

# St. John's Lutheran Church

Norfolk, Nebraska



First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022

8:30 A.M.

Pastor Randy Rasmussen

**Sunday, November 27, 2022 8:30 AM**

## **Gathering Together**

Welcome to God's grace – where the world's labels don't apply.

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Step into God's time and presence. Hear God's gentle whisper: "Be still and know that I am God." Let your body and mind rest, and open your heart to God in worship and prayer. Welcome each other in the love of Christ. Extend hospitality to those new in our midst. "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice in it!"

### **GATHERING MUSIC & RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **PRAYER TREE**

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP THEME**

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for your promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come.

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen**

*Light the first candle*

**ELW #240 "LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH" Verse 1**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**Stand**

**GATHERING HYMN "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" ELW #244, Verses 1, 2, and 4**

## GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## KYRIE Page 138

## THIS IS THE FEAST Page 140

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC by Diane Hansen: "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

Sit

## HEARING THE WORD

God speaks to us in scriptures sung, read, and proclaimed.

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### First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah

*After the reading:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans

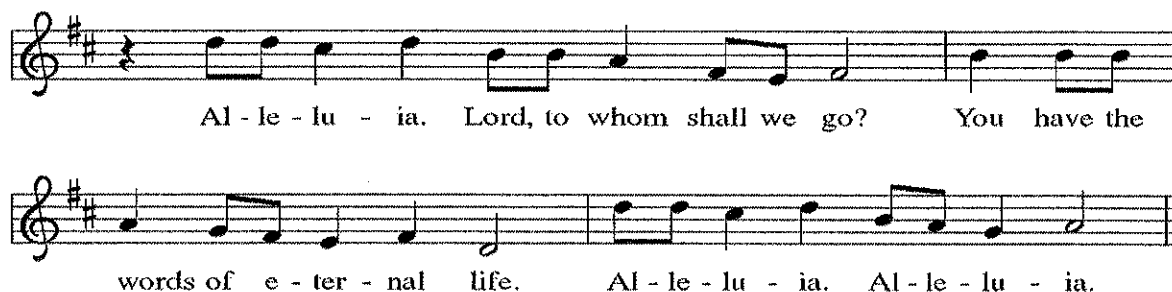
*After the reading:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**Holy Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:*

The gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sit**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Shelli Rasmussen**

**SERMON Pr. Randy Rasmussen**

**Stand**

**HYMN OF THE DAY "Rise, O Sun of Righteousness" ELW#657, Verses 1,2,5**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**SHARING THE MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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**GATHERING OF THE OFFERING**

**Stand**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **ACCLAMATION OF FAITH**

Together we acclaim our faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**Sit**

## **COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to eat & drink at the Lord's Table. Jesus Christ is present in the bread & wine. Come and eat! Holy Communion is served below the altar. Following the usher's direction, please proceed down the center aisle toward the altar. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please request one from the pastor during communion. Red wine and white grape juice are available in each tray of cups. After communing, you may return to your seat down the side aisle. If you would like to receive the Lord's Supper where you are seated, please tell the usher, who will ensure the gifts of God come to you.*

**“O LAMB OF GOD”**

**COMMUNION HYMN: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" ELW#251**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**SENT FORTH TO SERVE**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN "The King Shall Come" ELW #260, Verses 1, 4, 5**

**SENDING**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## St. John's Lutheran Church ELCA

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[www.stjohnsnorfolk.com](http://www.stjohnsnorfolk.com)

**Our Mission: *Disciples Through God's Love, Celebrating In Jesus' name.***

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

Carol Peterson  
Jim Carter  
Tami Darville  
Susan Skogstoe  
Lexi Rivera  
Richard Juracek  
Merle Mead  
Tyrone Uhler  
Ace Crawford  
Everett Behrendt  
Mary Brooks  
Jerry Fiedler  
Susan Frank

Brandon Matties  
Cody Hoefer  
Ken Wragge  
Dan Timperley  
Stacie Schutte  
Keagan Sullivan  
Margaret Anding  
Lisa Christensen  
Gail Gubbels  
Sara Fegley  
Heidi Henry-Kahny  
Ellis Frank

JoAnn Berglund  
Carol Timperley  
Kay & Ellen Curtis  
Derek Johnson  
Tom Hagstrom  
Roger Peters  
Bob Frady  
Tammi Stephenson  
Beverly Schwede  
Cory Taylor  
Amy Comstock  
Zander Barr  
Jill Barr

Altar flowers on this First weekend of Advent are sponsored by:

Diane Hansen in loving memory of my mother, Frances Schafer

AND

Scott & Brenda Carhart in loving memory of our son, Alex



Please use the clipboard in the back of the church or call the church office to order your poinsettia (\$16) that will be used to decorate for Christmas worship & then be taken home for you to enjoy. We will be calling in the order on Dec. 12th .

