

St. John's Lutheran Church



Newsletter

Bryan Robertson, Pastor

January, 2023

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

8 Fifth 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

It should come as no surprise, but every year around now it still comes as a bit of a shock: It's dark, very dark, at 7:00 a.m. in the morning.

While your clock on the wall says it's time to get up and get ready for work, which seemed easily done when the sun rose at 5:29, waking up now feels a challenge, and taking a step out of the bed takes forever. As you trudge towards the kitchen to turn on the coffee, there's no spring in your step.

Dark: it's a seasonal feature of life as we know it up north. It's oncoming prompts our trees to drop leaves, cows' coats to get shaggy, and our cold-blooded animals start burying themselves in the ground.

And us? We are with them in spirit: our steps come much slower, our clothes lose their color, and our smiles come less often while night lasts so long. And we find comfort wherever there's light.

You've felt it, I'm sure, when you've stood here in church, holding your candles with dozens of others while singing the song, Silent Night. You've felt hope and felt warmth, a feeling of family gathered together, even before the lyrics began:

"Son of God, love's pure light, radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth."

Although it's a dark season here in the north, our church year begins with this first light of hope: a babe in a manger seen in the dim light of candles. And as we now begin the season of Epiphany, the season of light, we will see more clearly who this Christmas child is.

He'll show us the feeling he has in his heart. He'll show us his loves and he'll show us his hates. We'll see who he calls friends and how he treats folks who are hurting. And we'll see that he's more than a baby, born in a stable, or a young man, trained in a carpenter's shop.

We'll see that he's almighty God who's come here among us, to not only bring hope, but to make our hopes happen: by healing the sick and raising the dead; by dying for us on a cross and rising on Easter. This Bethlehem baby was born that we might have light and life, here and now, and together forever.

The season of Epiphany, the season of light, is beginning this month. As the sun begins to rise earlier each day, may our hope and our faith find warmth and light in this Jesus who's come here to save us.

What's Inside

Pastor's Comments	page 1
Trustee minutes	page 2
Annual Mtg	page 2
Baptism	page 7
Christmas Program	page 8

Peace,

Pr. Bryan

Radio Ministry January 2023



Jan 1 in memory of Family & Friends who have passed

Jan 8 Church Funds

Jan 15 for peace in our country & world

Jan 22 Church Funds

Jan 29 Church Funds

Trustee Meeting Dec 13, 2022



~ New sign proposal; will need Congregational vote to approve

~Handrail project approved

~Second half Benevolence to be paid in this year

~Budget recommendations approved

~Caulking & painting in Pastor's Office

~Discuss uses & fees for Fellowship Hall

see Narthex Bulletin Board for more details

CIRCLE NEWS

SARAH Circle: 9:15am, Jan 10, location to be determined, hostess: N Grangaard & Bible Study with N Brandt

MARY Circle: tbd

RACHEL Circle: tbd

DORCAS Circle: Jan 10 @ 7pm virtual. 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 onto the church property to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias



Annual Meeting January 29, 2023 Fellowship Hall

11:15am LYO providing soup & sandwich lunch prior to meeting

****make plans to attend**

January 2023

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm NO Sun School	2	3	4 6pm Youth Handbell 7pm Confirmation & Sr Handbell 8pm Sr Choir	5	6	7
8 8:30am & 10:30am worship 9:30am Sun School	9	10 9:15am Sarah Circle 6pm Trustee mtg & Bd Deacons 7pm Dorcas Circle- virtual	11 6pm Youth Handbell 7pm Confirmation & Sr Handbell 8pm Sr Choir	12	13	14
15 8:30am worship w/comm 9:30am Sun School 10:30am Youth Family worship w/comm	16	17	18 6pm Youth Handbell 7pm Confirmation & Sr Handbell 8pm Sr Choir	19 8:30am-4:30pm WIC	20	21
22 8:30am & 10:30am worship 9:30am Sun School	23	24	25 6pm Youth Handbell 7pm Confirmation & Sr Handbell 8pm Sr Choir	26	27	28
29 8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm 9:30am Sun School 11:30am Annl Mtg in FH	30	31				

Music Ministry



Thank you to the WHS Choir and Director Sarah Bieber for providing our 8:30 a.m. service with carol selections to begin their long morning of Church Tour performances on Sunday, December 4.

Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, January 4 with the regular schedule of:

6:00 p.m. – Youth Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. – Senior Bell Choir
8:00 p.m. – Senior Choir

Happy New Year to all!

Thank you to the Youth Bell Choir, Senior Bell Choir, Men's Choir (Heartland Barbershop and Gospel Singers) along with Senior Choir Sopranos, Ushers, Clergy, and ladies who served the reception for making the Ecumenical Choir Concert a special event this year. We reached out with over 640 who watched the Concert on Facebook from Virginia to Hawaii. Many listened to KNEI Radio also to enjoy the beautiful words and music of Christmas. Thank you all for sharing your precious time and talents.

James Bieber / Organist-Director of Music

Happy
New Year

On December 18, the Men's Choir performed at St. John's 8:30 a.m. service and also sang at the First Presbyterian Church and the First Baptist Church for a whirlwind mini-tour.

St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Jan 2023

Date	Service		Greeters	Readers	Comm. Asst.	Comm. Prep.	Acolytes	Ushers
1/1/23	8:30 AM	E W	D & W Sanderson Wayne & Nona Sawyer	Karen Grimstad	Dave, Brenda & Olivia Dougherty	Bev Leiran Kayla Leiran	Ushers	Gary Houg & Scott Houg family
	10:30 AM	E W	C & D Schlake	Mary Lou Sorum	Dave Sorum	Altar Guild	Ushers	Corb Grimstad family
1/8/23 Epiphany Sunday	8:30 AM	E W	Mark Stock family Ross Stammeyer family	Lori Hesse	X	X	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W	Charles & Lois Rolfs	Linda Groe			Ushers	same as above
1/15/23	8:30 AM	E W	Lee Ellickson family Dan & Lori Treangen	Bill Roe	Chris Stuckman, Sarah Bieber, Vickie Larson	Mary Jo Meyer Bailey Benson	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W	Sandy Deal	Chuck Larson	Chuck Larson	Carole Yohe Kristi Fahey	Ushers	same as above
1/22/23	8:30 AM	E W	C Wuebker family B & S Blagsvedt	Bev Haas	X	X	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W	H & C Yohe	Kristi Fahey			Ushers	same as above
1/29/23	8:30 AM	E W	R & M Hesla Lee Moser family	Nan Grangaard	Jens & Jane Kallevang Bill Halvorson	Carla & Jerry Schnuelle	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W	C & J Kistler Mirich	Karen Stamper	Dan Headington	Lori & Randy Hesse	Ushers	same as above

St. John's Women Serving and Socializing



Time seems to fly by when we all keep busy. January 2023 is almost here and will probably be filled with another year of activities for our St. John' women to be of service and to stay active with our church family. Thank you to each and every one of you for keeping our church alive and strong in our faith!

Thanks go out to everyone for donating individual Thankofferings. We gathered \$391 to send to the Chicago WELCA Office to be used in their programs to train and help women to better their lives.

Thanks also go out to everyone who gave to Pennies for Presents. We gathered a little over \$300 which made it possible to give three young girls and three young boys each \$50 worth of Christmas Gift Certificates. They each received a Hartig's \$20 certificate, a Main Feature Theatre \$15 certificate, and a Dollar General \$15 certificate. The Allamakee Co. Relief Office and the children who received the gifts are very thankful for the caring St. John's WELCA!

