/ Confirmation	11	12	13
14 Worship 8:30&10:30am 9:30 Sunday School & Sr Choir 1 pm Ecumenical Choir Rehearsel 7pm Ecumenical Choir Concert	15	16 6pm Trustee Mtg	17 6:00 PM Senior Choir, Senior Bell Choir and Youth Bell Choir family Christmas pot luck supper and party. 7pm Confirmation	18	19	20
21 Worship 8:30&10:30am w/Comm 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Sunday School Christmas Program 8pm Men's Choir Tent. off	22	23	24  Worship Services w/Comm 4pm & 7pm	25  Church Office Closed	26	27
28 Worship 8:30&10:30am 9:30 Sunday School & Sr Choir 8pm Men's Choir Tent. off	29	30 Nursing Home Visits 10:30am Northgate 2pm Good Sam 2:45pm Evergreen	31 	January 2026  Church Office Closed		

## December Music Ministry

St. John's has a full month of musical activities in December:

- Sun, Dec 7 – 8:30 a.m. Waukon Senior High School Choir "Tour of Churches" during worship.
- Sun, Dec 14 – 7:00 p.m. Allamakee Ecumenical Choir Concert, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.
- Wed, Dec 17 – 6:00 p.m. Senior Choir, Senior Bell Choir, and Youth Bell Choir family Christmas potluck and party.
- Sun, Dec 21 – 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program, directed by Sarah Sweeney and Sarah Hagen.
- Wed, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Choir/Bell Choir will participate at the service. Will be in touch with more information
- Sun, Dec 28 – 8:30 a.m. Senior Choir sing during worship.
- Wed, Dec 31 No rehearsals.

*Submitted by - James H. Bieber /  
Director of Music*



## CIRCLE NEWS December 2025

**SARAH Circle:** Will meet on Tuesday, December 9 at 9:15 a.m. in the church lounge. We'll study the December lesson together, and everyone is invited to bring a treat to share.

**DORCAS Circle:** Will not meet in December.

Poinsettias have been ordered to add to the festive holiday decorations during the upcoming holiday season. Orders for the plants will be taken in the Narthex by the Altar Guild on Sundays, November 30 and December 7. You may also call the church office during the week to order a flower.

Cost is \$12.00 with checks made out to St. John's Altar Guild. You may pick up your poinsettia any time after the Christmas Eve service.

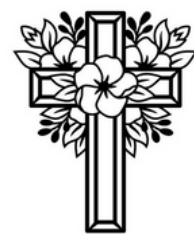
---

## *November 2025*

Baptisms: None

Wedding: None

Deaths: Marlene Dahlstrom



## *Tips for Staying Rooted in Christ During the Holiday Season*

The holidays can be a joyful time, but they can also bring stress, loneliness, and pressure. As Christians, we can approach this season with faith, prayer, and a perspective rooted in God's love to help maintain our mental health. Here are some tips:

**Embrace the Peace of Christ;** The holiday season can often bring feelings of anxiety or stress. Remember, Jesus came to bring peace, not just to the world, but to our hearts as well. In John 14:27, Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Take time to reflect on the peace He offers and intentionally invite that peace into your life through prayer and quiet moments of rest.

**Simplify Your Expectations;** The pressure to create a perfect holiday season can be overwhelming. While traditions are beautiful, remember that your worth is not defined by how perfectly you decorate your home or whether every gift is perfect. Focus on the joy of Christ's birth rather than on the perfection of everything around you. Consider what truly matters and let go of unnecessary pressure.

**Set Healthy Boundaries;** It's okay to say no to events, commitments, or even certain conversations that might drain your emotional energy. Jesus modeled boundaries, as He often took time to rest and pray (Mark 6:31). Respect your own limits, and take time to rest and recharge.

**Focus on Gratitude;** Amidst all the festivities, take time each day to reflect on the blessings in your life. Philippians 4:6-7 reminds us to "do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Gratitude helps shift our focus away from what we lack and reminds us of the abundant love and provision God gives us daily.

**Practice Self-Care with a Christ-Centered Focus;** Caring for your mental health is not selfish—it's a way of honoring God with the body and mind He has given you. Take time for activities that refresh your spirit, whether that's spending time in nature, practicing a hobby, or engaging in spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible and prayer. When we nurture ourselves, we are better equipped to serve others.