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#### Office Staff

Pastor, Reverend Randy Rasmussen  
Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator, Shelli Rasmussen  
Office Assistant, Cindy Nelson  
Custodian, Ken Schillinger

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### MONDAY, November 28

7:00pm.....Solid Rock

### WEDNESDAY, November 30

1:00pm.....Searchers ChristCare  
2:30 & 5:00pm.....7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Confirmation

### SATURDAY, December 3

12:00pm.....Rebekah Circle Luncheon  
5:00pm.....Gathering Worship

### SUNDAY, December 4

8:30am.....Festival Worship  
9:45am.....Sunday School  
11:00am.....Celebration Worship



St. John's is once again sponsoring an Angel Tree for the women at Bright Horizons and their children.

- ~Take a tag or two off the Angel Tree
- ~Log your name and the tag number on the sheet by the tree
- ~Shop for & return your gifts (either wrapped with the Angel Tree tag securely affixed to the package or bring your gift in a bag with the tag attached and we will wrap it for you!)
- ~Gifts need to be returned to the office no later than 5pm on Monday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>
- ~IF you want to participate in Angel Tree, but do not want to shop, please consider a monetary contribution, & we will shop for you. Just mark your envelope/check "Angel Tree". Each family will receive a gift card from a local store and that is also a really easy way to share love with our neighbors.

St. John's YouTube channel now also has the live stream. Find it with the handle below or the URL. While there, please subscribe and activate notifications.

@stjohnsnorfolkne  
youtube.com/@stjohnsnorfolkne

## STATISTICS

December Missions are: Juvenile Detention,  
Angel Tree & Good Neighbors  
Attendance 11/20/22.....54,52,43=149  
Weekly offerings needed for ministries.....\$8,213.56  
Offerings received 11/20/22.....\$5,918.87  
Weekly Deficit.....(\$2,294.69)  
YTD Deficit.....(\$50,450.61)

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR THIS WEEKEND

Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>

Council-Katie Nohr, Reader-Carolyn Vahle

Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am

Council/Reader-Brenda Carhart, Communion-Duane Timperley

Coffee Hosts-Carhart's

Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am

Council/Communion/Usher-Brenda Smith, Reader-Brian Nissen

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Council-Tony Uttecht, Ushers-Rod & Shirley Hughes

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am

Council/Usher-Brenda Carhart, Reader-Jillian Wiese

Coffee Hosts-

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am

Council/Reader-Brian Nissen

*Baptism*

*Congratulations Nick & Stacie Wolfe as their daughter is baptized during the 11am service. Welcome, Jada, to the St. John's family.*





## Northeast Nebraska JUVENILE SERVICES

St. John's will once again be partnering with Jesse at Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services during the month of December. One of the things that their director, Jesse, asks us to help with each year is to give his hardworking cooking staff some days off during the holidays. This will allow Jesse to purchase fast food for the residents and gives the cook staff Christmas Day and New Years Day off. We will also be collecting baked goods starting on December 19<sup>th</sup> for Jesse to pick up the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> to share and collecting new or used board games for their youth to use.

## THANK YOU

To the families of Roger Gentzler and Dick Adams. The Gentzler family used Memorials to purchase the new Christmas trees and the Adams family used Memorials to purchase the new garlands. Everything looks just beautiful!



*Salvation Army has reached out to St. John's for help! They are in need of bell ringers for this Christmas season. If interested, please call: Madeline Lear, Volunteer Coordinator@ 402-379-4663 Ext. 205 Thank You & God Bless-JoAnn Spence*



Save the Date for the Sunday School Christmas program.....Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> during the 5pm worship service, our Sunday School will be doing the program "The ABC's of Christmas". We will have a dress rehearsal that morning at 10am that should take about an hour. Pizza, hot cocoa and cookies will be served after the program.



St. John's Sunday School is collecting their Nov., Dec., & Christmas program offerings towards ELCA Good Gifts. We celebrate "Happy Birthday, Jesus" on Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> and will decide as a group which animals to purchase & share. Thank you Sunday School parents & students for your help with this wonderful mission!

