

St. John's Lutheran Church



Newsletter

Bryan Robertson, Pastor

December, 2021

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

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It's a new year in the church.

Our calendar still tells us that it is 2021. Our bills and our checks likewise follow suit. But here in the church, our year starts anew: we're getting ready for the birth of our Lord in the little town of Bethlehem.

We know these words better and better the older we get: "10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Our songs and the story of the birth of our Lord are etched in our hearts and easily flow while singing our hymns and reading the Christmas scriptures out loud. But the good news of Christmas never gets old. It is so full of mercy and grace, it always sounds new:

That the God who created all of existence has come to be with us; to share all our sufferings and joys; to make us his friends; to know what it is to live and to die; and to die in

a way that shows his unfathomable love for small people like us.

Each year we hear of a chorus of angels who aren't singing to the Caesar in Rome, or to scholars and priests in the city of Jerusalem, or to King Herod the great, whose fortress is only a few miles from the village of Bethlehem. No, when God sends his angels to sing of our savior, they serenade shepherds, the lowest of low.

We know Christmas so well. But God's gift of mercy and care and love for the lowly is so unexpected, as is his birth in a barn, and his death on a cross, that it always inspires wonder.

May this Christmas good news become old and familiar to each one of us, but surprise us with joy each time we hear it.

Peace,

Pr. Bryan



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Radio Ministry December 2021



- Dec 5 Given by Darrell & Jolayne Winkie
- Dec 12 Given by Jean Forde
- Dec 19 Given by Darrell & Jolayne Winkie
- Dec 26 Given in memory of Irene Tweitto

Trustee Meeting November 9, 2021



- ~Discussion of transmitter issues
- ~ Approve signing 404 West Main Project contract and discuss how to sell house

Church Council Meeting November 16, 2021

- ~Moving Sunday School Office downstairs
- ~Trustees to establish 2022 ministry budget
- ~Annual Meeting January 30, 2022

CIRCLE NEWS

SARAH Circle: Dec. 14 at 9:15am in lounge with Nan Grangaard hostess & Sue Bieber lesson leader

MARY Circle:

RACHEL Circle:

DORCAS Circle: virtual Dec. 14; contact L Groe with questions or if you want to join.



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

Thank you to the volunteers who have quietly slipped onto the church property to *resize a door, unplug the drinking fountain and remount of both fountains.* We appreciate everything you have done for us and *thank you for your service to our Church!!*

****Thank you Brenda Houg for assisting with Confirmation pictures. ****

UPDATE on 404 West Main Property: Purchase agreement has been signed. Closing on property planned for March/April 2022. Price of property was \$129,000.00. Two major donations came in totaling \$100,000.00. St. John's has received an additional \$7,200.00 in donations to date. With that being said, \$21,800.00 is needed to pay this off. Also, additional money will be needed for improvement. **Thank you for your support & donations to this project.**

2021

<- NOVEMBER

JANUARY ->

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Sr Bells Confirmation 8pm Sr Choir	2	3	4
5 8:30 & 10:30am worship w/comm 9:30am S.S.	6	7	8 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Sr Bells Confirmation 8pm Sr Choir	9	10	11
12 8:30 & 10:30am worship 9:30am S.S. 7pm Ecumenical Concert	13	14 9:15am Sarah Circle meet in Lounge 6pm Trustee mtg	15 8:30am-5pm WIC 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Sr Bells Confirmation 8pm Sr Choir	16	17	18
19 8:30 & 10:30am worship w/comm 9:30am S.S. 10:30am SS Christmas program	20	21	22 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Sr Bells Confirmation 8pm Sr Choir	23	24 4pm & 7pm services w/comm	25
26 8:30 & 10:30am worship	27	28 2:30pm Evergrm Crt & Good Sam communion	29 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Sr Bells 8pm Sr Choir	30	31	1

Music Ministry

With less than a month and a half before the end of the year, our schedules, preparations, and rehearsals are rapidly filling up. We are preparing for the season of Advent, Christmas services, and the Annual Allamakee Ecumenical Choir Concert.



