



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

## The Messenger

(a monthly publication)

DECEMBER 2021

*...The child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God*



### 2021 Confirmation

**First Row** - Left to Right: Keira Lambrecht, Anya Bostan, Jackson Seckerson, Ian Sjostrom, Braxton Perkins

**Second Row** - Left to Right: Mckenna Miller, Levi Mees, Nathaniel Walz, Bennett Goehner, Josilynn Walton, Pr. Erik Weber

### Christmas Worship Schedule:

**December 24, 2021**

**2:00 pm**

**4:30 pm (+livestream)**

**December 25th**

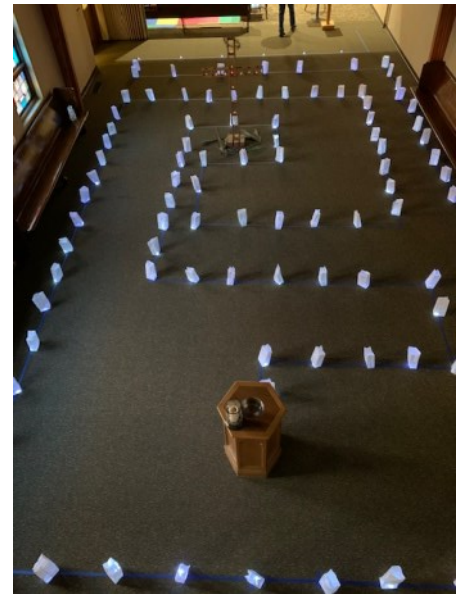
**10:00 am**



### Worship Online

St. John's continues to offer weekly livestreams of worship. Wherever you are you can join in worship, or participate later in the week by visiting the church website [www.st-johnslutheran.org](http://www.st-johnslutheran.org) and clicking the Live Worship Streaming tab. You can also donate directly through the web site.





Throughout the year, the Child Care Center and Preschool have continued to provide safe places for the young ones in the community. We remember and look the future as we planted a memorial tree this fall.



Our 2021 Lenten Prayer Labyrinth invited worshipers to walk the path in the Hospitality Center and place their prayers into the font.

Confirmation returned to a more normal schedule in the fall of 2021 and includes more intentional multi-congregations events throughout the year.





Dear friends in Christ,

By the time you are reading this we will be well into the Christmas season. A season replete with bright lights, colors, cheerful music. A season of shopping and gift giving. A season of family gatherings and good food. Oh

yeah, and don't forget the cookies!

Christmas is also a season of excess. According to a recent Gallup poll, Americans plan to spend on average \$837 on Christmas gifts in 2021. While we're on the topic of excesses, who doesn't look forward to great food and drink, candy, eggnog, and oh yeah, don't forget the cookies.

Most of us view the Christmas tree as one of the quintessential symbols of Christmas. But the Christmas tree tradition didn't catch on in America until the middle of the eighteenth century. As late as 1840, Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans. These days, these brightly lit, and colorfully adorned trees are in our homes, yards, malls, and offices from October through January.

Another Gallup poll, that I found particularly interesting, shows that 85% of Americans say that they will be celebrating Christmas in 2021. What is interesting about this statistic is that a Pew Research study completed in 2020 shows that only 65% of Americans identify themselves as Christians. In other words, 20% of Americans will be celebrating an event that they don't believe in.

I absolutely love the Christmas season. The music, the television specials, the lights, and the excitement in children's eyes when they see Santa Claus. I will decorate my home to excess. I will probably spend to excess and most likely I will eat to excess. Through it all I will keep in my heart that Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. I will wish people "Merry Christmas" rather than "Happy Holidays".

I enjoy sharing a holiday that is sacred to me with others of differing beliefs. I see it as an opportunity to share the good news of the birth of our savior with others. I will continue to loudly proclaim "Merry Christmas". I will gladly share the story of the birth of Jesus with all who will listen. I will repeat the tidings of goodwill and peace on earth as declared by the angels.

Oh yeah, I might even share my cookies.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and God's peace to All.

