

# St. John's Lutheran Church



## Newsletter

Bryan Robertson, Pastor

January, 2021

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

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While stepping ahead into the new year, the challenges we faced in the year 2020 still linger: the COVID-19 virus is still potent; we still struggle with how we can safely gather together; our businesses feel the decline of in-person customers; and if meeting face to face may not be possible, we must find other ways to share Jesus' love with each other.

Stepping ahead, these challenges of 2020 are still with us. But as we walk forward, the power of the Holy Spirit and the faith and creativity of believers that we experienced last year will carry us well into the future.

While our doors were closed for over three months last Spring and Summer, our ministries continued. Our phones kept us in contact, person to person. The internet allowed us to have virtual meetings to plan and organize how our ministries could serve you. Those grieving their loved ones could gather and hear the Good News of Jesus, though limited in numbers and masked for their safety.

When our doors again opened for in-person worship, faithful parishioners ushered and welcomed those gathering together, and for many months, up to now, our church members and members of other congregations prepared to provide music for each Sunday morning.

Our radio broadcasts on Sunday—a long standing ministry—were heavily relied upon to bolster the faith of our members electing to stay at home for health reasons, and for those in the Tri-State area doing the same.

With the gradual addition of better sound equipment, our voices and music came through clearer. With the addition of internet access throughout the sanctuary, we were able to stream a video feed on our Facebook page. And each Sunday, our Gospel message is viewed by hundreds and hundreds, not only in-state, but far across the country.

Yes, God can make good things happen even in the bad. God has given us faith, creativity, and the willingness to work and persevere. And for that, looking behind us and looking ahead, we give thanks.

I want to give thanks to our leaders who have met throughout the year and have helped us navigate the challenges of ministering to others which this pandemic presented. Our Deacons made calls to connect with our members; our Trustees did their work to keep our lights on, our rooms warm in the winter and cool in the Summer; our Education Committee and teachers and guides found ways to minister to youth under our roof or over the internet; our women's circles continued to meet online or in person and give time, talents, and treasure to service organizations.

And although we did not meet for some months and many still worship at home, you, our members, have remained most generous in your gifts of time and money. We can end our year having done the ministries that circumstances allowed, and we can begin the new year confident we'll have resources to continue our work.

And the most important resource among them is their source: the Good News of Jesus, the Holy Spirit giving us faith, and our faith active in love. For these gifts and for you, we at St. John's Lutheran Church give thanks to God.

*Peace, Pr. Bryan*

### *What's Inside*

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## Radio Ministry 2021



- Jan 3            Given by member
- Jan 10          In memory of Dorothy Wandling by Friends
- Jan 17          In honor of Gertrude Norden.  
                    Anonymous
- Jan 24          Given by faithful listener of Decorah, IA
- Jan 31          In memory of Emette & Genette Burgess by  
                    Bob Potempa

### **PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT**

St. John's is currently looking for a Vice President and President for the year 2021. Prayerfully consider donating your talents to these positions. Contact the Nominating Committee if interested. **Thank you**

### **Church Council Meeting Highlights Dec 1, 2020**



- ~PPP loan has been converted to a grant so does not need to be repaid
- ~Trust Fund Committee has been utilizing an account manager to look at what more we can do with money in Trust Fund
- ~New locks & keys are on hold for time being
- ~New boiler installed & running
- ~Facebook live has been set up & seems to be working well
- ~Annual Meeting has been scheduled for January 17, 2021.

## Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2021

### *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)



**Thank you to the volunteers** who have quietly slipped onto the church property to assemble the new picture directory stand and changing of light bulbs. We appreciate everything you have done for us and thank you for your service to our church!



Now located in Fellowship Hall.