Thank you to our Bell Choirs and Senior Choir for their participation in our services in November. Also, thank you to Shauna Johnsen for the beautiful baritone horn solo of "Amazing Grace" that she performed on Sunday, November 14. Thank you also to the Men's Choir for providing special music on November 28 to welcome in the first Sunday in Advent.

On **Sunday, December 5, the Waukon High School Choir** will open our 8:30 a.m. service with several Christmas selections as they begin their Tour of Churches throughout the morning.

On **Sunday, December 12, the Allamakee Ecumenical Choir** will present their annual concert featuring the Heartland Barbershop and Gospel Singers along with additional singers and St. John's Bell Choirs. The concert will be at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's and broadcast live on KNEI radio, and also be posted

live on Facebook. The concert will be open to the public, so be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come to enjoy this celebration of Christmas. There will be no covid restrictions as of the time of this writing.

James H. Bieber - Organist / Director of Music

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 5th and 12th. You may also call the church office during the week to order a flower. **Cost is \$8.00 with checks made out to St. John's Altar Guild.** You may pick up your poinsettia any time after the Christmas Eve service.

St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Dec 2021

Date	Service		Greeters	Readers	Comm. Asst.	Comm. Prep.	Acolytes	Ushers
12/5/21 Advent 2	8:30 AM	E W	Mark & Stacy Stock Geraldyn Smith & Mary Jackson	Ann Rademaker	Karen Soper, Rhonda Barr Chris Stuckman	Ron & Linda Dahlstrom	Ushers	Jens Kallevang John Bauercamper Gary & Scott Houg
	10:30 AM	E W				Darrel & Rosanne Wicks		
12/12/21 Advent 3	8:30 AM	E W	Matt & Dawn Teslow Sue & Sarah Bieber	Sophia Palmer	X	X	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W						
12/19/21 Advent 4	8:30 AM	E W	Rudy & Marion Helsa Jerry & Carla Schnuelle	Hailey Houg	Dennis & Linda DeBuhr Vickie Larson	Carla Schnuelle Marilyn Henkels	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W				Sherry Knudtson Kasey Iverson		
12/24/21 Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	E W	Greg & Ann Hagensick	Brent Roe	Ron Dahlstrom family	Jane Kallevang Karen Soper	Ushers	?
	7:00 PM	E W	Bill & Linda Halvorson	?	Dave Dougherty family	Linda Groe		?
12/26/21	8:30 AM	E W	Corb Grimstad family Lyle Stock family	Madi Palmer ?	X	X	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W						

St. John's Women Serving and Socializing



Thanks again to all of our women who donated material, made quilt tops, cut quilt blocks, tied quilts, pinned quilts, and sewed quilts together. We were pleased to finish 24 quilts to be donated as follows: Bremwood – 5, Allamakee Veterans Office – 5, Northeast Iowa Community Action – 5, and Lutheran World Relief – 9. All of these organizations are always very happy to receive these quilts and express many thanks to St. John's women.

We were thankful to collect \$1,214 for our Fall Salad Luncheon and Bake Sale! The Executive Board chose to distribute the funds as follows: Bremwood-\$100; Allamakee County Substance Abuse-\$100; St. John's Radio Ministry-\$165; Helping Services For Youth and Families-\$100; Scholarship for St. John's Freshman at a Lutheran College-\$200; St. John's Food Basket for Christmas & Easter-\$300; Cresco Midwest Bible Center-\$100; LWR Mission Postage-\$100; ACSD Children's Health Fund-\$100. We also took out \$51 from our Thrivent account to fulfill all of these amounts for our giving. Our donations are always truly appreciated by all who receive them. Thanks again to our St. John's women who made all of this giving possible.

At the time of our writing, we have been receiving more Thankoffering contributions. We will report the total in January.

