



Church.School.Childcare

St. John Lutheran Church

CONNECTING PEOPLE IN THE HEART OF JESUS



December 2024

What We Believe

God accomplishes this mission in us and through us in weekly worship, Bible Study and other fellowship opportunities. God comes to us in the Word and the Sacraments to show us the love and new life he has for us in Jesus Christ. He gives us the opportunity to serve others and

Worship with Us

Chapel- Wednesday 8:30 am

Traditional Worship:

Saturday 5:00 pm

Blended Worship:

Sunday 9:00 am

Education Hour~ Sunday 10:30 am

My Child & Me- Infant to 3 years

Sunday School- 3 years -4 Grade

Confirmation-5 -8 Grade

High School Youth 7-12

Adult Bible Study

Contact Us:

St. John Lutheran Church

308 S. 2nd St.

Battle Creek NE 68715

Church- 402-675-3155

School -402-675-3605

Early Learning Center- 402-675-4039

Email: churchsecretary@stjohnbc.net

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church

Web Page: stjohnbc.net

Who We Are

Vacancy Pastor:

Rev. Lee Weander

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Joseph Leech

Director of Music & Worship:

Mr. Steven Whitney

Interim Church Administrator:

Katie Schnitzler

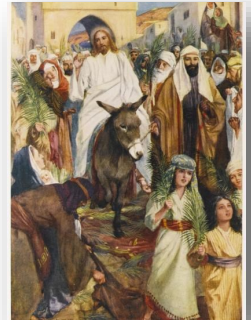
Administrative Assistant:

Diane Stoural

They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Matthew 21:7

In our world today, we are quickly grabbed by what is different. We are drawn to the extremes. We are impressed with the spectacular. Bigger is better and the next great thing must be bigger still. We see it in presidential campaigns, blockbuster movies, and billion-dollar Super Bowls.

If it's going to get our attention, it's got to be big. If it's going to impress, it's got to be spectacular. This also seems to be the case when it comes to the work of God. We are impressed when it comes to the creation, the crossing of the Red Sea, the thunder and lightning of Mount Sinai, the conquering of Canaan, and the slaying of giants. There is great attention on angel choirs and Magi, walking on water, feeding a crowd of five thousand, and raising the dead. Our lectionary begins Advent with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, with impressive crowds and praise. But what's up with the humble donkey?



The crowds are gearing up for the entrance of the king and a renewed kingdom. The Pharisees anticipate the heavy hand of Rome. Jesus comes to bring entrance to the true Kingdom of God. In contrast to the other two, the entrance of the Kingdom of God in the work of Jesus is miraculously unspectacular. In a couple of chapters, Jesus will remind the disciples to "watch and pray." We don't know the time. We often misinterpret the way He comes and even why he comes.

The work of salvation and the renewal of God's people is miraculous and incredible. But it quite often occurs in unspectacular ways. Your birth, your new life in baptism, your participation in the Holy Supper, and the ways you share His grace are often as mundane as they are magnificent. The world takes no notice of Advent and the beginning of a new church year. We hear the promise of Jesus' return in glory. We get a peek at angel choirs and Magi from the East. But most of the world takes no notice. There is not much to see. Except for His trip to Egypt, He traveled no further than from Norfolk to Sioux City or Seward to Grand Island.

He taught with authority and healed many with ease, but in the end, most found Him easy to ignore. Yet His one solitary life has made an impact on our world and on your heart unequalled in all of history. God's work continues to progress in miraculously unspectacular ways. Certainly, there has been the impressive work of fast-growing missions and great joy with large groups of new members. But much of God's work happens without fanfare or notice. We celebrate a baptism, but the date is quickly lost. The Lord's Supper is a great renewal of the heart, but we quickly turn to the next task on the schedule.

Continued pg. 2

Much of a sermon can be easily ignored and the rest quickly forgotten...but through it all the Spirit brings fruit to bear. A word of encouragement. An act of kindness. A prayer for strength. A loving touch... None will cause the earth to tremble, but like wind through the branches, the Spirit moves. In all these little things, far more than the spectacular, the work of Christ is done, and the presence of Christ comes near. Recognizing His coming is one thing. Understanding what He is doing is another. "My kingdom is not of this world." He comes not to make life simple or easy for you, nor to make life miserable for your enemies. He comes to bring righteousness, to proclaim your forgiveness, to change your heart, and to renew your life. This is the miraculously unspectacular work of God as He bestows on us the miraculous gift of faith.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Rev. Richard Snow, Nebraska District President

Taken from the LCMS District Reporter Dec. 2020



Together in Advent

Advent Midweek Worship
December 4, 11, 18 - Meal at 6:00, Worship at 7:00

Family Christmas Worship
December 22 - Worship at 9:00, Potluck to follow

BE PRESENT **SEND PEACE** **SHARE JOY** **WRAP IN LOVE**

Advent Meals

Everyone is invited to pause from their busyness and join us for Advent Family Meals at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall at St.

