



St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

The Messenger

January 2021

(Monthly publication)



Dear friends in Christ,

Christmas is upon us. It is a time of celebration, a time of love and a time to advocate for peace on earth. It is easy for us to get caught up in the bright lights and commercialism that this time of year typically brings. This year in particular, we may welcome

the distraction from what has been perhaps the most challenging year in modern history. When I sat down to write this letter, I knew what I wanted to say but I found myself struggling to put it into words. Fortunately, there is no shortage of quotes by others who have put into words what I cannot.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable Gift." – 2 Corinthians 9:15

We are all familiar with the Christmas story as told to us in the second chapter of Luke. Those verses relate the true reason that we celebrate the 25th day of December. But over the past two millennia Christmas has grown into a celebration of Peace, Love and Charity as well. It has become a time of wonderment, inspiration, and reflection.

The best place to experience Wonderment is in the eyes of children this time of year. Over the years we tend to let the "adult" in us replace the childish glee and excitement that the Christmas season brings. Our time is spent on the business of decorating, planning, and hosting. But we should not let age cloud our eyes to the wonderment of our youth.

"Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see." -Polar Express
"May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve." -anonymous

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."
— Norman Vincent Peale

Christmas is a time of inspiration. A time to see the good in others and to follow in their good deeds. Sadly, this inspiration wanes after the season ends. We need to celebrate the Christmas season all year long.

"I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year." – Charles Dickens
"Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand."-Dr. Seuss
"Love the giver more than the gift." – Brigham Young

Reflect on your life. More than whether you have made Santa's naughty or nice lists. Have you lived the Christmas spirit throughout the year? Have you shared the peace, love, and charity that God expects of you? Have you been an inspiration to others? We have the power to change the world, one kind act at a time.

"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection." – Winston Churchill
"And so this is Christmas... what have you done?" – John Lennon
"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."-Will Ferrell ("ELF")

I leave you with one of my favorite quotes. One that I find inspiration in every year.

God bless Us, Every One! – Tiny Tim (Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol")

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
God's Peace to All,

Gary Staab
Congregation President



2021- God Meets You

As we begin the next year of Ministry together we are focusing on the promise that God Meets You! God meets you where you are whether that is at home, at work, at school, or in church, in the community. In days of joy and days of sorrow, in times of loneliness and times of fellowship, God Meets you. We have the promise that wherever we find ourselves, God is there.

How will we live this out over the coming year? St. John's will seek out opportunities to name and claim the God sightings in our everyday lives. We have learned in 2020 that worship moves beyond the sanctuary. Each week people worship in their homes. The radio has been a mainstay for congregational outreach for decades. Our internet live stream has been in place for just a few months, but already is making an impact on how we imagine and live out our idea of worship. God is present when we worship in the sanctuary and God is present in every home where people set aside time to praise God.

We all live in a time of uncertainty, where normal social interactions can be opportunities for infection. We all have some level of fear about our own health or the health of those we love. In the midst of that fear, God is present. It is comforting to know that we do not face these things alone. Help is at hand because God meets you in the midst of all fear and uncertainty.

Wherever we find ourselves, God is there. The disciples saw this at work in the ministry of Jesus. During this season of Epiphany, we hear about miraculous ways that God's presence is made know to all people. This year is a time to cling to the promise, known through the flesh of Jesus, that God is with us. God meets you in 2021.

Pr. Erik
Senior Pastor



***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From the Church Council Member 2020***



Discipleship: The News Has Come

As we enter the new year we think of all the goals that we might have for this year. Most like to start anew. This might mean a new perspective on focusing on your health, priorities, work and life balance, or simply being in tune to your failures and places in which you can improve upon.

While thinking of these goals I ask that you seek your own discipleship with Christ. We have all made it through a rough 2020 year filled with fear, sickness, loss, and doubt. Many probably questioned God in why things happened the way that they did. Why we had loss of loved ones, why there was a loss of jobs, how we weren't able to see loved ones, and the feeling of isolation.

