



St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

The Messenger

(a monthly publication)

DECEMBER 2022

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



Christmas Worship Schedule:

**December 18-
Children's Christmas
Program
December 24, 2022
1:30 pm
4:30 pm (+livestream)**

**December 25th
9:00 am**

Pastor Stephanie began her ministry with St. John's by presiding at the baptism of Nora Ford on her very first Sunday.

Pr. Stephanie's installation service will be on December 11th





“I’m a Lutheran” is a monthly profile featuring Trinity and St. John’s members and friends.

NAME: Addison Mansavage

I was baptized at St. Johns in Jamestown. Then a few years later my family moved to Trinity.

I currently work for Party Crashers and Jamestown Inflatable Games. I spend most of my time working around children and helping host parties and events in the community

I found my faith through my family. I grew up learning from the Bible. My family has always had a big support in my faith. It's just something that has always been part of my life and that's how I found my faith.

My favorite Bible story is Daniel in the Lion’s den. It is important to me because it shows you should be true to your beliefs.

I believe that God will love you no matter who you are or what you have done.

I’m a Lutheran because I love God and believe in him. Being a Lutheran is something that has always been part of my life.

For me music is a way to express myself. I play the cello. When I play the cello, it really makes me feel calm and happy. Music helps me connect to other people. It can also help others open their eyes to something new.

Traveling has taught me to embrace being away from home. It has shown me how to enjoy experiencing things outside of my comfort zone.



Pastor Stephanie is taking time to visit and meet people during her first few weeks in town.

Pr. Erik and Pr. Kristi had the family home for Thanksgiving, which featured a cake bake off, no pie in sight, just some candied lemons and a gingerbread base. (they took 2nd in the family voting).



Waiting for Jesus

When John [the Baptist] heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Matthew 11:2-3

Waiting comes with a wide variety of emotions. Waiting for something you want to have happen, like the birth of a baby or Christmas morning might bring feelings of excitement, anticipation, joy, perhaps mixed with uncertainty about what to expect, or even anxiety about what might happen. Waiting for something you don't want to have happen, like the results of a serious medical test or sentence after a trial, might bring feelings of dread, fear, sadness, or perhaps the possibility of relief.

John the Baptist sends his followers to ask Jesus a question. John has been waiting in prison. The kind of waiting he is doing is difficult and keeps him away from what he feels called to do in life. But John hears about what Jesus is doing and he has a question. His question starts from a recognition that we've been waiting for a long time for God to make changes in our world that will bring hope and new life to people who are stretched thin by their experiences. "Are you the one God has sent, or are we to wait for another?"

Jesus replies, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." [Matthew 11:4-5] Jesus says, the changes God is making bring good news to people who are exhausted by the challenges they face every day. Jesus says, God has already started to make these changes. You can hear them and see them, even if you've never heard or seen anything like this before.

Advent is the season of waiting. Four Sundays before Christmas, we wait for Christ to come. Sometimes this waiting brings anticipation and joy. Sometimes this waiting brings dread or fear. A song for Advent worship written by John Helgen repeats the phrase, "We are waiting for Jesus. Jesus brings peace."

In Peace,
Pastor Kristi Weber



Christians in Action - Year in Review

Christians in Action is a partnership of eight ELCA congregations working toward a first set of common goals. Highlights from 2022 include:

November 2022 - Welcoming Pastor Stephanie Gossett as Associate Pastor of English and St. John's. Pastor Stephanie was ordained November 13, 2022.

Posting of a position description for a Director of Youth and Family Ministries. Applications are being accepted through January 15, 2023. The position is posted at NDChristiansAct.org and on the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.

October 2022 - Discussing the possibility of inviting a pastoral intern to learn and serve in the partnership for the 2023-24 academic year. The application to host an intern is due at the end of January so each congregation council has time to consider how they would like to be part of the internship process.

Creating a shared Google Workspace to enhance communication among congregation leaders. When this is complete, each congregation will have access to shared documents, calendars, and resources. A shared website with links to individual congregation websites is located at NDChristiansAct.org

September 2022 - Season of Creation worship series. A shared preaching and worship series invited all the congregations to celebrate God as creator. A preaching schedule through February 19 is being developed to ensure that each of the congregations has appropriate worship and preaching leadership ready for each Sunday whether or not a called pastor is serving the congregation.

