

# St. John's Lutheran Church



## Newsletter

Bryan Robertson, Pastor

January, 2024

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

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The name of the month, January, is old. It seems to have roots in legend, added to the Roman calendar sometime, B.C., during the 600's. January 1, furthermore, seems to have been named the first day of the year by Rome in 153 B.C., prompted by some forgotten military defeat.

But whenever its origins, it's old. And as far as its name, its not a random collection of letters, but comes from the name of some pagan god: the Roman god, Janus, who was commonly pictured as having two faces—one looking back and the other, facing forward.

As January 2024 begins, many of us take time to look back at the stuff that made up last year: our successes and failures, and endurance and struggles in everyday life. And we do just the same in our lives as a church.

We remember those in this family we've lost through the year, and we continue to pray for those who are struggling with health, employment, and family dynamics. And we've seen how things change that we don't expect. We've suddenly seen wars causing mass suffering; we've had sickness suddenly strike the people we love; and there's weather that's dried up our pastures and crops, and always the threat of tornados and hailstorms.

There's ample evidence, looking back through the

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year, that bad things can certainly come in our future.

But looking ahead, just like a farmer looks forward to planting, and just like a herdsman looks forward to calves coming soon, we look forward to life because of our Lord.

We look forward, together, with hope and relief because Jesus is with us now and forever.

We've heard His good word of forgiveness of sins. We've heard his great promise of raising the dead. We've seen children welcomed into His family, washed by the waters of Baptism. And there've been those who have joined us at the Lord's table for the very first time.

We've seen people who've given their talents and time to share Jesus' love: teaching our youth in Sunday School classes; and coming together to study the Bible; and serving the grieving at funeral lunches, and sharing their treasure to help folks in need.

And we know Jesus' call to be his disciples came with His promise to send us God's Spirit to lead us and guide us. And keeping this promise all through last year, Jesus will as we turn our face to the future.

January has two faces: one looking back and one looking forward. And for us, as God's people, we add one more face to this month: we add a face full of Hope that comes from our faith in Jesus, our Lord, and all He has promised.

*Peace,*  
*Pr. Bryan*

# Radio Ministry January 2024



- Jan 7 Given by Vic & Diane Fye
- Jan 14 Given by faithful listener
- Jan 21 Church Funds
- Jan 28 Given by faithful listener

## 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) and Facebook [stjohns@waukon](mailto:stjohns@waukon)



## Book Nook

### "A Journey of Faith" by Edward Grinnan

In this eloquent memoir, Edward shares his mother's years-long battle with Alzheimers, the toll it took on his family, and his own fears of succumbing to the disease. You will find hope and love on every page. You'll realize that nothing can separate you from the love of God. Also added are inspiring stories of others who loved someone afflicted with Alzheimers.

*Submitted by Joan Moody*



## CIRCLE NEWS January 2024

**SARAH Circle:** 9:15am Jan 9 in the Lounge with Betty White as hostess & Bible study done together.

**DORCAS Circle:** Jan 9, 7pm virtually, contact Linda Groe with questions.

## Thank you to the volunteers

who have quietly slipped into the church property to change out light bulbs, work on plumbing & heating. We appreciate everything you have done for us and

*Thank You for your service to our church.*



## Trustee/Church Council Meeting Dec 19, 2023



~Ministry Budget proposals

~Stained glass window inspection

~Amendment & By-Laws for Church Council to consider

~Sound System update

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

# January 2024

Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3 8:45am-noon Quilting 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Bells 8pm Sr Choir	4 8:30am-4:30pm WIC	5	6
7 8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm. 9:30am SS	8	9 9:15am Sarah Circle Lounge 7pm Dorcas Circle-virtual	10 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Bells 8pm Sr Choir	11	12	13
14 8:30am & 10:30am worship 9:30am SS	15	16 6pm Trustee mtg	17 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Bells 8pm Sr Choir	18	19	20
21 8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm. 9:30am SS	22	23	24 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Bells 8pm Sr Choir	25	26	27
28 8:30am & 10:30am worship 9:30am SS	29	30	31 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Bells 8pm Sr Choir			

# Music Ministry



Thank you to Sarah Bieber and her High School Choir for providing Christmas Carol music to open our first Advent Service of the season on Dec. 3. Thank you to all our choirs for providing music for the remainder of the Advent season & Christmas services. A special thank you goes out to our bell choirs and choir members who participated in the Ecumenical Choir Service on Dec. 10 along with ushers, clergy & ladies in the kitchen who served the reception.

