



St. John's Lutheran Church

Called to Fill the Hungry with Good Things

The Messenger

(a monthly publication)

January 2024

EPIPHANY



... they bowed down and worshiped him.

Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

MATTHEW 2:11, NIV



Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church

February 4th after worship (@10:15 am)

Annual reports will be available in the Narthex when printed.

2024 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the narthex. Please recycle all old envelopes and only use the new color for the year.

If you don't see a box pre-labeled please put your name on a slip and one will be issued.

Reflections by Travelers to Hawaii

My experience in Hawaii was amazing. I am lucky to be able to say that I was part of the first North Dakota school that was able to perform in the Pearl Harbor parade. Singing at the USS Missouri was amazing because it was my first time performing at a naval base. I learned so much while still being able to sing and do what I love. Let me tell you more about my experiences in Hawaii at the USS Missouri, the USS Arizona, and being in the Pearl Harbor parade.

Being on the USS Missouri was a super awesome experience. When I stood on the deck of the boat it hit me that I got to stand and sing for all the people that fought in Pearl Harbor. When I got a chance to look around the boat, I ended up going below deck to see how big it was. I got to see where people slept, ate, and did research. It was crazy how small the bunks on the boat were. Then after I was done exploring, I got to go sing for the people who fought for our country. That was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I wish I could go back and do it again. After singing our group went over to the USS Arizona. Once I got in the theater to get instructions on what to do on the USS Arizona the first thing the lady said was when we were over on the ship to make sure that we were always quiet. Being at the memorial was so amazing. What I was standing on was the memorial, but the ship was right underneath. When looking through the openings in the memorial you could still see the parts of the ship sticking up out of the water. It was huge and there were still oil bubbles coming up out of the water from the ship. As I walked to the back of the memorial there was a wall with everyone's names that were on the USS Arizona. I stood in that room for 5 minutes with about 20 other people in pure silence just admiring the wall of people that went down when the ship went down. I could've stayed and looked at the ship for a very long time, but our boat came, and we left.

The next day was the parade. We went to the opening ceremony and got the honor of being able to sing for three of the Pearl Harbor veterans. Before we sang, we got to listen to the veterans talk about their experiences. The veterans I got to listen to were 101, 102, and 103. The first veteran told us that he had written 16 pages and forgot them, so he said to keep serving our country. The second veteran had his son interview him. He was a tuba player on the ship he was on and on the day of Pearl Harbor, he helped load missiles. It was amazing that he was a musician just like all the kids who were at the parade. After we listened to them talk, we got to sing America The Beautiful with many other choirs. The Jamestown Choir also got to practice the Star-Spangled Banner with another choir. After practicing a couple of times with the other choir we went and sang to start the very beginning of the parade. After singing we were able to watch a bit of the parade. As soon as the Jamestown Band came by the choir was able to jump right in behind them. It was amazing to be able to march with the band and be able to see all the people. The best part was being able to represent North Dakota and Jamestown the way we did. I wish I could go back and do it all over again.

- Lillian Cordell, JHS Senior

“Hurry up and wait!”; that was the motto we all lived by on this trip. However, behind the late buses and early mornings, this was a trip that, regardless of how you view it, will stick with you for the rest of your life. I am a history nut, and I can find myself lost in books and internet videos or articles related to anything about history. I was unbelievably excited when this opportunity arose to go to Hawaii and Pearl Harbor. When one becomes so indulged in history, you cannot give up the opportunity to see it in person! Not only were the prospects of attending the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, the U.S.S. Missouri, the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, and participating in the memorial parade enticing, but also to get the chance to learn about and experience the home islands of the native Hawaiian people and their culture. I have a friend who is part Hawaiian and has family there, so he told me many things about what to expect.


Ultimately, if you were to ask me what I took away from this trip, I would tell you that I gained a new perspective. A perspective on what it means to be an American. A perspective on what it means for those who are Pacific Islanders. A perspective into those who live their lives with ‘Aloha’. The sacrifice that was given on that day, December 7th, 1941, is one that could never be repaid by future

generations. However, what I realized is that those who fought and died for us did not do it so that we would have to repay them down the road. They did it so that we could carry on the legacy of 'Aloha,' the legacy of love. Love for family, love for country, and love for your fellow man. So, a Hawaiian principle is what guided those heroes. Let us strive to never let the fire, the fire of life, be extinguished.
- Colin Conway, JHS Senior

My Hawaii experience is colored with appreciation for Hawaiian culture. I learned many new things in Hawaii that I did not know before, like that pineapples grow on bushes and not trees. In Polynesian cultures, it is customary for men to endure pain by getting your belly button tattooed. The young men also do all the cooking for the house and for their family. In a way this dedication and loyalty reminds me of the US men who fought for their country in Pearl Harbor.