August 2022 - Lutheran Pastor Paul Oman visited Jamestown and Kulm to create artwork that is owned by the congregations and brings the Bible stories of the Feeding of the 5000 and Jesus Blessing the Children to life. This was an extension of the Lenten worship series Drawn to the Word and a painting event for confirmation youth and adults in May.

November 2021- June 2022 - Following a discernment process, our congregations chose common goals to support ministry in our communities. Goals address the areas of Core Personnel, Sharing Resources, Recruiting and Equipping Lay Leaders, Marketing, Administration and Support, and Expanding Area Outreach.

Congregations participating in Christians in Action:
Atonement, Jamestown Christ the King, Ellendale Emmanuel, Gackle English, Medina-Montpelier, Montpelier, St. John's, Jamestown, Trinity, Jamestown Zion, Kulm

CONTACT INFORMATION-

Pr. Erik has a new cell phone— please update contacts info to 320-7081, home phone remains the same 320-2425

Pr. Stephanie can be reached at 320-7856

Story of impact

Each week, Sunday School children are invited to bring an offering to class. Often that offering is placed into a basket as a part of class beginning. The practice of giving a small portion of what we have to support others is a faith practice that can begin early in life. One way to help the children stay involved is to offer some choices about how their offering will be used. At St. John's, the Sunday School children and their leaders use the ELCA Good Gifts catalog as a place of inspiration for their giving. Past years have focused on baby chicks or mosquito nets, or a goat. The desired animal is pictured on a board and serves as a reminder that together our small gifts can provide animals to a family that can make a big difference in their lives. Chicks, for example, "Help a family spread their wings. When chicks grow up to become chickens, their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals — they can also help start a small business and generate a steady source of income." (goodgifts.elca.org). Often the bigger the animal, the more excitement about the possibilities and that can also lead to a conversation about how much things actually cost or how long it would take to save enough (chicks cost \$10, a cow lists for \$500). The Good Gifts program is open to everyone and is a wonderful way to give a gift when the recipient has more stuff than they actually need. Ask a child in Sunday School if they are using their offerings for anything special this year. And if you are able, affirm their generosity with a gift of your own. More information can be found at www.goodgifts.elca.org

Council Recap November 2022

The St. John's council met on Nov. 15th. The annual meeting date was set for Sunday Feb. 5th at 10:15 am. The council approved the rollover of a CD with the Mission Investment Fund and heard that St. John's has been pre-approved for a construction loan of up to \$500,000. (Updated documents and a congregational meeting would be needed before the loan could close). The council acted to recommend changes to the St. John's constitution to conform with the updated model constitution approved at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA. Only required paragraphs are included in the proposed changes. The amendments will be an agenda item at the annual meeting. The council acknowledged the departure of Frank Perleberg as custodian and the hiring of Robin Vasquez as the new custodian.

Grinnell mutual, our insurer, conducted a building walk through in advance of our policy renewal this spring and we have a list of corrections. The council declined an offer to purchase an extended warranty for the van.

The council spent the most time discussing the Statement of Welcome of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary as part of the Christians in Action Internship Application. St. John's would not be a proposed site for the intern, but PLTS asks all entities that partner with an internship site to indicate how they can abide by the seminary's statement of welcome. It reads, "PLTS is an inclusive community and offers hospitality to all who participate in our programs of study. As disciples of Christ committed to public leadership among God's people in diverse and challenging cultural contexts, we eagerly learn from and welcome one another's diversity, including, but not limited to theological perspective, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender identity, relationship status, age, physical ability, social and economic status and sexual orientation." As a council, we were asked to honestly consider how we could welcome and support an internship candidate and name our own challenges. We named concerns with language around gender identity and sexual orientation for the congregation. We discussed the pain and congregational actions following the 2009 ELCA policy changes that welcomed gay and transgendered leaders to the roster of the church and the St. John's congregational statement regarding LGBTQ leaders. We acknowledge that we have additional prayer and work to do in these areas, and named that there are many unknowns about congregational sentiment 14 years later. In the end, the council agreed to support an intern for Christians in Action with the statement that gender identity and sexual orientation were areas of concern for St. John's.