John Church

MEAL SCHEDULE:

- 12/4 – CHICKEN NOODLE & CHILI SOUPS
- 12/11 – CHICKEN TENDERS & MAC N CHEESE
- 12/18 – FRENCH TOAST BAKE & SAUSAGE

Together in Advent

In this Advent series, we celebrate together as the family of God, the coming of his Son for our salvation. Each service will focus on a different activity to put on our "to-do list" that is focused on giving and sharing instead of materialism. The theme verse for the series is: "Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise" (Psalm 106:47).

Week 1 (December 4) Teaser - BE PRESENT

(Malachi 3:1-7): Instead of spending all our time in Advent buying presents, we in God's family, set aside space to be present for one another, as Christ is coming to be present with us.

Week 2 (December 11) Teaser - SEND PEACE

(Malachi 5:2-5a): Beyond sending cards to loved ones this Advent season, we do all we can as the family of God to send peace in all our messages to one another because the Prince of Peace is on His way.

Week 3 (December 18) Teaser - SHARE JOY

(Zephaniah 3:14-20): In this time when we share cookies and other treats with one another, we share joy with those around us that they might taste and see that the Lord is good to us through the birth of his Son.

Family Christmas (December 22) - WRAP IN LOVE

(1 John 4:7-12): In this season of hustle and bustle, we move from wrapping presents to wrapping people in love, as Mary wrapped the Christ Child so lovingly in swaddled clothes.

Christmas Worship Service Times

- **Saturday Worship** 12/21 – 5 pm (Lessons & Carols)
- **Family Christmas Service** 12/22 - 9 am (No Communion)
Potluck to follow worship.
- **Christmas Eve Services** 12/24
4 pm (Traditional), 7 pm (Contemporary), 11 pm (Candlelight)
- **Christmas Day Service** 12/25 - 10 am (With Communion)
- **New Year's Eve** – No Worship Service



*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given; and
the government shall be
upon His shoulder, and
His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.*



Offering Envelopes

The church office will soon be distributing the 2025 offering envelopes.



The numbers may change, so do NOT use your 2024 envelopes for giving in 2025.

If you received a box for 2024, you will receive a box for 2025. Please call the church office to request a box of envelopes if you did not receive one last year.

Offering envelopes that were not picked up for 2024 will not be re-issued. The church office continues to track your giving for tax purposes regardless if you give by cash, check, or electronically.

We appreciate your generous support of St. John Ministries.

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!!

These past few weeks St. John Ministries received an abundance of financial blessings. From child care tax credit contributions to gifts of grain and gifts of stock. Wow! God has sent a HUGE reminder for us to continue to trust in His provision for His ministry. St. John Ministries is grateful, not only for the gifts of money, but for everyone who shares their time and talents to further the Kingdom of God.

I pray that all of you experience the true happiness of being a joyful giver and that God blesses you in all the ways that you have blessed St. John Ministries.

Thank you!!

There is Still Time to Donate!

\$128,250 has been donated to St. John through the child care tax credit program. One hundred percent of these funds are eligible to be deducted from your Nebraska state income tax, costing the donor nothing! Join in the immense impact by following the directions at <https://www.stjohnbc.net/credit> .

As of 11/15/24 \$652,875 of the \$2.5 million remained to be claimed!

Have questions? Contact us at info@stjohnbc.net or call the church office.

The church office will be closed on the following dates:

December 24 & 25 for Christmas

December 31 & January 1 for

New Years Eve & Day





Baptism

Braelynn Elaine Bernhardt

Child of Tristin Bernhardt & Alyssa Nelson was baptized into the Lord's family on November 24. Sponsors are Mark & Haley McKibbon, Roger Mieuse & Riley Buck.

Funerals

Dennis Leroy Aldag

Was taken home to be with his Lord on November 3. His funeral was here at St. John.

Jean Lois Werner

Was taken home to be with her Lord on November 9. Her funeral was here at St. John.

Mark William Baumgartel

Was taken home to be with his Lord on November 26. His funeral was here at St. John.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

Women In God's Service
Christmas CRAFT FAIR &
Homemade Soup & Pie Luncheon

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7-10:00AM -2:00PM
LUNCH AT 11:00 AM
ST JOHN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Family Christmas
 Worship Service

CONNECTING THE FAMILY IN ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 9:00 A.M.
POTLUCK TO FOLLOW WORSHIP

IGNITE

INVESTING GENERATIONALLY NOW AND INTO ETERNITY

3.1.2025

Now taking auction donations

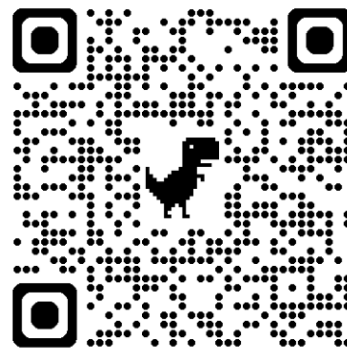
Be part of the
generosity movement

GIVING TUESDAY

December 3

This Giving Tuesday every donation will be matched up to \$20,000!! Your gift helps further the mission of St. John Ministries, ensuring that more people hear the good news of Jesus in our community and beyond. Thank you for your support!