Gary Staab  
Congregation President

### Calendar of Events

#### *Sunday Worship*

9:00 am          Worship in person and Online

#### *Tuesday*

10:00 am        Staff Meeting  
5:00 pm          Come to the Table meal

#### *Wednesday*

4:00 pm          Confirmation



#### **December 2021**

- December 3      Reverse Advent donations Due
- December 6      6:00 pm CIOH Board Meeting
- December 14     6:00 pm Executive Meeting
- 6:30 pm Council Meeting
- December 16     10:00 am Jamestown Conference Meeting
- December 24     2:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service
- December 25     10:00 am Christmas Day Service



December 22 and 29 No Confirmation

#### ***December 27, Church Offices Closed***

#### **January 3, 2022 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

February 6, 2021- 10:15 am Annual Meeting



## ***St. John's Lutheran Church Co-op Service***

The Co-op service started in the early 1920s, and over the years it changed. As of 2021 we are struggling to get volunteers to bake for the church coffee hours, special occasions, and funerals. To continue with the tradition the following issues are identified:

- Lack of volunteers and leaders
- New members and younger families are not invited
- Our congregation is aging and are in nursing homes
- All the leaders have many other duties within the church

Not many people know what the Co-op function is. The Co-op is a group of members assigned to one month a year. They help with coffee hour after the service on Sunday, or if there is a special function they help with baking, setting up, and cleaning. The extra baking will usually happen when there is a funeral.

To come up with a solution it is time to invite new members to get involved. The new members will receive a letter to let them know which team they will join. If you receive a letter please say yes when asked. If you are too busy to bake please buy something from the store and drop it at the church.

Special thank you to those who continue to serve in this ministry, and a warm welcome to our new members. Welcome Kathy Block and Rachel Dockter our new chairperson.

***Co-op Co-Ordinator  
Sharon Dockter and Shirley Unverferth***

## **Prayerful Waiting**

This Advent season, we are following a four week path around the theme of Prayerful Waiting. St. John's is joining with other area congregations in this common theme for the weeks leading up to Christmas. Although each congregation will continue to plan and lead their own worship, we are joined together through a special music piece composed by Pr. Nathan Wicks at Emmanuel Lutheran in Gackle and through the weekly themes that lift up different aspects of prayer: patient action, hopeful caution, urgent waiting, and mindful faith.



Prayer occurs in many forms. It is active. We lift up our prayers, and we devote time to listening for answers. All prayer involves that space between our inclination to speak to God and our openness to God's action. In our assembly, we have formal prayers around the readings for a particular day, as well as petitions where we lift up the needs of the church, the world, and those in need. We also create space to name those who are on our minds and hearts in prayer. Prayer in worship is primarily corporate prayer, that is prayers that we lift up as a whole community. But prayer also happens in our homes and personal spaces. We can name friends and family members who have particular needs, and we can name ourselves in our prayers: prayers for health, patience, guidance, or strength.

Advent 2021 is a time of expectation. We pray for our Savior to come and come quickly. Like the shepherds who heard the angels singing, we want to go and see this miraculous thing. Our prayers in Jamestown are not that different from the prayers in Ellendale, Streeter, Kulm, Medina, or Gackle. But this Advent, our congregations join in worship around this theme of prayer. We pray with our siblings in other congregations for God's Good News to be made known and pray that we may be used in helping that Good News be made known.

Our prayers of patient action, hopeful caution, urgent waiting, and mindful faith all lead us to the joy of Christmas. Our savior comes! Merry Christmas.

Pr. Erik Weber

## Van Fund Appeal 2020-2021

In July 2020, the Church Council authorized a fund appeal to replace the 1998 Ford Van. The Goal of the appeal was \$35,000, or as much as would be needed to get the vehicle that we wanted. Between July 2020 and June 2021 \$32,450.68 was donated to the Van Appeal (including \$5,000 from Child In Our Hands). In addition the old van was sold for \$3,500.

**The total of the van appeal is \$35,950.68**

After a five month search, a suitable 15 passenger van was identified and purchased. The total purchase price, taxes, and miscellaneous items totals \$31,122.

After acquisition; St. John's spent \$615 on window wrappings with our logo, \$1,274.37 (Block heater, trickle charger, front floor mats, running board), \$785.57 on two wheels and studded snow tires

Total spent on new van: \$33,798.94 (\$2,151.74 remains in designated van fund for major repairs beyond regular maintenance) Project complete.



### ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday February 6th at St. John's. The meeting will begin at 10:15 am (following the 9 am worship service).

Annual reports will be available for pick up by January 17th or earlier if printing goes smoothly.

## KEEP IT COOL APPEAL 2021

March, April, and May 2021

The Church Council authorized repairs totaling \$48,125 to replace the coils in all four sanctuary and Education Wing Air conditioners and to replace 3 of the Condenser Units (the 4<sup>th</sup> was replaced just a few years ago). The Council allocated the \$8,500 received from Child In Our Hands to the project and allocated the entire Building Contingency Fund to the project (@11,500). With that \$20,000 in hand for this repair thanks the council authorize the "Keep It Cool!" with the goal of raising \$30,000.