After a little turbulence in getting around, I was privileged to see and walk on the U.S.S. Missouri and the U.S.S. Arizona memorials. The feeling of solemn despair and silent pride was a heavy felt weight shared by many friends I talked to on this trip. I, myself, am not a history buff by any means but it doesn't take much to find something to relate to or that humanizes all these people who lost their lives. Letters to loved ones and personal items seemed to move me the most. Getting to hear a couple Pearl Harbor veterans and Rosie Riveters speak, well into their 100 years of life at the Pearl Harbor parade Jamestown was also a part of, was also incredibly touching. These brave men and women are living reminders of an important time in American history, and it is a memory I will always carry with me.

From the Polynesian culture to the U.S. memorials, the overwhelming feeling of appreciation, support, and love for the entire community. It was an honor and a pleasure to represent North Dakota at such an event.
-Erin Henke, JHS Senior

Exploring Acts: 
Synod-wide Scripture Read
with Dr. Eric Barreto
January 7- February 4, 2024
EaND Synod

All congregation members across the Eastern North Dakota Synod are invited to participate in a synod-wide Scripture read! Together, we will dwell in the words and stories of the book of Acts.

Starting on Monday, January 8th, you are encouraged to read one chapter of Acts every day, and every Sunday afternoon we will gather via Zoom from 2:00-3:30 p.m. for conversation with Dr. Eric Barreto, Professor of New Testament at

Princeton Seminary. This event kicks off with an introductory Zoom session on January 7, and our reading schedule begins January 8. We hope you'll consider joining us!

Zoom Meeting Schedule: **January 7**, 2:00-3:30 (Introduction), **January 14**, 2:00-3:30, **January 21**, 2:00-3:30, **January 28**, 2:00-3:30, **February 4**, 2:00-3:30 (Wrap-up)

Reading Schedule:

WEEK 1: **1/7:** Introductory Zoom (no assigned reading), **1/31:** Acts 24, **2/1:** Acts 25, **2/2:** Acts 26, **2/3:** Acts 27, **2/4:** Acts 28 & Zoom Conversation

Zoom Meeting ID: 898 7923 8361

Christians in Action

Emerging Structure for Ministry Together

Our Local Coordinators have been reviewing proposed By-Laws in preparation for incorporation of Christians in Action as a legal entity. This is a new thing. In 2022 there was a moment when we were coming together as a partnership that we had the opportunity to incorporate, but the time was not right. There were too many unanswered questions and a sense that we wanted to start supporting each other in ministry quickly. Additional structure seemed to push meaningful ministry together down the road.

In hindsight, some things would have been easier over the past year if we had already incorporated. Bank accounts and web-site registrations would have been centralized. Online giving and email lists would have been easier to set up. Even the three successful call processes could have been handled differently.

The goal of Christians in Action has never been to establish a new institution (or parish-like) entity. Even so, our lives in ministry together will be aided by having a layer of legal organization (for bank accounts and online activities) and will offer a clear path for congregations to enter or leave the partnership and to continue participating in ways that strengthen their ministry.

At our upcoming annual meetings, each participating congregation will be asked 1) to vote to subscribe to the work of the partnership and 2) each congregation will elect a Local Coordinator who will sit on the board of the new non-profit organization.

This new layer does not change the organization of any individual congregation. Each congregation continues to have its own council and standing as an independent congregation. We all retain our own constitution and budget responsibilities.

As this newsletter is being prepared, there is still work to be done on specific provisions of the new organizational structure. Some things are clear:

- 1) Articles of Incorporation would be filed with the Secretary of State of North Dakota as a non-profit organization.
- 2) Bylaws would be prepared.
- 3) The new non-profit organization would request its own EIN (Employer Identification Number.)
- 4) The new non-profit organization would request to be part of the ELCA Group Exemption with the IRS. (This is the same Group Exemption that currently covers all 8 congregations.)

Please remain attentive to the conversations leading up to your congregation's annual meeting and direct questions to your Council or Local Coordinator.

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



Living Lutheran magazine has shifted to an all digital platform. If you have been a print subscriber, that service has ended. Publications can now be found for free at www.livinglutheran.org or by following on facebook and Instagram at @LivingLutheran

Ministerial Acts



Baptisms

† none



Weddings

† none



Funerals

†	Helen Ashwell	11/20/2023
†	Carol Weber	11/27/2023
†	Patricia Fairfield	12/6/2023
†	Edith Coddling	12/6/2023

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Thank you to all who volunteer and make my job a little bit easier. I might not remember to thank you in person, but this is my chance to say thank you for everything you do, for stopping by to say hi and check how I am doing. I am sure Pr. Erik and Pr. Stephine share the same feeling.