The new year is fast approaching and choir rehearsals are scheduled to resume on Wed, Jan 3. The regular rehearsal times as follows:

- 6pm Youth Bells
- 7pm Senior Bells
- 8pm Senior Choir

Happy New Year to all.

*James H Bieber - Organist / Director of Music*

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 \$3624.11 and \$934 respectively. Your gifts to defray these expenses will help us continue to care for this place, which serves as a base for our ministries.



## St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Jan-24

Date	Service		Greeters	Readers	Comm Asst	Comm Prep	Acolytes	Ushers
1/7/2024	8:30am	E	Dave & Wendy Sanderson	Nona Sawyer	Jens & Jane Kallevang	Bev Leiran		Tom & Bev Leiran family
		W	Lee & Rachel Moser		Sarah Bieber	Kayla Leiran		
	10:30am	E	Ed & Karen Stamper	Ed Stamper	Wendy Bucheit	Jan Gordon		Kristi Fahey
		W	Ushers					Harlan Yohe
1/14/2024	8:30am	E	Russ & Mary Jo Meyer	Ann Hagensick				same as above
		W	Matt & Dawn Teslow		X	X		
	10:30am	E	Vickie Larson, Peg Slaughter	Linda Groe				same as above
		W	Ushers					
1/21/2024	8:30am	E	Jane Dietrich, Judith Engle	Brenda Dougherty	Dave & Brenda Dougherty	Linda Groe		same as above
		W	Jens & Jane Kallevang		Nona Sawyer	Vickie Larson		
	10:30am	E	Urmanski family	Sunday School	Linda Groe	Carole Yohe		same as above
		W	Ushers			Kristi Fahey		
1/28/2024	8:30am	E	Bill Roe family	Blake Roe				same as above
		W	Mary Jackson, J Fransen		X	X		
	10:30am	E	Wendy & Sadie Bucheit	Sadie Bucheit				same as above
		W	Ushers					

## St. John's Women Serving and Socializing



## Hymns for January at St. Johns



This month we had many things to be thankful for.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Thank Offering that was collected in November. The total collected came to \$339. We keep half of that amount here and send the other half to the WELCA Organization.

Thank you to the Dorcas Circle for serving treats at the Ecumenical Concert December 10th. The concert was enjoyed by many and the treats were wonderful.

WELCA also donated money to our church's effort to buy food baskets for people during the holiday seasons of Easter and Christmas. We donated \$725 to this effort.

We want to give a big thank you to Rhonda who worked very hard getting our yearly WELCA booklets ready for us. Please pick them up at the church when you come.

This is our year to gather supplies for baby care kits. The items needed are listed in the 2024 Events Booklet. Please donate what you can. It doesn't need to be a whole kit. School supplies are also needed and welcome.

We will start our monthly quilting on January 3 from 8:45- 12:00. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

*Submitted by Karen Stamper*

### January 7 First Sunday after Epiphany No. 302 As With Gladness Men of Old

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

Second Lesson: Acts 19:1-7

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

### No. 303 Brightest and Best of the Stars During Distribution No. 815 & 816 No. 314 Arise, Your Light has Come

### January 14 Second Sunday after Epiphany No. 583 Take My Lift That I May Be

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 No. 676 Lord, Speak to Us

### January 21 Third Sunday after Epiphany No. 661 I Love to Tell the Story

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 During Distribution No. 306 & 311 No. 810 O Jesus, I Have Promised

### January 28 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. 612 Healer of Our Every Ill No. 434 Jesus Shall Reign

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**Annual Meeting**  
**January 28, 2024**  
**11:30am**  
**Fellowship Hall**

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### December 2023



**Baptisms:** Elsie Dougherty

**Weddings:** none

**Deaths:** Maryellen Politowitz

# January 2024

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	13 Patty Nordheim Mark Stock
14 Isaac Fink	15	16	17 Nathan Johnson Madalyn Palmer	18	19 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 Gerald Piittmann	26 Taylor Jackson	27 Mark Goeke
28 Dennis Deal Jens Kallevang	29 Tom Schreiber	30	31 Ashlyn Johnson Evonne Kistler Adam Leiran			



thank  
you!

Thanks guys for changing out light bulbs.



Waukon Senior  
High School Choir  
Dec 3, 2023  
Directed by Sarah Bieber

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**Sunday School Christmas Program 2023**



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

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## Sunday School Christmas Program 2023



The Board of Ed. would like to give a huge shout out to Becky Roe and Chris Ellickson for their hard work on the Christmas program along with our Sunday school teachers who help make the program and every Sunday possible by fostering the growth of our children's faith at St. John's.

**Sunday School will resume on January 7.**