December 2022 Community Event

12/13 – Christmas Cabaret – 7:00 pm – Art Center
12/18 - 19th annual Community Christmas Dinner at Victory Lutheran
12/18- Winter Wonderland Concert – 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm - The Art Center

Trinity and St. John's Event

St. John's new office Hours – Monday – Thursday 7:30 – 4:00 pm Fridays offices closed

Church offices Closed on 12/23 – 12/26
12/11 – 9:00 am Pr. Stephanie Gossett Installation at St. John's
12/18 – 9:00 am Children Christmas Program during the service – St. John's
12/24 – 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service – St. John's
12/25 – 9:00 am Christmas day service – St. John's

Ministerial Acts

Funerals

Lois Knudson - died 10/19/2022
Sheila Braun - died 11/2/2022

Baptisms

Nora Corinne Ford– daughter of Shilo and Valerie 11/27/22

Calendar of Events

Sunday Worship

9:00 am Worship in person and Online

Tuesday

5:00 pm Come to the Table meal

Wednesday

4:00 pm 6th & 7th Confirmation Class

December 2022



December 4 Reverse Advent donations Due
December 5 6:00 pm CIOH Board Meeting
December 13 6:00 pm Council meeting
December 15 Jamestown Conference Meeting

December 24 2:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service
December 25 9:00 am Christmas Day Service

December 21 and 28 No Confirmation

December 26, Church Offices Closed



January 2, 2023 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

February 5, 2023- 10:15 am Annual Meeting





The November snowfall gave all of us a taste of winter. Fortunately things had cleared enough to allow Pr. Stephanie and her father to drive up from Texas to the parsonage in Medina. The Sanctuary decorations went up in time for the first Sunday of Advent . The Holiday Dazzle parade was wonderfully warm on the day after Thanksgiving. Hot Cider and popcorn were offered for the community, as well as the church steps for prime viewing.



In Memory of:

Orville Franke
 Lois Knudson
 Lois Knudson
 Lois Knudson
 Lois Knudson
 Doug Daug

Given by:

Darwin & Pauline Roeske
 Carl & Sandy Franke
 St. Vincent Hospital
 Steve & Robbin Manley
 Becky Wahl
 Larry & Nadine Readel



Giving Matters

ATTENDANCE

	In person	YouTube Live	YouTube recorded
October 30	101	17	65
November 6	92	17	57
November 13	83	27	55
November 20	100	25	55
November 27	90	27	60

October income: \$29,071.76
 October expenses: \$30,894.32

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.

2023 SPONSORSHIP UPDATES

Radio broadcast and Altar flower sponsorships for 2023 will cost \$40 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.



January 2023

Radio January

January 1 Pam Golde and Linda Misemer

January 8 Gail Falck

January 22

January 29

Flowers January

January 1 Pam Golde and Linda Misemer

January 8 Erin Paulson

January 15 Gail Falck

January 22

January 29

For Dates available for Altar Flowers and Radio, please contact the church office 252-1198

2023 Offering Envelopes

As of late November, our envelopes are still in production, with a mid-December estimated arrival.

Please be patient– We will get them out just as soon as they arrive.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thank you to all who volunteer

- To read, acolyte, Sunday School,
- Decorate the Christmas Tree
- Serve the Coffee and treats
- Streaming and projection
- Ushers and Greeters
- Tuesday Meal Team
- Confirmation and Youth
- Women of the Church
- Property Committee
- Touch by an Angel
- Grief Support
- Prayer Warriors
- Lay Sacramentarians
- Kitchen Committee
- Council and Executive Committee
- Audit Team
- Nominating Committee
- Endowment Team
- Synod Assembly
- Triumph Team
- CIOH Team
- Prayer Land Organizers
- Pastors
- Congregation Members
- Budget Committee
- Counters
- Altar Guild

*I am sure I forgot a few because
You quietly come do what needs
To be done and leave.
Even though we don't see it,
Jesus does
So Thank you so much for all you do.*



6th and 7th Grade confirmation continues to meet on Wednesdays at St. John's. About 35 youth from St. John's, Trinity, and United Presbyterian gather each week.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Central Valley Health District

**Tips for Staying Healthy
THIS WINTER**

by Central Valley Health District



Keep moving!

