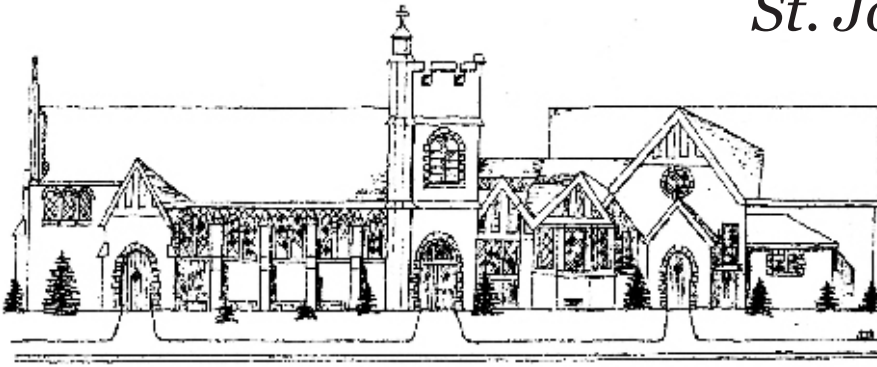


# St. John's Lutheran Church



## Newsletter

Bryan Robertson, Pastor

December, 2024

*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  
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stjohnswaukon@gmail.com  
www.stjohnswaukon.net

There are lots of us now who are watching and waiting to see what will happen.

With winter so soon to arrive, we're curious to know how bad it will be—how much snow will pile up, how cold it will get and how days will be cancelled at school.

And for those who've completed the harvest with fantastic yields—300 bushels an acre for some—they would like to know what the market will do: how long they should hold and when they should sell.

And for many who voted for president this year, supporting the winner or not—we have no idea of what the future will bring, only promises made throughout the election.

We have no idea how much things will cost at the store or the pump. We have no idea if there will be wars or if there will be peace. We have no idea if life will be better, or life will get worse.

We're waiting to see what the new year will bring. But there are some things we know no matter the date.

We have news that shook and shakes the whole world since angels once sang to some shepherds:

Luke 2:10b '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. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 'Glory to God in the

highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

For shepherds back then, they couldn't help but wonder what it all meant and what it would look like. What would a savior do for them all? And they made quick work to answer those questions: Luke 2:16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The shepherds found God, our God, in the flesh. They found a helpless baby, swaddled in cheap cloth, born to poor parents, resting his head in a bunk feeding cows.

They didn't know what it meant. They had no idea of what he would do.

But we do and know: that He's come to show you how much that you're loved. He'll show the world he's willing to die a death just like ours, with words of forgiveness in his last breaths. He's come to show us, come Easter morning, that death is real, but has no real power to separate us from the love of our Lord.

This baby who's born in a Bethlehem barn, shows us our present and shows us our future: Romans 8:38b ....that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Next year is filled with things we don't know. But as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we know the good news that angels once sang.

### What's Inside

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*Peace,*

*Pr. Bryan*

## Radio Ministry December 2024



Dec 1	given by friend of Congregation
Dec 8	given by Vic & Diane Fye
Dec 15	given by Dixie Libbey
Dec 22	given by Darrell & Jolayne Winkie
Dec 29	given by Dixie Libbey

\*\*select a hymn of your choice on your sponsored radio broadcast Sunday\*\*



**Thank you to the volunteers** who have quietly slipped into the church property to replace table hardware, change light bulbs and plane a door. We appreciate everything you have done for us and *Thank You for your service to our Church!*

### Solar Project

In October the congregation voted to approve researching & seeking bids for a solar system to reduce the cost of electricity for our church. At the November meeting of the Trustees, it was decided to begin accepting pledges toward this project. We will present several bids to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January at which time it will be put to a vote as whether to move forward with this project. If approved we hope to both raise funds for this project & complete it in 2025. Pledges may be made by calling the Church Office (563 568-3623) or talking to Pastor Bryan. Thank you for supporting this project to reduce our expenses & prayerfully considering a pledge to help us move forward.

