

St. John's Lutheran Church



Newsletter

Bryan Robertson, Pastor

January, 2025

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

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There's no time like the present.

This saying was true when some angels sang to some shepherds, "...to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

And it says that the shepherds didn't take any time to mull over the past or imagine what all this would mean for the future, but began a quick dash, saying, Luke 2:15 "...Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger."

Likewise, when John was down at the Jordan, baptizing people and telling them all that our Lord had arrived, the crowds who heard him didn't break into groups and slowly consider what that would mean for their everyday lives.

But instead they all asked him, Luke 3:10 "...What shall we do?"

And when Jesus himself was baptized by John and heard from the heavens that he was God's Son, he didn't have much time to look back on his life and the chain of events—from a Bethlehem barn to a workshop with dad—that led to him hearing he's holy.

No, instead, Mark 1:12 "... the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited

on him."

The Good News of Jesus has words for our past and our lives for the future. Everyday we wake up, we hear the Good News that Jesus forgives us all of our sins, even the ones we've done in the past that are hard to forget. And as far as our futures: our deaths are all certain, but so is his love that nothing can kill:

Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

We live in the present, believing our Lord forgives and forgets the sins of our past, and as far as our futures, we have his promise that he's always with us in life and in death and in heaven forever.

So our present is free just like his disciples. Jesus has freed us from fears for our futures or guilt at our past, to live in the moment and do what he says:

"Matthew 28:19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

May God's Holy Spirit give us faith to believe and live this Good News throughout this new year.

Peace,

Pr. Bryan

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Radio Ministry January 2025



- Jan 5 in memory of Lyla Hanson
- Jan 12 given by Daniel & Diane Pischke
- Jan 19 given by Vic & Diane Fye
- Jan 26 given by Darrell & Jolayne Winkie

****select a hymn of your choice on your sponsored radio broadcast Sunday****



Thank you to the volunteers who have quietly slipped into the church property to replace outdoor lights and fuses. To the ladies who brought Pastor meals while recuperating, and to the elves who decorated outside & inside the Church for Christmas. We appreciate everything you have done for us and *Thank You for your service to our Church!*



Book Nook

**Check the Library Out!!
We have books about:**

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Videos

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Youth

Spiritual Growth

Grow Your Mind!

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 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 and Facebook stjohns@waukon



Trustee Meeting December 17, 2024



~Damage to NW door to be completed in warmer weather

~No further bulk rate mailings to be sent in 2025

~Office to create pledge cards for Solar Project

~Repair to organ pipe made and pipe is re-installed

~Locked thermostat covers installed

~Proposed 2025 budget approved for presentation at January 2025 Annual Mtg

~Benevolence payment to be determined after The Books are closed for 2024

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

January 2025

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 no Rehearsals no Confirmation	2	3	4
5 8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm 9:30am Sun School & Sr Choir	6	7	8 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Sr Bells & Confirmation	9	10	11
12 8:30am & 10:30am worship 9:30am Sun School & Sr Choir 10:30am Sun School Christmas Program	13	14 9:15am Sarah Circle 7pm Dorcas Circle-virtual	15 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Sr Bells & Confirmation	16	17	18
19 8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm 9:30am Sun School & Sr Choir	20	21 6pm Trustee mtg	22 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Sr Bells & Confirmation	23	24	25
26 8:30am & 10:30am worship 9:30am Sun School & Sr Choir 11am LYO luncheon 12:30pm Annual Meeting	27	28 1pm Northgate Care Ctr 2:30pm Evergreen Crt 3pm Good Sam Ctr	29 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Sr Bells & Confirmation	30	31	

Music Ministry



A big thank you to everyone who helped make the 48th Annual Ecumenical Choir Concert a success which includes all the Ecumenical Choir members, Men's Choir, Senior & Youth Bell Choirs, area clergy, ushers and Circle Ladies who hosted the reception. As we head into Christmas week December 22, we have been fortunate in not having to postpone any musical events this Christmas Season.

Senior Choir and Senior Bells will perform at the 8:30am service, Sunday, Dec 22. Youth Bell Choir will perform at the 4pm and 7pm services Christmas Eve.

There will be no rehearsals on Wed, Jan 1. All choirs will resume their regular schedules the week of Jan 5.

Happy New Year!

James H. Bieber / Director of Music

CIRCLE NEWS
Jan 2025



SARAH Circle: 9:15am, Jan 14 in the Lounge with hostess Joan Moody & Bible study done together.

DORCAS Circle: Jan 14, 7pm virtually, contact Linda Groe with questions.