LEAVE YOUR DONATION
AT THE CHURCH,
SCHOOL, OR ELC OFFICE



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
GIVE ELECTRONICALLY



Visit us online at StJohnBC.net

St. John Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, NE

Voters Meeting, Sunday, October 27, 2024

In attendance: Nick Onnen, Steven Whitney, Heather Whitney, Colby Kolm, Josh Tillman, Sarah Tillman, Aaron Pokorny, Tiffany Pokorny, Jason Schmidt, Christy Schmidt, Randy Kossmann, Brad Prauner, Patty Prauner, Randy Howser, Celia Howser, Cherie Werner, Kelsey Schnoor, Dane Prauner, Curt Wragge, Nancy Wragge, Rod Zohner, Arlene Zohner, Jeremy Grant, Kevin Zohner, Allan Knapp, Kay Knapp, Gary Borgelt, Deb Borgelt, Neal Acklie, Mike Anderson, Carma Anderson, Mary Ellen Swim, Bob Buckendahl, Suzanne Buckendahl, Pastor Leech, Bruce Grant, Karen Grant, Caleb Zohner, Vince Hoehne, Cara Hoehne, Dennis Roewert, Jay Werner, Bryon Anderson, Deanna Anderson, Mandy Lewis, Wendell Lewis, Katie Schnitzler, Gerry Preusker, Rex Volk, Todd Robers, Kayla Roberts, Bryan Whitney, Randy Sunderman, Deborah Sunderman, Richard Seelmeyer, Patricia Seelmeyer, Derek Zohner, and Pastor Lee Weander

Call to Order/Opening Devotion and Prayer led by Colby Kolm at 11:34 am.

Admission of New Voting Members – Randy Howser made a motion to accept Kay Knapp, Kayla Roberts, and Aaron Pokorny as new voting members. Rod Zohner seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes dated September 29, 2024 - Gary Borgelt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Curt Wragge seconded. Motion carried.

Board Reports

Treasurer's Report by Katie Schnitzler: The actual income received is higher compared to this same time last year. St. John ELC continues to receive contributions from the childcare tax credit. The balance of the line of credit at the end of the fiscal year was converted to a long-term note at 7.65% interest. The debt balance remains at \$408,352. Bruce Grant motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Second by Randy Howser. Motion carried.

Trustees Report by Caleb Zohner: Fall clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, November 9, at 9:00 a.m. Bob Barry will join the Trustee Board to fill the last vacant spot. The trustees continue to work on the parsonage, which is close to being finished. The trustees are always looking for more help with snow removal. Please contact Caleb or Katie if you are able to volunteer in this capacity.

Elders Report by Dane Prauner: Transfer out - Emilee (Straka) Seier to Immanuel Zion Lutheran Church in Albion. The Elders Board served treats after church the past four Sundays. Randy Howser motioned to approve the transfer out. Second by Gary Borgelt. Motion carried.

Evangelism Report: None.

Parish Ed Report by Christy Schmidt: Boxes will be packed for Operation Christmas Child on Wednesday, October 30 at 6:00 pm. Boxes will be filled that night, but can also be taken home to fill and then returned to church to have them shipped out. The blessing of the boxes will happen on Sunday, November 17.

Parochial Ed Report by Nick Onnen: The teachers recently attended the church workers conference in Kearney. At the conference, Mr. Jon Baumgartel received the Nebraska District LCMS Middle School Teacher of the Year award! IGNITE is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, 2025. The girls' volleyball teams had successful seasons. The "A" team finished the season with only two losses and were runners-up in the top division at the state tournament. The "B" team finished as state champions in the C division. St. John had 42 students apply for scholarships. Last year the school operated with one less teacher by combining the 3rd and 4th grade classes. Next year's 3rd grade class will be too large to combine the grades. Mr. Onnen continues to look for creative ways to fill the void of a teacher for next year. This year St. John is receiving \$60,000 from other churches to support their members that attend St John school.

Early Learning Center (ELC) Report by Tiffany Pokorny: The ELC received a \$250 Thrivent grant to purchase supplies to participate in the City of Battle Creek's Trunk or Treat event. The ELC board will meet on October 28.