Being a disciple isn't easy. There is no exact step by step process that one follows to be a "good" disciple. You don't have to think you need to be perfect to be a disciple. The disciples that walked alongside Jesus show us that they weren't even close to perfect through their own failures. Peter, the leader of the disciples, also known as "the rock," denies knowing who Jesus is three different times, when Jesus was arrested. Judas, another disciple, is known as the one who kisses Jesus and provides the ultimate betrayal to identify who Jesus is and have him arrested. Then there is Thomas who won't believe that Jesus is resurrected until he has physical evidence of the wounds on Jesus' body.

A part of our faith journey includes having bumps in the road. We doubt, we betray Jesus, spread rumors, and are faulty humans. However, forgiveness through Christ allows us to start new again. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

First, I want you to reflect on the past year. How do we look at our world or community differently? Appreciating our health care workers, those that help create a vaccine, those that work in nursing homes and those that work in any sort of front-line position. We see the need to help one another by offering huge donations towards Salvation Army and through the communal effort of meals with "Come to the Table" every Tuesday. There were people who sent cards, care packages, and gifts of love to friends, family members, and even strangers. We may have dropped off meals to our elderly neighbors or supplied masks to the schools. There was a sense of urgency and care in which we relied on one another with care and love.

As we enter into the new year I ask that you start anew and see the ways in which you can be a resurrected disciple. A disciple that is broken, has wounds, and fears but is accepted and loved by God. One that can be faithful in prayer as we seek what is to come this year. I ask that you don't forget about the urgency of love that we can give to our neighbor. The ways in which we are to live on this earth as Jesus' loving and forgiving disciples. There are times where it can be easy to fixate on those things in which we can't control and give us burdened hearts. However, with God at our side and love in our hearts we can live out, "the old has passed away; behold, the new has come!"

Prayer: God, may you reveal your light to us in the midst of grief and healing. May we know that in our discipleship you are walking alongside us and giving us new opportunities in which we can be enactors of your light and love each and every day.

Pr. Lucas Holsten
Associate Pastor

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS – January

For current and update calendar
<http://www.st-johnslutheran.org/#/calendar>

Sunday Worship

9:00 am - worship

Monday

9:30 am Pre-school Chapel

1:30 pm Pre-school Chapel

Tuesday

9:30 am Staff Meeting

5:00 pm Come to the table meal

Wednesday

4:00 pm Worship

Thursday

9:30 am Pre-school Chapel

January 2021

1/1 Church Offices Closed

1/7 5:30 pm Executive Meeting

1/12 6:30 pm Council Meeting

1/17 Annual Report Available

1/31 10:30 am Annual Meeting Sanctuary



**Merry Christmas
And Happy New Year**



Pianist: Rachel Williams, and Connie Wells

Readers: Jim Ritter, Gavin Kutz, Sandy Franke, Joan Enderle,

Ushers: Bill Ebele, and Walter and Mary Klundt.

Communion: Altar Guild, Pauline Roemmich, Jim and Paulette Ritter, Char Freeberg, Gavin Kutz, Sandy Franke, Joan Enderle.

Projector/Streaming: Lynn Krueger, Char Perleberg, Camden Kutz, John, Cindy, and, Aaron Kleven.

Special thanks to those who decorate the church, insure the children bags have books and activities, Sunday School Teachers, individuals that are always available to lend a hand to shovel the snow, keep the front of the church clean, help with mailing. There are many that quietly go about doing what needs to be done and get it done when no one is watching. Thank you so much to all.