Board of Trustees

## 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)



CIRCLE NEWS  
Dec 2024

**SARAH Circle:** 9:15am, Dec 10 in the Lounge with all members bringing treats & Bible study done together.

**DORCAS Circle:** does not meet in Dec, contact Linda Groe with questions.

## Trustee/Council Meeting November 19, 2024



- ~Welcome brochures distributed
- ~Need repair on organ pipe damage
- ~Families scheduled for Advent readings
- ~Locking covers for thermostats
- ~Church Mutual to supply liability & marine insurance, but not property
- ~secure pledges for solar assesment; presentation at Annual Meeting

## December 2024

Sunday	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm. 9:30am Sr Choir 5:30pm Mens Choir 7pm Ecumenical Choir			6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Bells			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30am & 10:30am worship 8:30am WHS sings 9:30am Sun School & Sr Choir 7pm Ecumenical Choir Concert		9:15am Sarah Circle	8:30am-4:30pm WIC 6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Bells			9am-10:30am Sun School practice
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm. 9:30am Sun School & Sr Choir 10:30am Sun School Christmas Program		6pm Trustee mtg	6pm Youth Bells 7pm Confirmation & Sr Bells			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30am & 10:30am worship	1pm Northgate Ctr 2:30pm Evergreen Court 3pm Good Samaritan Ctr	4pm & 7:30pm Candlelight Service w/communion				
29	30	31				
8:30am & 10:30am worship w/comm						



## Music Ministry

Thank you to Senior Choir for providing music at our services each Sunday in November & to Randy Johnsen for singing the liturgy on Sundays while Pastor Bryan is recovering from surgery.

Senior Choir continues to rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:30am while Bell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6pm (youth) and 7pm (seniors). Men's Choir continues to rehearse on Sunday evenings at 6pm, followed by Ecumenical Choir at 7pm in preparation for the Allamakee Ecumenical Choir Christmas Concert scheduled for Sunday, Dec 8 at 7pm at St. John's with a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the concert. Join us in celebrating the Season & invite your friends and neighbors to join you.

Sunday morning Dec 8th the Waukon High School Choir will be making their annual Christmas Caroling Church Tour beginning at St. John's 8:30am worship service.,

*James H. Bieber / Director of Music*

## St. John's Women Serving and Socializing



The WELCA Leaders have been meeting & getting ready for the new year. The following are our Officers:

Co Presidents: Caroll Schreiber, Karen Stamper

Secretary: Linda Halvorson

Treasurer: Deb Thorstenson

Funeral Coordinator: Linda Groe

Co-Quilting: Ann Rademaker, Mary Lou Sorum

Care Kits: Nona Sawyer

Visiting Members: Gloria Payne

Outreach: Judith Engle

Pennies for Presents: Cindy Wuebker

Special Events: Kathy Murray

The WELCA booklets are being updated & they will be available for you to be picked up in the back of the church soon. Please watch for these booklets.

Cindy Wuebker will be shopping for Christmas presents for children in our community. She will use the money from Pennies for Presents. If you want to donate to this cause, please drop your donation off at the Church Office or in an envelope labeled "Pennies for Presents".

We continue to collect items for our Personal Care Kits. Items can be left in the box in the Coat-

St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Dec-24

Date	Service		Greeters	Readers	Comm Asst	Comm Prep	Acolytes	Ushers
12/1/24 Advent 1	8:30 AM	E W	Randy & Lori Hesse Jon Payne	Linda DeBuhr	Rhonda Barr, Joan Moody, Matt Teslow	Ann Hagnesick Allie Rottink	Ushers	John Bauercamper, Jens Kallevang, Bernie Pausch Vickie Larson
	10:30 AM	E W	Zach & Melissa Clarke	Linda Halvorson	Wendy Bucheit	Altar Guild	Ushers	Norm Peterson, Chuck Larson
12/8/24 Advent 2	8:30 AM	E W	Bill & Linda Halvorson Joan Moody	Irv Fosaaen	X	X	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W	Steve & Sheryl Evanson	Ann Hagnesick			Ushers	same as above
12/15/24 Advent 3	8:30 AM	E W	Virgil & Deb Thorstenson Cindy Barness	Linda DeBuhr	Dave & Wendy Sanderson Bev Haas	Linda Groe, Vickie Larson	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W	Sunday School	Sunday School	Bill Roe	Sherri Knudtson Kasey Iverson	Ushers	same as above
12/22/24 Advent 4	8:30 AM	E W	Bill Roe family Vickie Larson	Becky Roe	X	X	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W	Wendy & Sadie Bucheit	Sarah Bieber			Ushers	same as above
12/24/24 Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	E W	Michael Hagnesick family	Michael Hagnesick	Greg Hagnesick family	Altar Guild	Ushers	Dan Treangen family
	7:00 PM	E W	Matt Teslow family	Vickie Larson	Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Bailey Benson	Altar Guild	Ushers	??????
12/29/24	8:30 AM	E W	Cindy Wuebker family	Dave Sanderson	Bonnie Roe, Dan Treangen Nona Sawyer	Linda Groe	Ushers	same as above
	10:30 AM	E W	Ushers	Cameron Emerson	Linda Groe	Linda Groe	Ushers	same as above