Stewardship Report by Vince Hoehne: The Stewardship Board and the Youth Group will be passing out candy bars and hot chocolate on Halloween night. The Stewardship Board will be serving treats after worship services on November 9 and 10. The Day of Giving is Tuesday, December 3. There is a \$10,000 matching challenge for the Day of Giving with all funds raised going towards the long-term note payment.

Old Business: None.

New Business

- a. The 2024-2025 Proposed Budget / ELC Taskforce Report by Katie Schnitzler: At the previous meeting, the Voter's passed a one-month budget through the end of October which also included the implementation of staff raises. This past week, the ELC task force held a town hall meeting to share information about the nationwide childcare crisis with community members. Initial research shows that if the ELC were to become its own 501(c)(3) it would still require support from the church. The pros and cons of ELC separation have been discussed in detail and at this time the task force feels that separating the ELC would result in a sacrifice of the mission work being done there. The task force will continue to look at modifications that can be made to ELC operations that keep it within the means that the church can financially support. Lonnie Jacobsen with the district office has been inspiring members to change their mindset from, "What can others do for us?" to "What can we do for others?" The ELC task force feels that continuing to operate as one ministry prioritizes the mission focus. There were two budget options presented. The first option was to approve a budget for the next quarter and re-evaluate the financial position at the end of January. The second option was to approve a budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. Rex Volk motioned to approve the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. Second by Dane Prauner. Motion carried.
- b. Proposed Constitution / Bylaws Report by Colby: The new proposed constitution was discussed. After some time, it was decided to table the discussion and revisit this topic at a meeting held specifically to discuss the Constitution at a later date.
- c. District Convention Lay Voting Delegate and Alternate: After some discussion, Brad Prauner made a motion to nominate Jeff Borchers as the lay voting delegate to represent St. John Lutheran Church at the District Convention in June 2025. Brad also motioned that Colby Kolm would serve as the alternate lay voting delegate. Second by Randy Howser. Motion carried.
- d. Nominations for District President, Regional Vice President, and Lay Member of the Board of Directors: After some discussion, Bruce Grant made a motion that St. John Lutheran Church nominate Richard Snow for District President and Michael Awe for Regional Vice President as they are both eligible for nomination and have ties to our district. Second by Rod Zohner. Motion carried. After more discussion, Dane Prauner made a motion to nominate Randy Howser for the position of Lay Member of the Board of Directors. Second by Vince Hoehne. Motion carried.

Other

Call Process Update by Katie Schnitzler: Next weekend the call committee will be polling the congregation on whether they feel it would be beneficial to have a conversation about a potential long-term partnership between St. John and Our Savior. Regardless of the results of the vote, the call committee will continue with the process of searching for a pastor.

Next Council Meeting - Monday, November 25, 2024, at 8:00 pm.

Bruce Grant made a motion to adjourn. Second by Randy Kossmann. Motion carried.

Closing prayer led by Pastor Lee at 1:34 pm.

Minutes submitted by Mandy Lewis.



Reading / Prayer Calendar - December 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
December 2, 2024	December 3, 2024	December 4, 2024	December 5, 2024	December 6, 2024
Jeremiah 5	Jeremiah 6	Jeremiah 7	Jeremiah 8	Jeremiah 9
Pray for Schools	Pray for the Armed Forces	Pray for your children or nieces/nephews	Pray for your Pastor	Pray for blessings in worship
December 9, 2024	December 10, 2024	December 11, 2024	December 12, 2024	December 13, 2024
Jeremiah 10	Jeremiah 11	Jeremiah 12	Jeremiah 13	Jeremiah 14
Pray for Teachers	Pray for the Government	Pray for your friends	Pray for Church staff	Pray for outreach in our community
December 16, 2024	December 17, 2024	December 18, 2024	December 19, 2024	December 20, 2024
Jeremiah 15	Jeremiah 16	Jeremiah 17	Jeremiah 18	Jeremiah 19
Pray for School Administrators	Pray for the President	Pray for the Family	Pray for the lay leaders of the church	Pray for missionaries
December 23, 2024	December 24, 2024	December 25, 2024	December 26, 2024	December 27, 2024
Jeremiah 20	Jeremiah 21	Jeremiah 22	Jeremiah 23	Jeremiah 24
Pray for Students	Pray for Congress	Pray for your spouse or parent	Pray for the Church	Pray for those alone this Christmas

2 Packages Microwave popcorn (plain no butter)

1/2 c margarine or butter

3/4 c brown sugar

1/4 c peanut butter

20 large marshmallows

Easy Carmel Corn



Pop the popcorn and pour into a large bowl, combine butter, peanut butter, brown sugar and marshmallows. Cook at 1 minute intervals stirring in-between until well blended. Pour over popcorn, stir quickly to coat the popcorn before the mixture cools. pour into a large can to cool, enjoy! HINT: Spread on cookie sheets and bake on 200 for 10 minutes.