Sponsorships

Radio January

January 3	Pam Golde and Linda Misemer
January 10	Richard and Geneal Hall
January 17	Gail Falck
January 24	Creative Fellowship



Flowers January

January 5	Pam Golde and Linda Misemer
January 12	Brian and Erin Paulson
January 19	Gail Falck
January 26	Creative Fellowship



BAPTISM CLASS Contact the church office



CHURCH MINISTRY

Funerals

Church Members

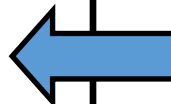
Mary Trautman - d. 11/25
 Richard Truax - d. 11/27
 Melvin Roemmich - d. 12/16
 Selmer Bender - d. 12/19

Community

Leigh Ann Rosemore—d 11/27
 Darlene Ann Windingland - d. 12/2
 Earl Petersen—d. 12/12

Community Wedding

Robert John Dockter and
 Serenity Rose Harmon
 12/20



Greetings from Child In Our Hands,

December has been a month of transition for us as we have welcomed new staff to our center. We are excited to see the new ideas and energy that they bring to the center. We also have said goodbye to our wonderful director Torrey as she is moving on to a new adventure in her life. She will be deeply missed and we are forever grateful for her time with Child In Our Hands.

Our classrooms have been busy making Christmas gifts for their parents. It is always fun to see the kids' faces light up when they give their gifts to dads and moms. These moments truly show us the power of giving for both the giver and the one receiving. We have also been tremendously blessed with the parents' gifts towards our classrooms. A wish tree was put up by our front door and the response has been overwhelming.

It was a very tough decision, but we did not hold a Preschool Christmas Program this year. This did not stop our preschoolers from singing carols throughout the month though. They also were able to dress up as various characters for the nativity scene and a special picture was shared with families.

As we start a new year, we reflect on all the challenges of 2020 but we know that they have made us stronger and more thankful for some of the things that we once took for granted. We are filled with hope that the new year will bring us even closer together as we continue to strive to provide the best care for the children in our care.

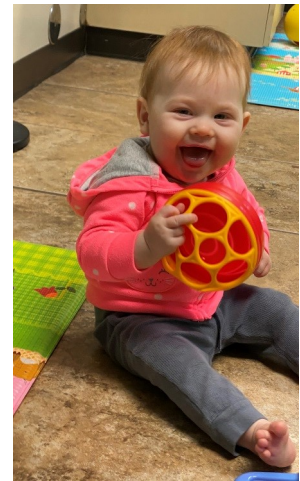
Mrs. Ford
Interim Director



Child in Our Hands Christmas Fun



CIOH Toddlers and Staff



Faith Formation Update

Sunday School is trying to restart on January 17th, depending on community health

Vacation Bible School planning is underway for Summer 2021

Confirmation: Will continue with online class until February

Youth Group resumes January 27th (last Wednesday of each month)

ELCA Youth Gathering June 2022 planning is underway.

Thank you to the flexibility and patience displayed by all the parents and youth as plans have changed over the first half of the program year. Hopefully we will see each other more in the months ahead.

If you have any questions about Faith Formation, please contact Pr. Lucas

Come to the Table Tuesday Meal: German Supper Style 2020





Fit for the Journey

FROM	FOR
Alice Bieta	Melva Oak
Florence Goehner	Mary Trautman
Florence Goehner	Richard Truax
Pam Daugs	Mary Trautman
LaDona Tarno	Mary Trautman
LaDona Tarno	Enid Wells
Jim and Jan Thompson	Melva Oak
Jim and Jan Thompson	Mary Trautman
Deloris Christy	Clyde Christy
Melvin Roemmich Family	Melvin Roemmich
Curtis and Darlene Goehner	Melvin Roemmich

ATTENDANCE

November 2020

Sunday November 29 29

December 2020

Sunday December 6 39

Sunday December 13 39

Sunday December 20 33

GENERAL GIVING:

Income: 27,421

Expense: 37,416 (including \$10,000 A/C bill)

Thank you to everyone who has picked up the 2021 Green offering envelopes. Please discard all Yellow 2020 envelopes. If you do not see a box of envelopes, please ask. Boxes were issued to people who regularly used envelopes in 2020, but we know that many people had to stay away for health reasons this year. Thank you for your ongoing support of our common ministry.