2021

FEBRUARY ->

# JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 8:30am worship w/comm. NO Sun School 9:30am LYO mtg	4	5	6 6pm & 7:15pm Confirmation	7	8	9
10 8:30am worship 9:30am Sun School	11	12 6pm Trustee mtg 7pm Dorcas mtg via Zoom	13 6pm & 7:15pm Confirmation 6:15pm Youth Bells 7:15pm Sr Bells	14	15	16
17 8:30am worship w/comm. NO Sun School 12:30pm Ann'l Mtg	18	19	20 6pm & 7:15pm Confirmation 6:15pm Youth Bells 7:15pm Sr Bells	21	22	23
24 8:30am worship 9:30am Sun School	25	26	27 6pm & 7:15pm Confirmation 6:15pm Youth Bells 7:15pm Sr Bells	28	29	30
31 8:30am worship 9:30am Sun School	1	2	3	4	5	6

Activities subject to change based on COVID19

## Music Ministry

A sincere thank you to members of the Youth Bell Choir, Senior Bell Choir, and Men's Choir who have provided special music during our Advent worship services in December as well as participating in the Ecumenical Choir Concert on Sunday, December 13. The Allamakee Ecumenical Choir Concert has been a unique experience this year as a result of the coronavirus. We are so pleased to have had the radio broadcast of the event along with being seen and heard on Facebook. Even though the coronavirus restricted and limited live attendance, our program reached out to an estimated several thousand viewers from coast to coast and beyond. We would have had to provide 10 or more concerts to accommodate that many viewers who experienced the program in just one live performance on Facebook. Thank you again to everyone who made the program possible, to the technology to be able to deliver it to such a wide audience, and to Sarah Bieber for assisting me with our concert.

Tentatively, Senior and Youth Bell Choirs along with

the Men's Choir will resume rehearsals after Christmas on Wednesday, January 6.

*James Bieber - Organist / Director of Music*



### December Statistics

Baptisms: none

Funerals: Alfred Olsen

Weddings: none



Brantley Neal Steiber, infant son of Ross & Kimberly Steiber. Baptized 11-28-20.

St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Jan 2021

Date	Service		Greeters	Readers	Comm. Asst.	Comm. Prep.	Acolytes	Ushers
1/3/21 Epiphany	8:30 AM	E W E	X	Maddi Palmer	X	Linda Groe	TDB	Bill Roe family
1/10/21	8:30 AM	E W E W	X	Bill Roe			TDB	Same as 1/3
1/17/21	8:30 AM	E W E	X	Dave Sanderson	X	Linda Groe	TDB	Same as 1/3
1/24/21	8:30 AM	E W W	X	Nan Grangaard			TDB	Same as 1/3
1/31/21	8:30 AM	E W	X	Donnalee Osland				



## St. John's Women Serving and Socializing *Sunday School kids; see page 8 for more info*

The year 2021, may it be full of blessings and calm for everyone. We know that God will be with us as he has been forever. Let us pray that we can soon return to the “normal” life that we previously experienced as we serve and socialize together as women of St. John’s!

Circle members who normally met monthly may once again decide if and how they will meet in January. Please notify the church office if you plan on meeting at the church.

You may have your 2021 EVENTS BOOKLET by the time you receive the JANUARY CHURCH NEWSLETTER. Please note that duties are listed the same as they were in 2020. The first change is that we will not meet for Quilting in January. That activity will not take place until further notice. The second change is that no Circles will visit our nursing homes until we are notified that they will allow people to come to bring treats to them.

A HUGE “THANK YOU” to everyone who donated to our Pennies for Presents!! We received enough money so that we spent \$48 on each of three girls and three boys who were listed on the Allamakee County Relief Office Christmas tree. Every one of these children received a gift certificate for \$16 from Hartig’s, Dollar General, and WW Homestead Dairy. These gifts should allow them to enjoy a variety of needs and pleasures.

If any of our women who know that they have given \$50 or more to their Circle (monthly offering, Birthday Box for the Library, Pennies for Presents, or other special Circle items) during 2020 and wish to have a receipt-type printed paper for tax purposes, please contact Debbie Thorstenson at 535-7546.