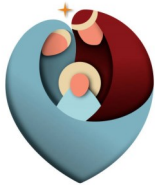
WINGS ~ Women In God's Service



Mission Statement: WINGS exists to honor and worship God, encourage and support women, grow in our faith together as we share the gospel, and use the gifts He has given us to serve Him and others.

WINGS met on Thursday, November 21. Sarah Tillman led a devotion on gratitude and prayer based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and Philippians 4:7. She shared with us the positive impact of gratitude and prayer on our body, mind, and spirit.

- Newly elected officers for 2025 are Vice President, Carma Anderson and Treasurer, Becky Ridder.
- Ladies completed hand-sewing touches on 100 prayer pockets to be distributed at the 2025 LWML National Convention in Omaha.
- Thank you to all who donated items for the hygiene kits. Twenty-two were assembled and will be dropped off at Orphan Grain Train.
- Enjoy your day with us at the WINGS Christmas Craft and Vendor show on December 7, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. No admission. Free ornaments for the first 50 guests. Homemade soup and pie will be available for lunch, and there will be a free-will offering towards local missions.
- The WINGS Christmas luncheon will be at noon on Thursday, December 12 at Goody's Grille. Following lunch, volunteers will head to the Community Pride Care Center with special prizes for BINGO.



Our next meeting will be on January 30 at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall classroom. Please prayerfully consider joining us in this ministry as we joyfully continue to serve.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels over the holidays.



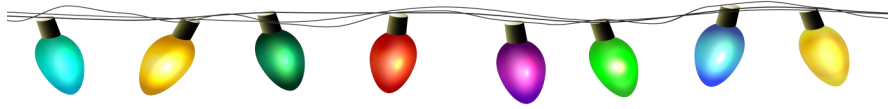
December Birthdays

Celebrating Life



2 Josiah Volk	10 Chris Klug	19 Larry Obst	25 Mark Bierman	31 Loren Brandstetter
2 Cassie Frisch	10 Gladys Praeuner	19 LaDonna Roewert	25 Ronald Herbert	31 David Tiedtke
2 Parker Peterson	11 Ron Smith	19 Dee Tiedgen	25 Trevor Hintz	31 Erin Tiedgen
4 Emilee Anderson	12 Lois Kilgore	20 Boden Uecker	25 Diane Lulow	
4 Dylan Anderson	15 Karen Halpin	20 Becci Koopman	25 Gary Praeuner	
4 Deborah Sunderman	15 Chloe Klug	21 Duaine Zila	26 Peg Boyer	
4 Brady Trowbridge	16 Bill Alberts	21 Cameron Schlote	26 Lana Tillman	
5 Bryon Anderson	16 Lori Uecker	22 Caleb Brauer	26 Theo Kollbaum	
6 Hunter Anderson	16 Miles Stueve	22 Hollie Anderson	26 Foster Whitney	
6 Ezra Weber	17 Chris Goodwater	22 Laikley Jessen	27 John Schroeder	
6 Suttyn Petersen	17 Jerid Zila	22 Lauryl Jessen	27 Trevor Werner	
6 Trisha Haack	17 Heather Lenox	23 Chase Knull	27 Mark Westerman	
7 Ella Reeves	17 Allison Uecker	24 Chris Hassler	28 Hazel Freudenburg	
7 Maddox Loftis	17 Lori Unkel	24 Matt Reeves	28 Mark Baumgartel	
10 Cooper Kuk	18 Myron Tiedtke	24 Christian Kruger	28 Jason Schmidt	
10 Godofredo Anghay	19 Sonya Kraft	24 Declan Roberts	28 Matthew Volquardsen	





Celebrating December Wedding Anniversaries

December 1 –Joshua & Sarah Tillman
 December 7–Jeremy & Ann Grant
 December 14– Brian & Carol Unkel
 December 18– Marv & Shelia Stahl
 December 21– Dennis & LaDonna Roewert
 December 23– Jason & Christy Schmidt

December 23– Nick & Amy Klug
 December 29– Jon & Jill Baumgartel
 December 31- Nate & Rachel Stratton



May God bless you on your special day!

Connecting people in the heart of Jesus. Serving the Lord’s House in December, 2024
 If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute and call the church office (675-3155) to correct the bulletin.