Thank You Lona Betie and Ann Ede
For playing the piano with no warning

Council Highlight

The council approved the following items at the December 5th meeting.

- Rev. Erik Weber is authorized to complete and submit the 2024 North Dakota Secretary of State report on behalf of St. John's.
- The withdrawal percentage from the St. John's Tax Credit Endowment Fund for 2024 shall be 3% of the average year end balances in 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- an addendum to the flexible benefits plan offered to lay employees.
- A \$21,122.66 certificate of deposit at Dacotah Bank will be rolled over into a seven-month CD at 5.1%.
- the duel-fuel backup system has been repaired.
- Two exterior door lights will be converted to LED lights.
- the housing allowance and parsonage allowance for Rev. Erik and Rev. Stephanie were approved.
- The minutes of the Nov. meeting and the Nov. Financials were reviewed.

The Treasurer noted that monthly general fund giving is trending lower. He asked council members to review the proposed budget and provide input on areas to cut should the trend continue. The proposed budget for 2024 is \$405,370, an increase of \$9,583 from the 2023 budget.

In other business, the kitchen construction team is working closely with Hillerud Construction and Culinx to make sure congregational and Children In Our Hands needs are met. A Ministry Disruption Team has been formed to address issues during construction and identify where Come to the Table and funeral meals will take place.

Char and Pastor Erik will revise St. John's goal as written for the annual meeting report of Christians in Action to better reflect our desire for better communication with members of St. John's.

The Nominating Committee is searching for members to fill open seats on the church council (president, member at large and youth position), as well as a CIA delegate, Endowment Committee member, and synod assembly representative. Conner's one-year term is expiring, and Lynn and Ken are not seeking reelection.



Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. The tree looks beautiful. Well done.



Bishop Tessa joined the Jamestown Conference Meeting in December for worship and a brief meeting at Immanuel Lutheran. Then she joined the pastors for lunch and some ax throwing at Pit Stop Sports.



A full load of goods was delivered to the Salvation Army on Dec. 7th. Thank you to everyone who contributed and participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar. State Hospital items were also delivered.



Most Thursdays Triumph clients and DSP's help restock and clean the sanctuary. St. John's threw a pizza party to say thank you.

Rostered Leader Article- Pastor Stephanie Gossett



As the Christmas season wanes, we continue to celebrate the new year with the season of Epiphany. In many parts of the world, Christians will mark a blessing on their doorway at this time of year and hang bright stars to represent both the Star of Bethlehem that guided the wise men to the baby Jesus, and the light of Christ himself.

When I was in Germany in January of 2018, these Moravian Stars were everywhere, and especially in every church building. I was so excited this fall to find one of these stars at the religious supply store, and have it proudly hanging in my front window at the parsonage. Every time I look at the star, I am reminded of God's love come down to earth to dwell among us.

We do not always have a star as bright as the Bethlehem Star in our sky, but we do have the reflection of the sun's light on Earth's moon. This year I have been fortunate enough to experience the full moon on a clear night in the prairie. There are moments when the moon feels close enough to reach out and touch. It is so bright that capturing a clear image is difficult without a fancy camera. On those cloudless nights, the moon is definitely bright enough to wander outside without a flashlight as the moon reflects off the road and illuminates a safe path.

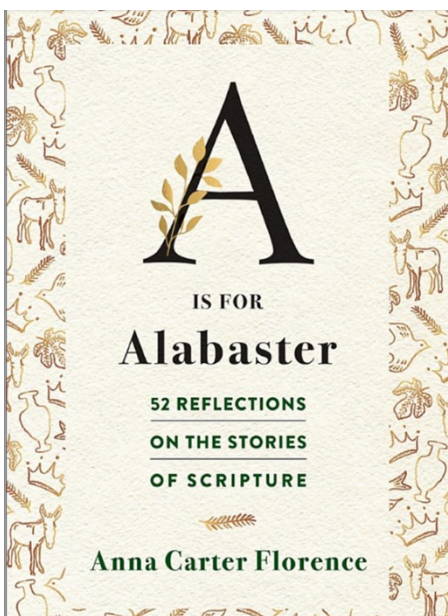
In our day to day life, Christ is the nourishing light in the darkness. The moon waxes and wanes, but the light of Christ is constant. During Advent we sing a prayer asking Christ to be our light and shine in our hearts, the darkness and the church, because we long for light, peace, hope, truth, etc. Beloved, the Holy Spirit is with us, even on the darkest of nights of our soul, to illumine our path and help guide us on our journeys of faith and life. In turn, we are Christ's light on earth as we allow the Spirit to work through us, and as we work together in this ministry partnership to shine that light brightly in Stutsman County and beyond.