Thank you to all who have given to our Pennies for Presents. At the time of this writing, we have one more Sunday to collect donations. We are excited to be able to purchase Christmas gifts for three girls and three boys whose names are on the Christmas Tree at Hartig's.

Everyone is once again invited to the Annual Allamakee Ecumenical Concert on Sunday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy the words of the coming of Christ's birth in the word and music. St. John's Youth and Senior Bell Choirs will perform along with a mixed choir and the Heartland Barber-shop and Gospel Singers. Hope to see you there as we welcome in the season of Christmas.

Please pray for the safety of our military men and women, for people suffering from natural disasters all over the world, and for Christians everywhere.

Thank you for MAKING TIME and TAKING TIME for our privileges and responsibilities at St. John's.

Sue Bieber, President

Deacon News

The Prayer Cards are here! They will be found in the back of the church pews. More information will be shared about the Prayer Cards at a church service.

On the last Sunday in October, our church had seven young people receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Congratulations to the students and families.

The second service is back up and running. It is a smaller service and the piano is used more than the organ. The service starts at 10:30 and goes to 11:15.

Noisy offering is going well. It is great to see the kids involved in the service. The kids are deciding on what project to donate the money towards. They have collected \$176.28 so far.

It is time for us to start thinking about Christmas food boxes soon. Last year we helped eight families with food and gift cards to our local grocery stores. We are in need of money donations to continue this service. If you can donate, please contact Pastor Bryan or put a donation in the offering plate marked for the Christmas food baskets.

The Deacons are currently lining up Advent Readers. It is hard to believe that we are that close to Christmas. If you would like to volunteer to be involved in Advent readings, please contact the church office. Thanks!

Book Nook

No Report



Board of Ed

Christmas program practice will be Saturday, Dec. 18th from 9-10 am. The Christmas Program will be Dec. 19th at 10:30 am.

There will be NO Sunday School Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd.

2021

<- NOVEMBER

JANUARY ->

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	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 Solan Berger Lane Harrington Brent Miller	7 Shirley Larkin Christina Williams	8 Bev Haas	9	10 Shawn Martin	11 Donnalee Osland
12 Loren & Cindy Fiet (A)	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 Lauren Allison 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 Eilers Danyce Jacobs Elizabeth Montet Audrea Peterson Dave & Brienne Eilers (A)	24 Brian Wullner	25 Kristi Fahey Nick Heydn Dave & Mary Lou Sorum (A)
26 Rick Dahlstrom Earl & Bev Haas (A)	27	28 Maureen Wagner	29 Mike Sanderson	30 Dave Dougherty Jens & Jane Kallevang (A)	31 Bobbi Jo Baxter Rudy Hesla Fred Smith	1

****Hymns for December at
St. John's****



November Statistics



December 5

No. 264 Prepare the Royal Highway

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

No. 249 On Jordan's Bank

During Distribution No. 239 & 256

No. 246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

December 12

No. 257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

No. 254 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

No. 266 All Earth Is Hopeful

December 19

No. 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

No. 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

During Distribution No. 260 & 263

No. 268 From Heaven Above

December 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. 281 Silent Night, Holy Night

During Distribution No. 274 & 276

No. 267 Joy to the World

December 26

No. 288 Good Christian Friends Rejoice

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

No. 298 The Bells of Christmas

No. 275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Baptisms: Ruby Miller
Joplin Nuehring

Weddings: none

Deaths: none



Ruby Lynn Miller,
daughter of Dustin
Miller and Anna
Schroeder



Joplin Jean Nuehring
daughter of Kacey
Nuehring and Abigail
Byrnes



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.

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8 Fifth Street, S.W. Box 403
Waukon, IA 52172-0403

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Confirmands
2021

Class of 2021 St. John's Lutheran Church

Front Row: Keeran Barr, Sarah Stock, Olivia Dougherty

Back Row: Pastor Bryan Robertson, Brandon Teslow, Dalton Ellickson, Layne Dahlberg, McKinley Rostvold