Date	Time	Elders	Ushers	Sound Booth	Acolytes
Sun Dec 1	9:00	D Zohner/Howser	Ridder/Zohner	Borchers/Kirby	Ehrisman/Wolf
Wed Dec 4	7:00	Buckedahl	Borchers		Schnoor/Anderson
Sat Dec 7	5:00	Wedekind/Borgelt	Volk/Schwede	Volk	Schmidt
Sun Dec 8	9:00	Sunderman/Kossmann	Borchers/Wolf	Huntley/Kuchar	Ehrisman/Wolf
Wed Dec 11	7:00	Buckendahl	Ridder		Schnoor/Anderson
Sat Dec 14	5:00	D Zohner/Howser	Volk/Schwede	Volk	Schmidt
Sun Dec 15	9:00	Prauner/K Zohner	Borchers/Fleer	Brauer/Schnoor	Lewis
Wed Dec 18	7:00	Buckendahl	Fleer		Schnoor/Anderson
Sat. Dec 21	5:00	Wedekind/Borgelt	Volk/Schwede	Volk	----
Sun. Dec 22	9:00	Sunderman/ Prauner	Fleer/Tillman	Wysocki/ Freudenberg	Lewis
Tues. Dec 24	4:00 7:00 11:00	Sunderman/Prauner D Zohner/K Zohner Borgelt/Howser	Schwede/Acklie Tillman/Volk Volk	Wysocki/Freudeberg Andersons Volk	
Mon. Dec 25	10:00	Wedekind/Kossmann	Volk	Volk	Wedekind
Sat. Dec 28	5:00	Borgelt/ Sunderman	Volk/Schwede	Volk	Schmidt
Sun. Dec 29	9:00	D Zohner/K Zohner	Tillman/Werner	Brauer	Schnoor/Kolm

To help out with snow removal on the campus speak to Caleb Zohner or call the church office.



SNOW REMOVAL CREWS

Trustees are preparing for the winter snow by organizing several snow crews to rotate removing the snow throughout the season. Prayerfully consider helping out.

Contact Us

402-675-3155
or speak to Caleb Zohner

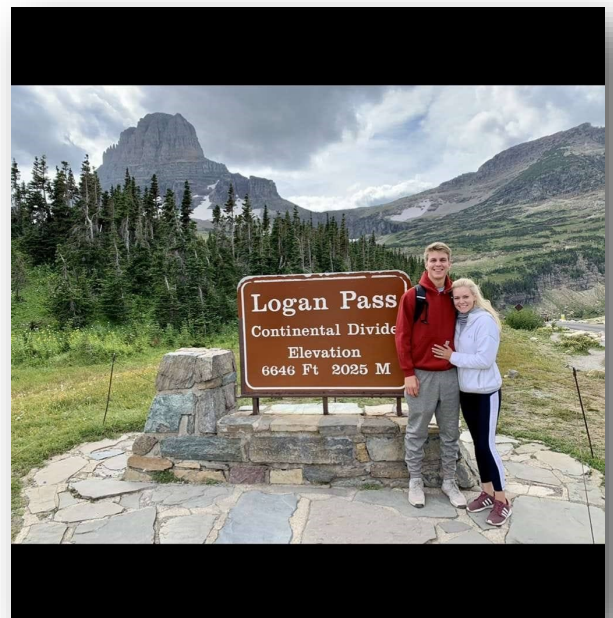
Help us to decorate our beautiful church for Christmas!

If you wish to purchase a Poinsettia in the name of a loved one, or just to help decorate the church, enclose \$9.00 in a marked envelope with the name for whom it is in memory of. Marked envelopes can be left in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office by December 15. Please make all checks payable to the St. John Altar Guild.



Meet St. John Head Girls Basketball Coach Josh Schick

Hello! My name is Joshua Schick and I am very humbled and excited to become the new head girls' basketball coach at St. John. I grew up between Meadow Grove and Battle Creek and I attended St. John from preschool until I graduated in 8th grade. Following St. John, I attended Battle Creek High School until I graduated in 2017. I continued my education at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska where I graduated in 2020 with a Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Agriculture. After I graduated, I was able to move back to the area to farm and raise cattle. Also in 2020, Caitlin and I were married and a little over a year later we were blessed with our daughter, Aubrey. I am looking forward to coaching the girls and helping guide and lead them as they strengthen their faith in Jesus. Go Hawks!



New this year, the Hawks Athletic Newsletter can be found in the church Narthex. We thank St. John Athletic Director, Staci Kolm, for taking the time to keep us updated on what's happening in the world of St. John Sports. Not only wins and losses, but highlighting how St. John is making a difference on and off the court.



On November 26, St. John hosted their second annual Grandparents Day Celebration. Around 100 sets of grandparents attended the celebration. The day was filled with special activities that brought everyone together. We started by attending chapel together, followed by crafts, read-aloud, and some time to chat and enjoy snacks. The highlight of the day was when the grandparents visited classrooms with their grandchildren, getting a chance to see their projects and work. It was truly heartwarming to witness the special bond between grandparents and their grandchildren.



Happy
 Birthday
 + Jesus

St. John School
 Christmas Concert
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
 5:00 PM

On-line Advent Devotions
 written & presented by the 8th grade students at St. John school will be shared on the church & school Facebook page beginning the week of Advent.
 Let God's gift of faith expressed in these young people help you prepare for the coming of our Savior this Holiday Season.



Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal is open to the public on Friday, December 13 at 10:00 am.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated and participated in this year's Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection. We shipped off 68 boxes to Samaritan's Purse, who will send the boxes off to children around the world. A big thanks to everyone who also donated money to assist with the shipping costs.

THANK YOU!!



From the School Principal

Faith 5: 2024

Share: Highs of 1st Semester

- **8th Grade Trip to Camp Luther:** Starting the year off by setting the tone and expectations with the 8th grade has become a staple of what we do. Testing, recognizing, and celebrating the unique ways God created them, and then setting class goals was an incredible experience.

- **Mr. Baumgartel Recognized as NE District Middle School**

Teacher of the Year: We have some phenomenal teachers, and it was wonderful to see Mr. B receive recognition for his hard work and dedication.

- **Gym Floor Operable:** While the gym floor still had some issues this summer, they were moderate enough for us to host volleyball onsite at St. John this year. Last year, we were unable to do so, making this season the first time we could host volleyball on the new floor!

- **Sports Success:** "Whatever you do, work at it with your whole heart, as though working for the Lord." (Colossians 3:23) For the third time in four years, our Lady Hawks took home the Class A1 Lutheran State Runners-up trophy and finished the year with a record of 21-2. Additionally, our cross-country team had state qualifiers, and our Class C athletes celebrated a state championship!

- **CKLA (Common Knowledge Language Arts):** Our K-2 grades switched to a new language arts (reading and English) curriculum this year, and it has been amazing! Teachers have been thrilled to see students exceeding expectations. This program emphasizes nonfiction texts, exposing students to a wealth of historical, scientific, and other educational content.
- **External Financial Support:** Our Savior, Grace Lutheran, and St. Paul Buffalo Creek have all stepped up to support families with students at St. John. This new support, in addition to IGNITE on March 1, makes our school finances significantly more stable!
- **Nebraska School Choice:** While a one-time event, St. John students received \$53,900 in scholarship funds for the 2025-26 school year. Regrettably, LB 1402 was repealed by a 57% to 43% vote, largely due to opponents spending nearly \$7 million to repeal the \$10 million appropriation.
- **Childcare Tax Credit:** As of this writing, over \$128,000 in funds have been redirected from state taxes to St. John through the CCTC Act. Our families claimed a remarkable 6.94% of the total \$1.8 million claimed statewide thus far—an incredible achievement!
- **Continuity of Staff:** For the third consecutive year, we've had no staff turnover. Continuity allows everything to run more smoothly and efficiently, and we are blessed with a talented and dedicated team!
- **Trust & Partnership:** It's always humbling to be entrusted with other's prized treasure, their children. The relationships and solid communication with our parents this semester have allowed our staff to be effective in helping our students grow academically and spiritually.

Share: Lows of 1st Semester

- **Parent-Teacher League:** This group works tirelessly to support our school and ELC, planning fun events, raising funds, and showing appreciation. However, many active parents have older students, and there is a need for more parents to step in and take the reins.
- **Technology:** St. John is a leader in technology, often serving as a model for other schools. However, our Chromebooks and chargers are nearing the end of their lifespan, and our MacBooks will also need updating within a few years.



- **Schedule Modifications:** Smaller schools require flexibility. This year, we've relied on staff to cover vacant roles temporarily and long-term. Adjusting to changing schedules, working with schools for lunch, sports co-ops, and special education services has demanded adaptability and a focus on the big picture.
-

Read: Psalm 35:5-9

*Let them be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the Lord driving them away!
Let their way be dark and slippery, with the angel of the Lord pursuing them!
For without cause they hid their net for me; without cause they dug a pit for my life.
Let destruction come upon him when he does not know it!
And let the net that he hid ensnare him; let him fall into it—to his destruction!
Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord, exulting in his salvation.*

Talk: Trusting God's Plan Over Our Own

"What a miserable reading. Why would anyone CHOOSE to write an article about this? It sounds spiteful, vengeful, and full of un-Christian-like sentiments."

Those were my first thoughts when reading this passage. However, this was a recent scripture reading during worship and too often we shy away from the uncomfortable verses rather than diving in to understand. At face value, it's easy to pull a snippet from the Bible out of context and miss the deeper message. This is why understanding the full context is so important. Let's take a closer look. In this reading, David is unjustly pursued by those who seek to destroy him. Rather than taking matters into his own hands, David calls out to the Lord for justice. He prays for God to scatter his enemies and for their own traps to ensnare them. Ultimately, David places his trust in God's deliverance.