All contributions for "Keep It Cool!" were routed through the Building Fund as designated gifts. For simplicity sake, all deposits earmarked for Building Fund during March, April, and May were considered available for "Keep It Cool!" so the weekly totals presented on the display board in March and April may differ from the total deposits recorded because total deposits includes electronic and regular gifts to the Building Fund.

In March, April, and May the Building Fund received \$43,269.83 in addition to the \$20,000 that we had in hand at the end of February. Some of those contributions were returned to the Building Contingency Fund, the rest remain in the Building Fund as available for future Kitchen improvements.

We actually paid \$48,125 to Bakkegard & Schell for the repairs. \$15,144.83 above the goal was raised during the "Keep It Cool!" appeal. Project complete.

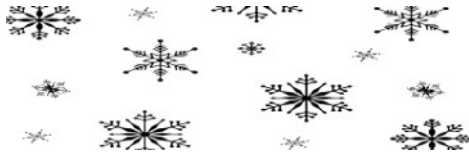


In a different project– The Centennial Hall A/C units were replaced in the spring of 2021 after being on order for over six months. The outstanding expenses for that project was part of the Mission and Ministry Plan for 2021 as is recorded as a Property Expense. Project Complete

# STEWARDSHIP



In Memory of:	Given by:
Doris Greenstein	Joe & Linda Goehner
Vicki Sommer	Ken & Pam Daus
Mary Trautman	Char Perleberg
Melvin Roemmich	Char Perleberg
Oswald Schultz	Char Perleberg
Tammy Marler	Char Perleberg
Arnie Becker	Char Perleberg
Floyd Curtis	Char Perleberg
Delores Batsch	Char Perleberg



# Giving Matters

ATTENDANCE			
	In person	YouTube Live	YouTube recorded
October 24	78	27	79
October 31	144	39	74
November 7	88	59	101
November 14	71	30	
October income: \$27,639			
October expenses: \$29,323			

## Required Distributions

If you have a retirement plan that has a required minimum distribution you can instruct your financial institution to distribute some or all of that distribution to St. John's. Contact your financial company and tax advisor for more information. If you choose to make a distribution to St. John's it is helpful to ask us to be on the lookout for it. Sometimes distributions arrive without information about the donor.



## 2022 SPONSORSHIP UPDATES

Radio broadcast and Altar flower sponsorships for 2022 will cost \$30 for altar flowers and \$190 for the radio broadcast. It is a nice way to honor or memorialize a loved one. Contact the church office at 252-1198 to check on availability.



### December 2021

#### Radio December

December 5	Pauline Roemmich
December 12	Jim and Phyllis Lees
December 19	Lynn Krueger
December 24	Larry and Nadine Readell
December 26	St. John's Endowment Media Legacy

#### Flowers December

December 5	John and Cindy Kleven
December 12	Jim and Phyllis Lees
December 19	Lynn Krueger
December 24	Paul and Kathy Burkle
December 26	Brian and Erin Paulson

### Altar Flowers available dates 2022

1/23, 1/30

2/27

3/20, 3/27

9/5

10/2, 10/30

12/18

### Radio Broadcast available in 2022

1/9, 1/23, 1/30

2/27

4/10, 4/24

5/15, 5/22, 5/29

6/19

8/28

10/9, 10/30

12/4, 12/18

## Thanks to Our Volunteers

**Readers:** Joan Enderle, Tonya Perkins, Gavin Kutz, Jim Ritter, Pauline Roeske, Sandy Franke,

**Communion Assistants:** Carl and Sandy Franke, Jim and Pauline Ritter, Char Freeberg, Joanne Rosemore

**Special thank you to those who usher:** Walter and Mary Klundt and Bill Ebele, John Meyer

**Projection Screen Operators:** Char Perleberg, Cindy Kleven, Gary Staab, Camden Kutz

**Streaming:** John Kleven and Lynn Krueger, and Aaron Kleven, Robert Walton

**Organist/Pianist:** Connie Wells, and Rachael Williams.

**Mailing:** Tom Enderle and Walter Klundt

**Special thank you to Triumph team who comes faithfully every Friday, to vacuum, stock the pews, sanitize and make sure everything in place.**

We apologize to anyone who have served but not mentioned. We appreciate all who volunteer their time and talents to support our community worship.

