

St. John's Lutheran Church



Newsletter

Bryan Robertson, Pastor

December, 2023

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

8 5th Street S.W. P.O. Box 403
Waukon, IA 52172-0403

Phone 563.568.3623
Fax 563.568.3922

stjohnswaukon@gmail.com
www.stjohnswaukon.net

"Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,..." Many of our children know well the words that soon follow: "...the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head;..."

Sung as a lullaby, all seems calm and all seems bright. And baby Jesus, Himself, seems the happiest and best of all babies: "The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes."

It's a beautiful scene that lends itself well to paintings and prints meant to mark Jesus' birth. And the music is pretty. And that's all okay.

Anything that cements in our minds the fact that our Jesus was born, not in a palace, but born in a barn, gives us a taste of the wonder of Christmas: that the One who was there in the beginning has come down to earth, and born to poor parents. His birthplace in Bethlehem wasn't by choice, but was forced through a census ordered by Caesar: his mother and father signing up, there.

He has come to a world with no rooms for his mother to stay and give birth. So, like table scraps given to no-value pets, she's given a corner in some kind of place only fit for

farm animals. And if anyone's there to help her deliver, it's likely it's only her carpenter husband: an old, hardened bachelor until they were paired.

With our beautiful lights that are marking the season, and a fresh layer of snow, and nice holiday music playing as background, we can easily paint pretty our Lord Jesus' birth.

But his birth wasn't pretty. It was truly a wonder: a wonder, that He would leave heaven to live here among us; it's a wonder he'd suffer hunger and cold to show us his love. It's a wonder, how God's very Son would learn and earn money by working a trade. It's a wonder he'd call the lowest of low His good friends and disciples. And the biggest of wonders is Him taking His love all the way to a cross because he loves people who don't love Him back.

He was cold in that manger and crying from hunger. The straw wasn't soft, but was scratching his skin. But His love that brought Him to us was as real in that manger as it is on His cross.

As we celebrate Christmas, may God's Holy Spirit bless us with faith in this wonderful news.

Peace,

Pr. Bryan

What's Inside

Pastor's Comments	page 1
Book Nook	page 2
WELCA	page 4
Thank You	page 7
Confirmands	page 8

Radio Ministry December 2023



- Dec 3 Given by Dixie Libbey
- Dec 10 In loving memory of Leonard Thies
- Dec 17 In memory of Rodney Berg
- Dec 24 In loving memory of Earl & Kevin Haas



Book Nook

"Prayer Works" by Rick Hamlin

Rick Hamlin's journey to know God through prayer. An inspiring story which reveals the healing power of surrendering control and how God uses our darkest times to bring us closer to him.

"A Cup of Comfort: Book of Prayer" by James Bell & Susan Thompson

Fifty amazing true stories and reflections to bring you closer to God and to offer hope and inspiration.

Submitted by Joan Moody



CIRCLE NEWS December

SARAH Circle: 9:15am Dec 12 in the Lounge with all members bringing treats & Bible study done together.

DORCAS Circle: Does Not Meet, contact Linda Groe with questions.

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



Thank you to the volunteers

who have quietly slipped into the church property to change out light bulbs, repair leaks and delime pipes. We appreciate everything you have done for us and

Thank You for your service to our church.



Thank you to Becky Welper for sharing her Thanksgiving decorations with St. John's. Her vegetables and flowers symbolize a bountiful harvest and the bright splashes of color serve as a reminder of God's continuing love.



November 2023



Baptisms: none

Weddings: none

Deaths: Ron Jahnke

December 2023

Sunday	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm 9:30am SS 5:30pm Mens Choir 6:30pm Ecumenical Choir			6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Choir 8pm Sr Choir			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30am & 10:30am 9:30am SS 7pm Ecumenical concert			WIC 8:30am-4:30pm 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Choir 8pm Sr Choir			9am-10:30am SS program practice
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm 9:30am SS 10:30am SS Christmas program		6pm Trustee meeting	6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Choir 8pm Sr Choir			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NO SS 8:30am worship, 4pm & 7pm worship w/comm.		1pm Northgate Ctr 2:30pm Evergrn Ctr 3pm Good Sam Ctr	NO Choirs NO Confirmation			
31						
8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm Dougherty baptism 10:30am NO SS 6pm Sr Bells						

Music Ministry



Thank you to our Senior Choir and Bell Choirs for providing music at our services in November.

Our December schedule of activities includes the following:

Sunday, Dec 3: Waukon High School Choir Christmas tour of churches begins at 8:30am here at St. John's

Sunday Dec 10: Allamakee Ecumenical Choir Concert will be at 7pm at St. John's featuring Derrick Knox, a grade school boy who sings solos with the LaCrosse Boys Choir and his mother Julie Knox who will be accompanying the Choir with her harp solo. The Men's Choir, Women's Choir, Youth & Senior Bell Choir will also perform.