Council Recap

The council received the proposed Mission and Ministry plan for Child in Our Hands for 2021. It will be included in the annual report for consideration at the January 31st Congregational Meeting. The council designated 3% as the withdrawal from the St. John's North Dakota Tax Credit Endowment Fund. Withdrawal and allocation managed by the Endowment Committee. The council approved updates to congregation policies (Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, Van, and Gift) and the St. John's Wedding Handbook. These updates include language about the availability of internet streaming, current fees, and procedures. The council received formal notice that the Paycheck Protection Program Loan has been converted to a Grant. The council reviewed comments and checked in on the 2021 proposed Mission and Ministry Plan. The council requested that the 11/4/20 draft be included in the January Newsletter as an additional way to make it available to congregation members for consideration, as well as commended the video explanation posted on the St. John's website. The council reviewed the current status of the nominating process. The council received a draft of a new Child Protection Safe conduct policy for consideration at the January council meeting. The council discussed logistics for the annual meeting. The plan remains to have an in person meeting after worship on Sunday January 31st in the Sanctuary. Remote (video) participation has technical hurdles. Remote viewing of the proceedings is very easy to implement. No decision on remote participation was made. The Council heard an update about the search for a new CIOH director.

Sample Ballot (as of 12/15/20)

President: Gary Staab (3rd term)

Vice-President: Lynn Krueger (2nd term)

Treasurer: Shelley Mack (2nd term)

Secretary: Amy Walz (2nd Term)

Council Member (1 yr term): Denise Walton

Council Member (3 year term): Shilo Ford

Council Member (3 year term):

Endowment Committee (3 year term):

Mission and Ministry Draft Plan for 2021

In preparation for the January 31st Annual meeting, the council is presenting the draft Mission and Ministry plan for the coming year. The council also commends the explanation video available on the church website for your information. Of particular importance is the uncertainty around the needed repairs to the Air Conditioning systems in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and 1950 Addition.

Hopefully by the annual meeting we will have actual bids to consider and have a plan for meeting these repair needs through a combination of Building Contingency Funds, Operating Funds, and special offerings.

2021 Maintenance and Repair Budget items

\$4,000	Maintenance (includes \$1200 elevator maintenance contract)
\$5,765	Outstanding balance of Bid dated 7/16/20 from Arneson, Inc. to replace 4 existing A/C units for Centennial Hall.
\$3,500	est for Sanctuary High A/C inside coil replacement, Currently broken.
\$8,500	est for Fellowship Hall Condenser and coil replacement. Currently broken.
\$8,500	est for CIOH room Condenser and coil replacement. Currently works.
<hr/>	
\$30,265	ALMOST ENTIRELY IN FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 2021

We have @\$11,000 in Building Contingency that can be allocated. We have \$8,500 as a contribution from Child In Our Hands.

Other priority items-

\$8,500	est. for Lounge, Hospitality, 2 nd floor Condenser and coil replacement. Currently works.
\$19,000	2017 estimate for 6 metal exterior door replacements.

The Full Annual Report should be available for pick up by Sunday January, 17th if year end closeouts go smoothly and there are no unexpected printing problems.

2021 DRAFT PLAN

2020 Jan-Oct

11.04.20

Actuals

	2019 Actual	(including PPP Grant)	2021 DRAFT
Investment to God's Mission			
Contributions to General Fund	\$338,360	\$307,831	\$331,523
Total for Special Offerings			sp offer*
			\$331,523.00

Investment in God's Mission Line Items

MISSION SUPPORT

Eastern ND Synod	12,500	6,500.00	9,000
Total for Special Offerings			
Wycliffe Bible Translators-Waskosky's	250		
Salvation Army	900		
Youth for Christ	1,000		
ELCA World Hunger	1,682		
Lutheran Social Services	150		
Safe Shelter			
Luther/Wartburg Seminary	150		
Red Willow Bible Camp	1,000		
Rural Endowment Offering			
Jamestown Area Grief Support Team	150		
Social Action	987		
North Dakota Campus Ministry: UND/	1,000		
Subtotal	19,769	6,500.00	9,000