We Celebrated our volunteers on November 4th. It was a hard year last year, yet we managed to come to top. If you would like to continue volunteering, please let me know what you are interested in doing.

I have contacted the young people who were confirmed this year to get them involved. I will also contact the 2020 conformant to invite them to get involved. Please encourage any one who is interested to call and let us know.



## CHURCH MINISTRY

**Baptisms**  
**Jackson Lange—11/26**

**Weddings**  
**Melissa Lunzman/Bradly Nold—11/26**

**Funerals**  
**Marvin Zinke - d 10/24**  
**Deloris Nelson—d 11/13**



Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent after worship

## Baptism Class/New Member Class



**Contact the church to set an  
appointment 252-1198**

## Kitchen Project Update

Significant movement has happened this year in the ongoing effort to improve the utility and safety of the St. John's kitchen. This year the Phase 1 project (the Pantry) was completed and dedicated on Palm Sunday 2021. We also purchased and are using a new commercial freezer and Refrigerator, that complement the new stove and dishwasher that were purchased last year.

Thanks to the additions, Child In Our Hands has begun to participate in the food program available to schools and child care centers. Beginning in October, breakfasts and snacks are provided at little or no additional cost to parents.

Culinex has been contracted to facilitate design work for the rest of the kitchen and Hillerude Construction has been the primary contractor working on gathering cost estimates and sub-contractors for Phase 2.

We are expecting to receive some updated concept drawings and cost estimates in the coming weeks. Fortunately, when we had the drain lines video scoped, they look to be in very good shape (for 90 year old cast iron plumbing.) Unfortunately, the rapid rise in prices over the past two years has meant that likely cost estimates will be about where they were two years ago despite all the work and equipment that we have purchased so far.

After plans and numbers are reviewed by council, and a recommendation is made about the feasibility of the project, information will be posted and shared widely.

If we proceed, we will likely take out a loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund (we were approved in 2019 for \$100,000 but will need to reapply), we will launch a formal fund raising appeal for loan repayment and additional funds. The loan will require a congregational meeting to approve, and the timing may or may not coincide neatly with the February 6th annual meeting.



## OFFERING ENVELOPES

2022 ENVELOPES will be available in the narthex when they arrive. We have worked hard this fall to make sure that everyone who wants envelopes receives an appropriate amount of envelopes for the year.

1. If you have been a regular giver in 2021, you should find your name on a full boxed set of envelopes.
2. If you have not had envelopes or have not used envelopes in 2021 but would like them for 2022 speak to Pr. Erik.

Please, recycle any old envelopes that you still have after December 31st. ***Please do not use green envelopes after January 1st, 2022.***

St. John's is committed to offering a variety of ways for people to practice the faith discipline of giving. Where that is weekly, monthly, or electronically. If you want/need more envelopes, please contact Gem in the Church Office.

## St. John's Lutheran ND Tax Credit Endowment Fund

If you are in a position to make a substantial year end gift to the congregation, consider the benefits of a gift to the endowment that qualifies for the ND Tax Credit.

The fund is available for gifts between \$5,000 and \$25,000 for an individual and could result in significant tax savings. Consult a tax professional to see how this would apply to you.

For additional information, contact Sandy Franke or Pr. Erik to complete a gift agreement before December 31st.







# December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 11:00 AM Pr. Erik English Lutheran - Medina	29 9:00 AM Chapel	30 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Chapel 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal 6:00 PM Discernment Process zoom meeting	1 4:00 PM Confirmation	2	3 Reverse Advent Calendar donations Due	4
5 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 10:30 AM Rock of Ages 11:00 AM Pr. Erik English Lutheran - Medina	6 9:00 AM Chapel 12:30 PM Eventide Assisted Living Communion 6:00 PM CIOH Board Meeting	7 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Chapel 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	8 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Confirmation English Lutheran	9	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's	13 9:00 AM Chapel	14 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Chapel 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal 6:00 PM Executive Meeting 6:30 PM Council Meeting	15 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Confirmation English Lutheran	16 10:00 AM Jamestown Conference	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 10:00 AM Children Christmas Program 10:30 AM Christmas Brunch	20 9:00 AM Chapel	21 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal 6:00 PM Discernment Process zoom meeting	22	23	24 2:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service
26 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 11:00 AM Pr. Erik English Lutheran - Medina	27 Church offices closed	28 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	29	30	31	1

## South Central North Dakota Area Ministry Meetings

Since February, St. John's has been participating in a series of meetings with neighboring congregations from Stutsman, Logan, Dickey, and Lamoure counties. We have gathered to talk about what God is up to in our towns and congregations, and began to ask the question, "Where might God be leading us at this time?" This Fall, area ELCA congregations came together to consider the same questions and to consider ways to discern God's future together. To facilitate this process, a congregation consultant Rev. Peter Souli was invited to offer a presentation and to make a proposal for our process and guide our discernment.