The winter months can be a challenging time to stick to your exercise routine. Not only can preparing for the holidays leave you feeling drained, the cold weather can also be a deterrent to getting outside for some exercise.



December 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 Advent No Sunday School 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>30 9:30am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation</p>	<p>1 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>2 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>3 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall - set up</p>
<p>4 Pr. Stephanie preaching at St. John's and Medina 9:00am Worship - St. John's 9:30am Rock of Ages 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Council Meeting 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>7 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation</p>	<p>8 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>9 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>10 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall - set up</p>
<p>11 Pr. Stephanie Gossett Installation - at St. John's 9:00am Worship - St. John's 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>12 12:00pm JAGST MEETING</p>	<p>13 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>14 9:30am Preschool Chapel 1:30pm Preschool Chapel 4:00pm 6th and 7th Grade Confirmation</p>	<p>15 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>16 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>17 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall - set up</p>
<p>18 9:00am Worship - St. John's - Children Christmas program 10:00am Sunday School 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>24 1:30pm Christmas Eve Service 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>25 9:00am Worship - St. John's - Christmas Day Service 10:30am Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>26 Church offices closed</p>	<p>27 10:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 6:00pm Hope for the Hopeless Church - Centennial Hall</p>	<p>31</p>



Greeting from CIOH

First of all, I would like to thank all the families and friends from St. John's Lutheran Church for your prayers regarding the recruitment and operation. Staff shortage problem is still the biggest problem we are facing right now. Please keep CIOH in your prayers.

We have been through a lot of tough moments in November and made some very difficult decisions as a board. As you know, CIOH purpose is building a healthy and happy learning environment for the child and providing quality care to our community. All of our staff work towards these goals and remain true to our original aspiration.

In Noah's Ark, there were 4 infants that turned 18 months and already smoothly transitioned to the God's Little Lambs. That was a big step for them. Within a week, they have learned how to sit down and eat without a high chair and sleep on the cot, not the crib.

Care Cross has a new lead teacher Ms. Olivia. She was one of the college girls that worked for CIOH for many years. We gladly found out she is available to work full time. That was such wonderful news for us.

Mrs. Ford's preschool had so many fun, creative areas in the class. The most popular area is the dramatic play area "The Shop". Parents donated the empty food boxes and kid's shopping carts to help create a grocery store. Students can go around the shelves and pick up the items they want to buy then take it to the cashier to pay. They all love this realistic environment that makes them build up self confidence during play.

On the occasion of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank all those who have helped CIOH; the church members and families. Thank you for all the support from the board of CIOH and the board of St. John's Lutheran Church. Thank you Gem Saied, Laura Stafslie and Shelley Mack for volunteering to help CIOH at this critical moment.

Sadly, I have to announce that I have decided to step down as center director and I am taking a leave of absence from CIOH. I truly appreciate this opportunity. I was supported by the board, the staff, the parents and St. John's Lutheran Church. I cannot express how much I appreciate that. I believe that the future of CIOH is bright and full of blessings.

CIOH is still hiring! If you love to spend time with these lovely little angels, please contact us: 701-252-1903 or email: Director@st-johnspreschool.org

Sincerely
Jianying Lin (Jane)
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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 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**

Pastors
 Erik Weber
 Stephanie Gossett

Admin Secretary/bookkeeper
 Gem Saied

Custodian
 Robin Vasquez

Child In Our Hands
 Jane Lin– director
 Valerie Ford– Preschool Lead

Choir Accompanist/Pianist
 Connie Wells

**Special
 WORSHIP
 SCHEDULE**

Christmas Eve

1:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship
4:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Will be live stream

Christmas Day

9:00 am Christmas Day Worship