**Remember the True Reason for the Season;** Amid the busyness of holiday shopping, cooking, and celebrations, it's easy to lose sight of the most important thing—Jesus. Take time to meditate on His birth, His love for you, and the hope He brings. Remember that "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). Let His light fill your heart and guide you through the season.

In all things, remember that God is with you. Trust in His presence, His provision, and His peace as you navigate the challenges and joys of the holiday season. May your heart be filled with His comfort, love, and joy!



# St. John's Women Serving and Socializing

The WELCA Board met and had many items on their NOVEMBER agenda.

The first thing we talked about was the Pennies for Presents project. The last time to donate will be November 16. We have decided to buy presents for kids in need from our church. These presents will be delivered along with Christmas baskets around December 17. Thank you so much for your continued support of this yearly project.

Do Days usually run from 9 until noon. Please watch for notices about whether this will continue after Christmas or if they will wait until the fall. This year they completed 27 quilts to be sent off with other area churches. Olson's Explosives from Decorah hauls them up to Minneapolis. Each week there were about 7-8 ladies working on the quilts. Great job, ladies!

The Ecumenical Concert will be held at our church on Sunday, December 14. One of our circles will be in charge of serving refreshments. Someone may be calling you to help out and also to donate goodies. Thanks for helping to serve our community.

Next year we are going to concentrate on one project and we decided to concentrate on baby kits. We do have some items, but are looking for more. Please help us out if you can. Nona Sawyer will set up the table after Christmas showing samples of items needed for kits.

We decided on our annual giving for this year. Most of the places that we send money to are the same as last year. They are: LWR (Lutheran World Relief) \$150, LS (Lutheran Services) \$100, Decorah Helping Services \$100, Allamakee Substance Abuse: \$100, Allamakee Community Schools (They have a fund to help out children in need) \$100.

Lastly, please review the WELCA booklet from last year. We will be working on the new ones and would like to have updated lists of people and phone numbers. If you notice something that needs to be changed, please call the church office by December 10. Happy Thanksgiving!

*Respectfully, Karen Stamper*

## St. Johns December Hymns

### Dec 7 Second Sunday of Advent

#### **No. 264 Prepare the Royal Highway**

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:11-10

Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

#### **No 253 He Came Down**

**During Distribution 254 & 260**

#### **No 249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

### Dec 14 Third Sunday of Advent

#### **No. 248 People Look East**

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

#### **No. 256 Comfort, Comfort, Now My People**

#### **No. 288 Good Christian Men Rejoice**

### Dec 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### **No. 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

#### **No. 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**During Distribution 286 & 298**

#### **No. 268 From Heaven Above**

### Dec 24 Christmas Eve

#### **No. 283 O Come All Ye Faithful**

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

#### **No. 277 Away in the Manger**

**During Distribution 271, 274, 276**

#### **No. 281 Silent Night**

#### **No. 267 Joy To The World**

### Dec 28 First Sunday of Christmas

#### **No. 300 The First Noel**

First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9

Second Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

#### **No. 289 Angels We Have Heard On High**

#### **No. 290 Go, Tell It On The Mountain**



*Unto us a child is born*

The names listed are those currently recorded as active members in the church CDM+ directory. If your name was inadvertently missed or any of your information is incorrect, please contact the church office at 563-568-3623 or [stjohnswaukon@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnswaukon@gmail.com)

# Happy Birthday



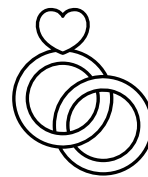
## December Birthdays

Joseph Palmer	1	Sherry Lyons	18	Kristi Fahey	25
Anita Petersen	1	Ellen Lenth	19	Nicklaus Heydn	25
Lane Harrington	6	Colinda Roderick	20	Rick Dahlstrom	26
Beverly Haas	8	Bill Blagsvedt	21	John Syhlman	28
Donnalee Osland	11	Michelle Hartley	21	Carrie Niehaus	29
Landon Ellickson	13	Louise Ellingson	22	Michael Sanderson	29
Kevin Martin	13	Gregory Palmer	22	David Dougherty	30
Lyle Kurth	14	Brooklyn Wilkes	22	Bobbi Jo Baxter	31
Lana Troendle	15	Von Collins	23	Rudy Hesla	31
Sherry Knudtson	16	Brianne Grimstad	23	Fred Smith	31
Terry Kolsrud	16	Danyce Jacobs	23		
Jodie Moe	16	Elizabeth Montet	23		
Tanner Peterson	16	Audrea Peterson	23		
Kiah Kolsrud	17	Lena Rausch	24		
Joseph Oder	17	Brian Wullner	24		