Sunday, Dec 17: Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:30am

Sunday, Dec 24: details included elsewhere in Newsletter.

James H. Bieber - Organist / Director of Music

St. John's Women Serving and Socializing



Christmas Blessings from the "Piece" makers!

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are eagerly looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. Soon after we experience the joys of Christmas, we will start a new year. With that in mind, we want to tell you about our quilting schedule for the New Year.

Beginning in January, weather permitting; we will meet on the first Wednesday of every month from 8:45am-noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please note that if the weather conditions result in cancellations or delays for schools, we will follow the same guidelines & quilting days will be cancelled due to bad weather as well.

We have fun getting to know each other while we quilt together & enjoy a coffee break together. There is something for everyone, regardless of skill level. We tie quilts or prepare the tied quilts for binding, while others cut blocks or quilt backing. We also have a sewing machine for those who would like to sew blocks together. We hope you will join us.

St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Dec-23

Date	Service		Greeters	Readers	Comm Asst	Comm Prep	Acolytes	Ushers
12/3/2023 Advent 1	8:30am	E W	Cindy Wuebker family Steve Wilkes family	Linda DeBuhr	Bill Halvorson, Chris Stuckman, Allie Rottink	Nona Sawyer Linda DeBuhr		Jens Kallevang, John Bauercamper, Bob Joachim
	10:30am	E W	Gerald & Diane Piittmann Ushers	Linda Groe	Sandy Deal	Wendy & Sadie Bucheit		Chuck Larson, Norm Peterson
12/10/2023 Advent 2	8:30am	E W	Bill & Sue Blagsvedt Lee Ellickson family	Mary Jo Meyer				same as above
	10:30am	E W	Wendy & Sadie Bucheit Ushers	Sadie Bucheit	X	X		same as above
12/17/2023 Advent 3	8:30am	E W	Virgil & Deb Thorstenson Joan Moody, Geralyn Smith	Linda Halvorson	Bill & Sue Blagsvedt Bonnie Roe	Kathy Murray Jane Kallevang		same as above
	10:30am	E W	Richard & Jo Leiran Ushers	Sunday School	Kristi Fahey	Sherry Knudtson Kasey Iverson		same as above
12/24/2023 Advent 4	8:30am	E W	Irv & Chris E Fosaaen Jane Dietrich, Marilyn Henkels	Matt Teslow				same as above
12/24/2023 Christmas Eve	4pm	E W	Greg & Ann Hagensick Michael Hagensick family	Lori Hesse	Dennis DeBuhr family	Randy & Lori Hesse		Glenn Grimstad family
	7pm	E W	Kim Welper family Randy & Lori Hesse	Vickie Larson	Russ Meyer family	Linda Groe		Ron Dahlstrom family
12/25/2023 Christmas	Day		NO SERVICE					
12/31/2023	8:30am	E W	Bill & Sue Blagsvedt Bailey Benson family	Bob Joachim	Dave & Wendy Sanderson Ann Rademaker	Bonnie Roe Mary Jackson		same as above
	10:30am	E W	Judith Engle, Sandy Deal Ushers	Karen Stamper	Linda Groe	Altar Guild		same as above



Recently St. John's delivered quilts & personal care kits to Upper IA Area Cluster, along with 41 other churches. 1805 quilts, 1811 school kits, 615 baby care kits, 571 personal care kits, etc., were collected, loaded onto an Olson Explosive truck and delivered to the regional Lutheran World Relief collection site.

The number of disasters & war is on the rise. Every quilt, personal care kit or baby kit, etc. sent to those areas by Lutheran World Relief plays an important role in showing love to our neighbors in their hardest times. Imagine having to leave your home with just a handful of clothes in a bag, very little food & having to walk for hours or days to a safer area. Imagine drought & poverty so extreme that survival is doubtful. We see the images on the daily news.

When the LWR mission quilts & kits are distributed to someone in need, the response is usually quite emotional. Their withdrawn, hopeless expressions turn to joy & gratitude...gratitude that someone on the other side of the world cared enough to make these items & send them. They are wrapped in a comforting quilt that not only supplies warmth, but sometimes shelter; giving them hope & restored dignity. The kits provide hygiene & school items for them to care for themselves & their family. These quilts & kits are an answer to their prayers.