room. Items that are needed are light or medium weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 ounces in the original wrapping, one adult-size toothbrush in the original package, one sturdy comb and one metal nail clippers. Again, if you can help us out, please leave the items in the box in the Coatroom. Thanks for your help!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Pennies for Presents fund. ***Also, thanks to everyone who contributed to our Thank Offering collection.***

*Submitted by Karen Stamper*

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## November 2024



**Baptisms:** none

**Weddings:** none

**Deaths:** none

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### Dec 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. 271 I Am So Glad each Christmas Eve**

**No. 281 Silent Night, Holy Night**

During Distribution No. 279 & 282

**No. 267 Joy to the World**

### Dec 29 First Sunday of Christmas

**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. 294 In the Bleak Midwinter**

During Distribution No. 292 & 298

**No. 275 Angels from the Realms of Glory**

## Hymns for December at St. Johns



### Dec 1 First Sunday of Advent

**No. 257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

**No. 260 The King Shall Come**

During Distribution No. 254 & 263

**No. 436 Wake, Awake for Night is Flying**

### Dec 8 Second Sunday of Advent

**No. 264 Prepare the Royal Highway**

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

**No. 239 Hark the Glad Sound!**

**No. 248 People Look East**

### Dec 15 Third Sunday of Advent

**No. 270 Hark, the Herald Angels Sing**

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

**No. 286 Your Little Ones, Dear Lord**

During Distribution No. 276 & 277

**No. 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain**

### Dec 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

**No. 300 The First Noel**

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 {46-55}

**No. 296 What Child Is This**

**No. 266 All Earth is Hopeful**

# December 2024

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

## Board of Education

\* We will be having a float in the Holiday Parade Dec. 7. If you would like to participate, please let us know.

\* Christmas Program practice Dec 14, 9am-10:30am

\* Christmas Program  
Dec 15, 2nd service

treats & refreshments to follow in FH



**Kristin Kopperud-Stinn giving children's sermon Nov 17**

\* NO Sunday School Dec 1, Dec 22 & Dec 29  
\* to resume Jan 5, 2025

\* The Sunday School students are sponsoring a hat, mitten, glove & scarf drive as part of their service projects this year. Please consider donating by adding items to the tree at the top of the stairs across from the elevator.

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



## Flood Buckets

For the past 7 years the NE IA Synod has been collecting Flood Buckets to help people in Iowa following flood disasters. St. John's has joined this project to help replenish the supply following last spring's floods in northwest Iowa. You are invited to put together a bucket (items listed on bulletin board) or by making a cash donation. Thank you for helping our neighbors.





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## Advent Readers 2024.....Poinsettias

### December 1:

8:30am Vickie Larson  
10:30am Jill Kistler

### December 8:

8:30am Rachel Moser  
10:30am Lori Hesse

### December 15:

8:30am Sue Blagsvedt  
10:30am Benson/Meyer family

### December 22:

8:30am Scott Houg family  
10:30am Karen Stamper

Poinsettias have been ordered to add to the festive holiday decorations during the upcoming holiday season. Orders for plants will be taken in the narthex by the Altar Guild on Sundays, Dec 1 & Dec 8. You may also call the Church Office during the week to order a flower. Cost is \$13 with checks made out to St. John's Altar Guild. You may pick up your poinsettia any time after the Christmas Eve service.