Please pray for peace, for the safety of our military men and women, for people suffering from natural disasters and the coronavirus 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*



*December 20, 2020*

2021

FEBRUARY ->**JANUARY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1 Deb Berger Jacob Jones	2 Bruce Torkelson Landon Wilkes
3 Jim Bieber Lori Jacobs	4 Linda Groe Paul Sorum Verland & Ellen Lenth (A)	5 Kinsley Bosley	6 Dave Sanderson	7	8 John Marti	9 Nancy Brandt Ann Hagensick Marlene Houg
10 Diana Davison Jane Kallevang	11 Jim Collins Jay Hansen Deb Thorstenson	12 Delores Johnson Kyle & Therese Johnson (A)	13 Patty Nordheim Elsie Sanderson Mark Stock	14 Isaac Fink	15	16
17 Kai Johanningmeier Nathan Johnson Maddie Marti Madi Palmer	18	19 Pam Decker Tom Fink	20 Jim Hanson Annika Headington Gavin Smith	21 Diana Johnson Marvin Winters Denise Wullner	22 Agnes Anderson	23
24 Kim Rolfs	25 Marvin Hill Gerald Piittmann	26 Taylor Jackson Madi Ottaway	27 Mark Goeke	28 Dennis Deal Jens Kallevang	29 Tom Schreiber	30
31 Ashlyn Johnson Evonne Kistler Adam Leiran	1	2	3	4	5	6

**\*\*Hymns for January at  
St. John's\*\***



**Jan 3 Second Sunday of Christmas  
No. 289 Angels We Have Heard on High**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

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

**No. 294 In The Bleak Midwinter**

**During Distribution No. &**

**No. 302 As with Gladness Men of Old**

**Jan 10 First Sunday after Epiphany**

**No. 308 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!**

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

Second Lesson: Acts 19:1-7

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

**No. 487 What Feast of Love**

**No. 671 Shine, Jesus Shine**

**Jan 17 Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**No. 668 O Zion, Haste**

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: John 1:43-51

**No. 798 Will You Come and Follow Me**

**During Distribution No. &**

**No. 310 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

**Jan 24 Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**No. 575 In Christ Called to Baptize**

First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

**No. 696 Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult**

**No. 867 In Thee Is Gladness**

**Jan 31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**No. 665 Rise, Shine You People!**

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

**No. 466 In the Singing**

**No. 311 Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

**Book Nook**



**"Unshakable Hope" by Max Lucado**

What is shaking your world? Possibly your future, your faith, your family or finances? Could you use some unshakable hope? What if we filtered our lives and our challenges through the promises of God? Because life is filled with problems, God's Word is filled with promises. Promises that will equip us to overcome difficult circumstances, experience lasting security, and make wise decisions. And since His Word is unbreakable, our hope is unshakable.

**"The Next Place" by Warren Hanson**

An inspirational journey of light and hope to a place where earthly hurts are left behind. An uncomplicated journey of awe and wonder to a destination without barriers. A celebration of life.

**Children:**

**"You Are Extraordinary" by Craig & Samantha Johnson**

Every child is unique. No matter what they're like, all children need to hear three things:

You Are Loved

You Have Purpose

You Are Extraordinary

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**Circle News**



**SARAH** Circle

**MARY** Circle

**RACHEL** Circle

**DORCAS** Circle \*\*see below\*\*

**Circles can meet.**

**Contact your Circle President for details.**

**\*\*Dorcas Circle** will meet January 12 at 7:00pm via computer. If anyone would like to join the discussion (via any device, computer, tablet, phone) please contact Linda Groe at 563 568-3526





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# .....Sunday School News

***The Sunday school kids*** did the Advent reading and had a fun and simple program with some songs and scripture readings pertaining to the Christmas story. Christmas bags were handed out after the church service. ***Thank you to all the parents for allowing your children to be a part of this!***