# Happy Anniversary

## December Anniversaries

James & Becky Lomen	1
Grant & Heather Nuehring	2
Randall & Shauna Johnsen	21
David & Mary Sorum	25
Jens & Jane Kallevang	30



## St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Dec	Service	Greeters	Readers	Comm. Asst.	Comm. Prep.	Acolytes	Ushers
7	8:30AM 10:30AM	Bill & Sue Blagsvedt	Joan Moody Randy Johnson	Sherry Knudtson Dan Treangen Brenda Dougherty Jill Kistler	Mary Jo Meyer Bailey Benson  Lori Hesse		John Bauercamper Jens Kallevang Randy Hesse
14	8:30AM 10:30AM	Tom & Caroll Schreiber	Bailey Benson Mary Jackson				Same
21	8:30AM 10:30AM	Cindy Wuebker Family	Linda Groe Christmas Progra	Linda Groe Nona Sawyer Chris Stuckman Greg & Ann Hagensick Family	Mary Jackson Kathy Hay  Linda Groe		Same
24 Christmas Eve	4:00PM 7:00PM		Linda DeBuhrr Linda Halverson	Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Family Randy & Lori Hesse Vickie Larson	Altar Guild Altar Guild		Bill Roe Family
28	8:30AM 10:30AM	Cindy Barness	Mary Jackson Linda Groe				

# Doing what is right



What can we do to make others happy? We can be kind, listen and be respectful.

Students can study, practice, get good grades, and do what is right.

Adults do what is right following Jesus by trusting, obeying, and serving him.

This leads to a life transformed from the inside out. It is a daily commitment to emulate Jesus's life and teachings, not merely a one-time decision. This involves intentional actions in various aspects of life, including how one handles relationships, priorities, and internal struggles

Even though it can be hard we must learn to forgive if someone or ourselves did something wrong or not right. We must learn to forgive actions and learn from experience. Do what is right and follow Jesus.

## **Key actions for following Jesus**

### *Loving and serving others*

Jesus emphasized love for God and for one's neighbor as the greatest commandments. For an adult, this translates into everyday actions:

Loving your neighbor (including enemies): This means showing kindness and compassion to everyone you encounter.

Serving others: Like Jesus, who came to serve, not to be served, adults can serve their family, community, and those in need. This includes helping the homeless, serving in a local church, or caring for family.

Showing patience and forgiveness: Actively choosing to forgive others, even when it is difficult, reflects the grace Jesus showed us.

### *Exhibiting humility and integrity*

Putting aside pride and selfish desires is central to following Jesus.

Practicing humility: Adults demonstrate humility by valuing others above themselves and putting their needs first.

Living with integrity: This involves being consistently honest and demonstrating moral courage in all areas of life, including at work.

Rejecting worldly values: Followers of Jesus strive to prioritize God's kingdom over worldly pursuits like ambition and material gain.

### *Committing to a daily spiritual life*

A consistent and intentional relationship with God is foundational to following Jesus as an adult.

Praying consistently: Following Jesus involves regular prayer, both in times of crisis and in daily life.

Reading and applying scripture: Studying the Bible and applying its truths to everyday decisions is essential for spiritual growth and maturity.

Embracing community: Committing to a local church community and building deep, authentic relationships counters individualism and provides support and accountability.

### *Sharing faith*

An essential part of discipleship is sharing the message of Jesus with others.

Making disciples: Following Jesus includes the mission of helping others become his disciples, teaching them to obey his commands.

Witnessing through actions: Adults can share their faith not only through words but also by living a life that reflects Jesus's character and attracts others to him.

# St. John's Youth.....

## Confirmation Group with Pastor Charis Combs-Lay



## Opus Honor Choir



## Sunday School Donated #77 of canned goods to the Allamakee County Food Shelf

Youth active in church gain spiritual development, build community, and serve as a vital force for the church's future by serving as agents of ministry, fostering intergenerational relationships, and encouraging outreach. This involvement helps them develop identity, learn leadership, and stay connected to their peers and faith in a positive environment. For the church, active youth ensure continuity, growth, and development, as they become the next generation of leaders and bring energy and new perspectives. Families today seem busier than ever, with Sundays often filled with sporting events, school activities, family outings, meetings, and more. We thank all our St. John's families for nurturing and keeping the faith alive in your homes despite these busy schedules.