December 2024



Baptisms: Owen Martin

Weddings: none

Deaths: Ron Brandt

St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Jan-25

Date	Service		Greeters	Readers	Comm Asst	Comm Prep	Acolytes	Ushers
1/5/25	8:30 AM	E W	Bailey Benson family Sarah Bieber	Blake Roe	Randy & Lori Hesse Cindy Barness	Bev Leiran Keigan Leiran	Ushers	Tom Leiran family
	10:30 AM	E W	Wendy & Sadie Bucheit	Mary Jackson	Sadie Bucheit	Carole Yohe Kristi Fahey	Ushers	Yohe family Kristi Fahey
1/12/25 Epiphany Sunday	8:30 AM	E W	Nona Sawyer Bev Haas	Dawn Teslow	X	X	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W	Darlene Schlake	Kristi Fahey			Ushers	same as above
1/19/25	8:30 AM	E W	Dave & Wendy Sanderson Tom Leiran family	Dan Treangen	Bill & Sue Blagsvedt, Bob Joachim	Kayla Leiran Kreed Leiran	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W		Linda Groe	Linda Groe	Altar Guild	Ushers	same as above
1/26/25	8:30 AM	E W	Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Judith Engle	Karen Grimstad	X	X	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W	Melinda Emerson family	Alaine Emerson			Ushers	same as above

St. John's Women Serving and Socializing



We are very thankful to all that participated in the annual Thankoffering. A total of \$225 was collected. That money was sent to WELCA Ministries.

St. John's WELCA donates money for every funeral that takes place at our church each year. We have five different places that we donate the money to and it rotates every year. This year we donated \$130 to World Hunger.

Another one of our service projects is to collect money and buy Christmas gifts for local children. This year Cindy Wuebker headed up this project. She picked 5 girl and 5 boy tags off of the tree at Hartig Drug. Cindy used the \$500 that was collected to buy gifts for all of them. We thank you for your generous donations to make this service project possible.

The WELCA booklets for 2025 are run off and ready for distribution. Please pick yours up when you come to church. They will be in a box in the back of the church.

Submitted by Karen Stamper

LYO

The LYO Annual soup, sandwich, and desert luncheon will be held just prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, with serving from 11:00-12:15 pm. We will be serving potato soup & chili, along with ham and grilled cheese sandwiches, dessert, and beverages. Free will donation.

LYO is planning a trip to Whitetail Ridge Ski Area near Fort McCoy, WI to go skiing, snowboarding, or snowtubing. More details to come.

Hymns for January at St. Johns



Jan 5 Second Sunday of Christmas No. 303 Brightest & Best of the Stars

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

No. 302 As With Gladness Men of Old During Distribution No. 306 & 315 No. 310 Songs of Thankfulness & Praise

Jan 12 Baptism of Our Lord

No. 322 Oh, Love, How Deep

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

Second Lesson: Acts 8:14-17

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

No. 677 This Little Light of Mine No. 543 Go My Children

Jan 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany

No. 641 All Are Welcome

First Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

No. 460 Now the Silence During Distribution No. 798 & 800 No. 576 We All Are One in Mission

Jan 26 Third Sunday after Epiphany

No. 314 Arise Your Light Has Come

First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

No. 668 O Zion, Haste No. 551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth

January 2025

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
			Deb Berger Jacob Jones	Bruce Torkelson Landon Wilkes	Jim Bieber Lori Jacobs Henry Lacey	Linda Groe Paul Sorum Verland & Ellen Lenth (A)
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Kinsley Bosley	Dave Sanderson		John Marti	Nancy Brandt Ann Hagensick Marlene Houg	Diana Davison Jane Kallevang	Jim Collins Jay Hansen Deb Thorstenson
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Delores Johnson	Patty Nordheim Mark Stock	Isaac Fink			Nathan Johnson Madalyn Palmer	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Tom Fink	Jim Hanson Annika Headington Gavin Smith	Diana Johnson Marvin Winters Denise Wullner			Kim Rolfs	Nick Dougherty Marvin Hill Gerald Piittmann
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Taylor Jackson	Mark Goeke	Dennis Deal Jens Kallevang	Tom Schreiber		Evonne Kistler Adam Leiran	

Christmas at St. John's



Holiday Parade - Dec 7
St. John's kids



St. John's WELCA was able to purchase gifts for 5 boys & 5 girls in our local area. Each child received a cozy sweatshirt, a toy, mittens or hat, a book and candy. THANK YOU Cindy Wuebker for taking care of purchasing & wrapping the gifts.



St. John's Lutheran Church
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Waukon, IA 52172-0403

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Solar Project.....

Our congregation voted to allow our Board of Trustees to explore and possibly recommend a solar system for our future use and our Congregation Council is seeking pledges to pay for the project in the event that it is approved at our Annual Meeting.

2025 Solar Project Pledge Card

St. John's Lutheran Church
Waukon, Iowa

Name _____

With a grateful heart for God's boundless generosity and as an expression of my Christian Stewardship, I/we make this commitment to St. John's Solar Project 2025.

\$ _____

X This commitment may be revised or changed at any time at my request