## REBEKAH CIRCLE INVITES THE LADIES OF THE CHURCH TO A CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The luncheon will be on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ noon in the Fellowship Hall. The singing group "Just for Fun" will be entertaining. Please call the church office for reservations by November 28<sup>th</sup>.

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA FOR

NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 - 7:00 P.M. – BETHANY ROOM

### ATTENDANCE

Members Present: All present

### GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

- Welcoming, reflection, Abundance, Creating a Culture of Generosity Bible Study
- Review and approval of November Agenda, October minutes,

### CARING FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH –

- Pastor's Report – Pastor Randy Rasmussen ---Attendance for all 3 services growing. Currently about 150 weekly average and growing. Visitation schedule is worked out and will have goal to visit each one once every 6-8 week, but do have several people with fragile health and they require visits more often.
- Youth and Family Coordinator — Shelli –Trunk or treat a HUGE success, Shocked had approx. 30 kids for bowling, Angel tree is up and more directions are coming, SS program is Sat. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm. **Keep alert for more information coming, especially about changes following the SS program.**
- Financial reports-Tony -- September and October's , Tony reported that the numbers in Liabilities and Equity were accounting totals that Professional Accounting needed to use to reconcile and several of the totals included numbers from the beginning of time when they started posting our accounts. The fact that a few of the numbers were the same was coincidental.

October income--\$30,037.94

Expenses \$31,575.07

Loss \$1537.13

Total for year **\$50,450.61**

Both September and October financial reports were approved.

- Faith Fest—Mandy— Trevor discussed the report. There was \$2580.37 left in the account. Committee asked that that money be given to Faith Fest along with an additional \$7520 for 2023 Faith Fest. That means a total of \$10,000 would be budgeted for 2023. Several good changes and ideas were given. The main one was to change the date to October 14, 2023 Copy of full report was given to council members.

- St. John's Website—is now connected to Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

- Ministry Committee reports –

- Benefaction- Adam- Katie—
- Mission Life— Carol W—Planning meeting for 2023 was held on Nov 9
- Fellowship -Outreach -- Terri —Chairman —Kristy Boras/Shirley Hughes. Will be working with Brenda C to plan meal after SS Christmas program
- Altar Guild—Lori Simonsen She will be chairman for 2023. Needing people for hanging of the greens. November 20<sup>th</sup>. Pizza served following the decorating.
- Christian Ed; Terri and Katie Shelli is chair.
- Property-Lon- report—Denny B is chair. Lon will work on the Knox Box. Property will purchase ½ from their budget. We need a furnace repair. That will be done. Bill will be approximately \$3700. May take a week or so to get parts for the heat exchanger.
- Stewardship -Pastor and Brian— Did “Abundance” Study at beginning -- need pictures and member statements—“stories” Need 3 volunteers? Each find 3 and do asap. Question to each person is “What is the best part of attending St. John’s worship services, or participating in the programs at St. John’s, what about St. John’s “makes” you come back again and again? Short Videos. Advise to prewrite, 20-30 seconds or less.  
1. Trevor 2. Shelli 3. Listed other people
- WELCA— Lutheran World Relief. In gathering October 31-Nov 5. Went well. Packed 2/3 of the semi trailer.
- Memorial-Carol—Nancy S is chair. Last meeting was November 2, next will be January 11. Christmas garlands were purchased and are fluffed. Purchased a small blue nativity for narthex. 2 new trees are being set up.

- Updates—

- Sign up for different volunteer positions -council person of week, readers, ushers/greeters, communion, coffee hosts.
- Searchlight—Last used when Pastor Justin made contact with Moonlighters.
- Office back up system- Jim McKenzie will install.
- Christmas services—Dec 24<sup>th</sup> @5pm and 7pm Dec 25 @ 10am was proposed. Motion made to approved, discussed, and carried
- Council meeting changed from December 21<sup>st</sup> to December 14<sup>th</sup>. Consensus.
- Executive Session —Begin discussion of Salaries for 2023 for budget, Nominations for Council and Benefaction.

- Other Business—

- Proposed New Vision Statement—Increasing active followers for God.
- New Mission Statement —Energizing ALL to share God’s Love through Worship, Education, Community, and Service.

- Adjournment—Lord's Prayer, Pastor Randy

#### GOING FORTH TO SERVE THE LORD

- Upcoming Meeting Dates –
  - Finance Team Meeting—December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 5:15pm- Library
  - Executive Team Meeting – December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – Library
  - Council Meeting—Dec 14<sup>st</sup>, 2022, 7:00 p.m.—Bethany Rm **Changed date**, by consensus.