St. John's Lutheran Church in Action Story of Impact

On Wednesday evening December 6, approximately twenty 8th and 9th grade Confirmation students from Trinity and St. John's and some of their parents helped wrap presents at the Anne Carlsen Center. We wrapped presents for 67 clients which took us less than an hour and a half.

The staff at the Anne Carlsen Center commented how grateful they were to us. During the pandemic, no one could come into the building due to their clients being so susceptible to the illness. It took the staff weeks to wrap the presents because they could only wrap when they had a spare moment.



2024 Monthly Book Study

First Tuesdays at 5:00PM (start Feb. 3)
OR First Wednesdays at 11:15AM (start Feb.5)

Each month we will read and discuss 5 reflections from Anna Carter Florence's new offering, *A is for Alabaster*.

Register on STJ SignUp Genius or in the church office.

Sign up by January 15 if you want us to order you a book (\$20)!



In Memory of:	Given by:
Carol Weber	Shirley Unvererth
Carol Weber	Deloris Christy
Emanuel & Ester Redmann	Joan Redmann
Carol Weber	Ken & Pam Daus
Carol Weber	Charles & Connie Wells
Carol Weber	Alice Bietz

Giving Matters

ATTENDANCE

	In Person	YouTube Live
December 3	97	17
December 10	80	17
December 17		
December 24		
December 24		
December 25		

November income: \$ 22,377.06
 November expenses: \$ 36,905.82

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 2024

Radio January

January 7	Pam Golde and Linda Misemer
January 14	Available
January 21	Gail Falck
January 28	Available

Flowers January

January 7	Pam Golde and Linda Misemer
January 14	Erin Paulson
January 21	Gail Falck
January 28	Available

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

Altar Flowers available dates 2024

1/28; 3/24; 4/7
 5/5, 5/19; 5/26; 6/2
 6/16; 6/23; 6/30

More dates are available for the rest of the year

Radio Broadcast available dates 2024

1/14; 1/28; 2/18; 3/3; 4/17
 4/7; 4/14; 5/5; 5/19; 5/26;
 All the month of June

More dates are available for the rest of the year.

Please contact the church office 252-1198 to check the dates and sponsor either flower or Radio broadcast. Thank you.



January

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	9:00am Worship - St. John's - No Sunday School	1 Church Offices Closed	2 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	3 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation	4	5	6
7	9:00am Worship - St. John's 2:00pm Synrod Meeting Act Study - Introductory Zoom 3:00pm Edgewood Worship 6:00pm CIA Local Coordinator 6:00pm Lay Preaching Gathering	8 9:00am Jamestown Conference 10:30am Pre-School Chapel 12:30pm Eventide Assisted Living Communion and Bible Study	9 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal 5:30pm Council Meeting	10 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation	11 12:00pm Jamestown Ministerial Meeting	12 Creative Fellowship Jamestown Chorales - Dinner Concert at UJ Reiland Atrium	13 Creative Fellowship Jamestown Chorales - Dinner Concert at UJ Reiland Atrium
14	9:00am Worship - St. John's 2:00pm Synrod Meeting Act Study - Zoom Conversation	15 10:30am Pre-School Chapel 5:30pm CIOH Board Meeting	16 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	17 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation	18	19	20
21	9:00am Worship - St. John's 2:00pm Synrod Meeting Act Study - Zoom Conversation	22 Annual Report Available	23 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	24 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation	25	26	27
28	English Lutheran Annual Meeting 9:00am Worship - St. John's 2:00pm Synrod Meeting Act Study - Zoom Conversation	29 10:30am Pre-School Chapel	30 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Come to the Table Meal	31 1:30pm Pre-School Chapel 3:30pm Confirmation	1	2	3



St. John's Lutheran Church
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Worship Services

Sunday

~ 9:00 am

Wednesday Confirmation

~ 4:00 pm

«AddressBlock»

Holy Communion

All Worship Services

Church Office 701-252-1198

Preschool/Child Care 701-252-1903

Website: www.ndchristiansact.org

email: stjohns@st-johnslutheran.org

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

Senior Pastor
 Erik Weber

Associate Pastor
 Stephanie Gossett

Admin Secretary/bookkeeper
 Gem Saied

Custodian
 Robin Vasquez

Child In Our Hands
 Valerie Ford - Interim

Choir Accompanist/Pianist
 Connie Wells

Annual Meeting
 February 4, 2023
 10:15 am
 Annual Report Available
 For pickup after
 January 21st, 2024