Thank you to our Circle members for donating bars and cookies for the refreshment time after the Allamakee Ecumenical Concert. The treats were enjoyed by all. Thank you also to the servers who gave of their time the evening of December 11. The concert was full of beautiful music and words from the Bible as we began to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

WE NEED HELP WITH OUR QUILTING PROGRAM. Betty White needs to step down from organizing the quilt materials we have. She will train a person or persons to do so, which is not a complicated process. Please contact her or the church office to meet with her at the church. **WE HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE QUILTING, BUT WE NEED HELP!** Women may continue to cut quilt blocks, tie quilts, and pin quilts. Weather and health conditions determine if we have our Mini-Do-Days beginning on Wednesday, January 4, from 8:45 a.m. to noon followed by January 11, 18, and 25. Then we meet on February 1 and 8 at the same time to finish our quilting for this season.

All of our women will receive a **2023 EVENTS BOOKLET** in the near future. Please look through it to be sure your name is listed with a Circle along with a correct phone number. If your name is not listed or if the phone number is incorrect, **PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO GET THINGS IN ORDER.**

Please pray for peace, 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

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



Jan 1 First Sunday of Christmas

No. 282 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9

Second Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

No. 290 Go Tell It On the Mountain

During Distribution No. 284 & 292

No. 288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Jan 8 Baptism of Our Lord

No. 673 God, Whose Almighty Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9

Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

No. 423 Shall We Gather at the River

No. 310 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Jan 15 Second Sunday after Epiphany

No. 665 Rise, Shine, You People!

First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel: John 1:29-42

No. 308 O Morning Star, How Fair & Bright

During Distribution No. 480 & 482

No. 306 Come, Beloved of the Maker

Jan 22 Third Sunday after Epiphany

No. 661 I Love to Tell the Story

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

No. 798 Will You Come and Follow Me

No. 696 Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult

Jan 29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

No. 873 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

No. 719 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

During Distribution No. &

No. 818 O Master, Let Me Walk with You

January 2023

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Deb Berger Jacob Jones	2 Bruce Torkelson Landon Wilkes	3 James Bieber Lori Jacobs Henry Lacey	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 James 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 Kaia 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 Nick Dougherty Marvin Hill Brielle Koester Gerald Piittmann	26 Taylor Jackson	27 Mark Goeke	28 Dennis Deal Jens Kallevang
29 Tom Schreiber	30	31 Ashlyn Johnson Evonne Kistler Adam Leiran				



Book Nook

"The Mountain Between Us" by Charles Martin

A captivating story about two strangers who crash into an unforgiving wilderness and must rely on each other to survive.

"Long Way Gone" by Charles Martin

A radical retelling of the prodigal son story, "Long Way Gone" takes us from tent revivals to the Ryman Auditorium to the tender relationships between a broken man and the father who never stopped calling him home.

submitted by *Jean Moody*

December 2022

Baptisms: Jayden Erb



Weddings: none

Deaths: Anna Gearhart



Jayden Jeffrey Erb baptized Dec. 11, 2022. Pictured with Johnathan & Alie Erb, and sister Eliana. Along with sponsors: Steven Carstens & Megan Martin.

Sunday School

It has been a busy fall in Sunday School! The SS students are settling into the newly renovated SS wing. Thank you to all who helped with your time and donations for carpet, painting, pictures and moving items. The SS wing is now a welcoming and inviting space for our youth. If you haven't checked it out yet, please do so.

At the beginning of the SS year the students identified 3 local organizations that they wanted to do service projects for with their noisy offering. They are: the nursing homes, humane society, and the hospital. In December, they were busy creating winter door decorations for the residents of Northgate in Waukon. In the fall of 2018, the Sunday School was given an anonymous donation to do a service activity for the nursing home in Waukon, specifically Good Sam. Following the 2018 project there were some leftover funds; those remaining funds were used this year to pack Christmas goody bags again for the residents of Good Sam. Included in their goody bag were: grippy socks, a notebook, pen, word search, lotion, chapstick, a pop it and a piece of chocolate. The next SS service project will benefit the humane society.

We'd also like to take a minute for a huge shout out of appreciation to Chris Ellickson and Becky Roe (along with our SS team) for all of their hard work on the Sunday School Christmas Program. The students did a fabulous job! If you missed the program you can find it on the Church facebook page.

Sunday School Christmas Program 2022



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

Sunday School Christmas Program 2022