We hope to expand upon St. John's strong legacy of helping others whether in our local neighborhood, or on the other side of the world. As part of this goal, we are considering adding a second monthly get together for those who cannot attend a morning quilting day M-F, if there is sufficient interest. If quilting on an evening or weekend appeals to you, please let us know by contacting our quilting leaders.

May you and yours be truly blessed this Christmas Season.

Submitted by:

Ann Rademaker
563 379-4786
ann.rade@gmail.com

Kathy Murray
563 419-5222
fun2praisehim@mchsi.com

December 3 First Sunday of Advent

No. 257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

No. 260 The King Shall Come

During Distribution No. 254 & 256

No. 436 Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying

December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

No. 264 Prepare the Royal Highway

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

No. 249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

No. 268 From Heaven Above

December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

No. 288 Good Christian Friends Rejoice

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

No. 286 Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

During Distribution No. 276 & 277

No. 275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

No. 300 The First Noel

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

No. 298 The Bells of Christmas

During Distribution No. 263 & 282

No. 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

Christmas Eve December 24

No. 283 O Come All Ye Faithful

279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

281 Silent Night, Holy Night

267 Joy to the World

December 31 First Sunday of Christmas

No. 290 Go Tell It On the Mountain

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

No. 294 In The Bleak Midwinter

During Distribution No. 295 & 296

No. 292 Love Has Come

December 2023

Sunday	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 Joe Palmer Anita Petersen Jim & Becky Lomen (A)	2 Zach Rathbone Grant & Heather Nuehring (A)
3	4 Chris Larson	5 Steve Grotegut Virgil Johanningmeier Eli Stammeyer	6 Lane Harrington Brent Miller	7 Shirley Larkin Christina Williams	8 Bev Haas	9
10 Shawn Martin	11 Donnalee Osland	12	13 Landon Ellickson Kevin Martin	14 Damian Copp Lyle Kurth	15 Lana Troendle	16 Sherry Knudtson Terry Kolsrud Jodie Moe Tanner Peterson
17 Kiah Kolsrud Joseph Oder	18 Sherri Lyons	19 Ellen Lenth	20 Colinda Roderick	21 Bill Blagsvedt Michelle Hartley	22 Louise Ellingson Greg Palmer Steph Palmer Serene Thorstenson Brooklyn Wilkes	23 Von Collins Brienne Grimstad Danyce Jacobs Elizabeth Montet Audrea Peterson
24 Brian Wullner	25 Kristi Fahey Nick Heydn David & Mary Lou Sorum (A)	26 Rick Dahlstrom	27	28 John Syhlman Maureen Wagner	29 Carrie Niehaus Michael Sanderson	30 Dave Dougherty Jens & Jane Kallevang (A)
31 Bobbi Jo Baxter Rudy Hesla Fred Smith						

As with any home, we have had maintenance issues crop up over the year that we did not expect. One of our **sound system speakers** in church stopped functioning well, and significant evidence of bats began to be seen. Replacing this speaker in the front, along with the same vintage speaker in the back of the church, totaled \$7479. **Bat proofing** our sanctuary totaled \$1284, and is so far successful. Your generous past and current donations have lowered the balance of each expense to \$4374.11 and \$1134 respectively. Your gifts to defray these expenses will help us continue to care for this place, which serves as a base for our ministries.

Sunday School

We will be having a float in the Holiday parade Dec. 9. If you'd like to participate, please let us know.

Christmas program practice Dec. 16th 9-10:30 am. **Christmas program Dec. 17th 2nd service at 10:30.**

No Sunday School Dec. 24 & Dec. 31. Sunday school will resume Jan. 7

The Sunday School students are sponsoring a hat, mitten, glove, and scarf drive as part of their service projects this year. Please consider donating by adding items to the tree in the Narthex.

A sincere thank you to Nancy Brandt and Joan Moody who graciously donated their time to the Library Committee for approximately 40 years each. Both will retire at the end of 2023. If anyone is interested in donating their time to this committee, please contact Randy Hesse or Dan Treangen of the Nominating Committee. **THANK YOU LADIES** for all the years of service to St. John's.

thank
you!

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, December 3rd and 10th. 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.



**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

Trustee/Church
Council Meeting
Nov 21, 2023



- ~Revised Leadership Handbook adopted
- ~40% Pastor's defined compensation allocated for housing allowance
- ~Mitten tree to be placed in Narthex
- ~Inspection of stained glass windows to take place
- ~Christmas Eve services for 8:30am, 4pm & 7pm

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

St. John's Lutheran Church
8 Fifth Street, S.W. Box 403
Waukon, IA 52172-0403

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WAUKON, IA 52172
PERMIT NO. 67

Confirmands 2023.....



Brooklyn Wilkes
Pastor Bryan
Parker Yohe