The St. John's Council supports joining this joint discernment work and appointed Charlotte Freeberg and Brett Thielges to be the St. John's representatives in this process. For the next six months, Char, Brett, Pr. Erik and lay leaders and paid staff from up to eight area ELCA congregations will spend time each month on a ZOOM meeting, clarifying our ministry calling, and sharing with the congregation the process as it moves along. By acclamation on Sunday Nov. 21st, the congregation acknowledged their support of this process and the important work that is being carried out on our behalf.

### Some Important Points

- Even though the congregations involved are of different sizes, there will be equal representation on the Planning Team. The cost of the facilitator will be shared equally by the participating congregations (@\$300 from St. John's)
- The process will produce a recommendation (or possibly more than one recommendation). Congregations will vote to decide what they want to do with the recommendation(s).
- The goal is to listen to God, discern the Spirit's leading, and discover a way or ways for the congregation's ministry to be sustained and vitalized. The process is aimed at a comprehensive, long-term plan for area ministry. At its heart is the question, "What can we do better together?"
- We expect the process to take six months. The Planning Team, comprised to lay leaders, will determine the pace of the process.

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This is a hopeful, spiritual process. Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:19,20

***"I tell you the truth, if two of you on earth agree about whatever you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are assembled in my name, I am there among the***

As we come together in Jesus' names, we are seeking agreement about what to ask our Father in heaven. We rely on Jesus' promise.

### **Our partners in this planning process at this time are likely to include:**

Trinity Lutheran, Jamestown  
English Lutheran, Medina  
Zion Lutheran, Kulm  
Emmanuel Lutheran, Gackle  
Immanuel Lutheran, Jamestown  
Christ the King Lutheran in Ellendale  
St. Luke Lutheran in Streeter



Greetings from Child In Our Hands,

We have transitioned into winter here at the center with the first snowfall of the year. The kids loved getting out in the fresh snow. It always amuses them when they throw the snow at the outside of the building and it sticks to the bricks. It is always refreshing to experience the first snowfall with kids as they remind us of the beauty and enjoyment that we can find in God's creation.

The baby room has been busy making handprint and footprint keepsakes for their parents. They have created spiders and turkeys that will definitely be treasured. The toddler room has also been painting and playing with toys in shaving cream. The preschool classes have been working hard on identifying the letters in their names and creating collages in the art center.

Our big news here at Child In Our Hands the last month is that we are now participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). CACFP is administered through the Department of Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The CACFP reimburses the center for the partial cost of meals and snacks. Participation in the program enables us to keep our fees lower as well as serve nutritious foods to young children. The CACFP provides staff training on food safety and nutrition. We have started with breakfast and our afternoon snack and hope to one day serve lunch as well at our center. We are very excited to be a part of this program and grateful to those that helped us get it going.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our center. It is a blessing to be a part of the St. John's community.

Sincerely,

Valerie Ford  
Interim Director





St. John's Lutheran Church  
 424 1st Ave S  
 Jamestown, ND 58401  
**Change Service Requested**

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
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 Permit No. 1  
 Jamestown, ND

**Worship Services**

Sundays  
 ~ 9:00 am

Wednesday Confirmation  
 ~ 4:00 pm - Worship

«AddressBlock»

**Holy Communion**

All Worship Services

Church Office        701-252-1198

Preschool/Child Care 701-252-1903  
 Website: www.st-johnslutheran.org  
 email: stjohns@st-johnslutheran.org

**STAFF OF  
 ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN**

**Senior Pastor**  
 Erik Weber

**Admin Secretary/bookkeeper**  
 Gem Saied

**Custodian**  
 Frank Perleberg

**Child In Our Hands**  
 Valarie Ford - Interim

**Choir Accompanist/Pianist**  
 Rachel Williams  
 Connie Wells

**Special  
 WORSHIP  
 SCHEDULE**

***Christmas Eve***

***2:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship***  
***4:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship***  
*Will be live stream*

***Christmas Day***

***10:00 am Christmas Day Worship***

***Sunday After Christmas***

***9:00 am Sunday Worship***