CONGREGATIONAL/WORSHIP LIFE

Synod Assembly/Conference Admin	1,418	948	925
Postage	2,535	2,230	3,500
Office Supplies	3,807	3,334	4,000
Copier (lease and service contract)	5,987	4,788	5,300
Stewardship Ministry	600		
Church Envelopes	666	611	625
Evangelism Ministry	1,577	254	950
Faith & Fellowship Ministry	4,048	494	1,250
Touched By An Angel	13	12	100
Worship Ministry/Music	1,706	1,483	
Worship/Church Supplies (+music)	2,617	2,155	4,400
Organ & Piano Maintenance	550	550	550
Subtotal	25,524	17,205	21,600

FAITH FORMATION

Children's Faith Formation	3,039	618	3,000
Middle School Faith Formation	324	338	1,500
High School Faith Formation	2,425		0
Young Adult Faith Formation	0		0
Adult Faith Formation	379	38	200
Devotional Literature	1,075	545	800
Subtotal	7,242	1,539	5,500

* Indicates Special Offerings may be received to support these ministries.



Thank you on behalf of the Evangelism Team and Pr. Lucas for the generous support of the Salvation Army reverse Advent Calendar this year. Diapers, food, cleaning supplies and hygiene items have all been delivered to the local Salvation Army for distribution.

St. John's Endowment Grants Distributed-

Checks were cut in December for the final 2020 Endowment Grants. The grants were matching funds for congregational giving during the year. Thank you for generously contributing to special appeals this year.

Church Van Replacement:	\$3,100
Salvation Army:	\$250
ELCA World Hunger	\$250
EAND Synod Endowment	\$200
Wycliff Bible Translators	\$200

Women of the Church

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Thank Offering appeal. We received \$ 625.00 We then went shopping for items needed for the Salvation Army.

Thank you again. Shirley Unverferth, Treasurer

A Thankyou Note:

St. John's Lutheran ELCA,

Thank you very much for the donation to the ND State hospital for our Christmas appeal. Your donation will help to make sure each of our patients gets a gift this Christmas. We truly appreciate your support over the years and especially this year which has been so difficult for so many people.

Sincerely, ND State Hospital Volunteer Dept



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's	28	29 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	30	31	1 Church offices closed	2
3 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's	4 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	5 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	6 4:00 PM Worship	7 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 5:30 PM Executive Meeting	8	9
10 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's	11 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	12 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal 6:30 PM Council Meeting	13 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Worship	14 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	15	16
17 Annual Report available 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School	18 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	19 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	20 4:00 PM Worship	21 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	22	23
24 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School	25 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	26 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	27 4:00 PM Worship 4:01 PM Youth Group	28 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	29	30
31 9:00 AM Worship - St. John's 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Annual Meeting in Sanctuary	1 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel	2 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 5:00 PM Come to the Table Meal	3 4:00 PM Worship	4 9:30 AM Pre-school chapel 5:30 PM Executive Meeting	5	6



St. John's Lutheran Church
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 Jamestown, ND 58401
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Non-Profit
 Organization
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 Jamestown, ND
 58401

Worship Services

Sundays
 9:00 am

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

«AddressBlock»



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

Senior Pastor
 Erik Weber

Associate Pastor
 Lucas Holsten

Admin Secretary
 Gem Saied

Custodian
 Frank Perleberg

Child In Our Hands Director
 Val Ford

Choir Accompanist/Pianist
 Rachel Williams
 Connie Wells

Mark Your Calendar
January 17 Annual Report
Available for Pick-Up

«AddressBlock»



ANNUAL MEETING

January 31, 2021
10:30 am