This aligns with the events of 1 Samuel 24, where Saul, consumed with jealousy, is hunting David. David finds himself with the perfect opportunity to take vengeance—alone with Saul in a cave. To the outsider, this might have seemed like a golden chance to end his persecution. But David refuses to harm "the Lord's anointed," recognizing that vengeance isn't his to take. Instead, he entrusts his life to God's plan.

It's easy to see ourselves in these stories. How often do we choose our good plan over God's perfect plan? We want quick solutions and control over our circumstances, but God sees the bigger picture. David's restraint and trust point us to the ultimate example of God's plan: Jesus.

When humankind fell into sin, God's good and perfect will unfolded with the birth of a baby in a manger. Jesus came into the world to take the punishment we deserved, covering all our wrongdoings and offering us an unearned place in heaven. His birth was the beginning of the greatest act of deliverance the world has ever known.

This passage reminds us that just as David trusted God's timing and plan, so can we. During this Advent season and beyond, may we find peace in the promise that God's plans are always for our good and His glory.

Bless:

May the Lord strengthen our trust and faith, that in all circumstances we seek not our plans, but His perfect will, just as He gave us the ultimate gift through the birth of His Son.

Pray:

Father, thank You for the blessings of the first semester. We entrust our challenges to You and pray that You would equip us to navigate them while honoring You. Forgive us when we fall short, and thank You for Your promise of grace. Amen.

Youth and Family Ministry



The weekend of December 7/8 the Youth will be collecting spare change at worship services to purchase Christmas gifts for a local family in need. Look for the youth as we bless others with the blessings God has given us.



No Education Hour December 22 & 29 Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Twelve youth and 3 chaperones traveled to the LCMS Middle School Youth Gathering in Lincoln, NE on November 9.



On Sunday, December 8 there will be a Youth Gathering Parent and Student meeting. All youth plus one parent should plan to attend the meeting at 11:30 am in the Youth Room at school.

Confirmation classes in December will be held in the parish hall classroom at 6:30 pm and then gather for worship at 7:00 pm.

National Youth Gathering Update:

There are 12 youth signed up to attend the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please keep these students in your prayers as they prepare to attend this faith-building experience.

Grade 8: Hunter Anderson, Avery Onnen, Tucker Schnoor, Wyatt Wedekind

Grade 10: Emilee Anderson, Ivy Haack, Sherridan Kirby, Mazzy Kuchar

Grade 12: Hollie Anderson, Nikki Haack, Elly Schnoor, Lana Tillman

Prayer Partners:

We will be seeking out individuals who would be willing to be prayer partners for the youth as they prepare for their journey and attend The Gathering. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Whitney.



EARLY LEARNING CONNECTION



IMPORTANT DATES:

- Dec. 12 – PTL at 6:30 pm in School Age Room
- Dec. 13 – ELC closes at 3:30 pm for professional development
- Dec. 19 – Birthday Party for Jesus, 6:00 to 7:30 pm
- Dec. 24 & 25 – ELC Closed, Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 – ELC Closed, Happy New Year!

MAINTAINING ROUTINES DURING THE HOLIDAYS: FINDING BALANCE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

The holiday season is a magical time for families, but the festivities often bring disruptions to daily routines. For children under five, who thrive on predictability, these changes can lead to heightened anxiety, mood swings, or behavioral challenges. Striking a balance between consistency and holiday flexibility can help create joyful memories while maintaining the security children need.

Why Routines Are Crucial

Routines help children feel safe, secure, and in control of their environment. Research highlights their role in promoting self-regulation, emotional well-being, and even academic readiness later in life. Predictable routines reduce stress and enable children to transition smoothly between activities. They also offer opportunities for learning, from sequencing skills to vocabulary development during familiar tasks like brushing teeth or setting the table.

Adapting Routines for the Holidays

While routines are foundational, the holidays present a chance to introduce exciting changes in a manageable way:

- Prepare children for transitions: Explain upcoming events in simple, concrete terms. For example, "Tomorrow we'll visit Grandma's house, and you'll get to play after lunch."
- Maintain anchors: Preserve key elements of your child's day, such as consistent meal or nap times, to provide continuity during unpredictable schedules.
- Add seasonal rituals: Incorporate holiday-specific activities, like lighting a candle at bedtime or singing a special song during meals, to blend routine with festive excitement.

Practical Tips for Parents

1. Plan ahead: Look at your holiday calendar and identify days when routines might be disrupted. Discuss these changes with your child to help them anticipate what to expect.
2. Use visual aids: Picture schedules can empower children to understand and navigate altered routines, fostering independence and reducing anxiety.
3. Create calming moments: Busy holidays can overwhelm young children. Balance the excitement with quiet time to recharge, such as reading or simple play.
4. Embrace imperfection: Remind yourself and your child that flexibility is a skill. If routines don't go as planned, model resilience and reassure them that disruptions are temporary.



HOLIDAY ROUTINES

The Long-Term Benefits

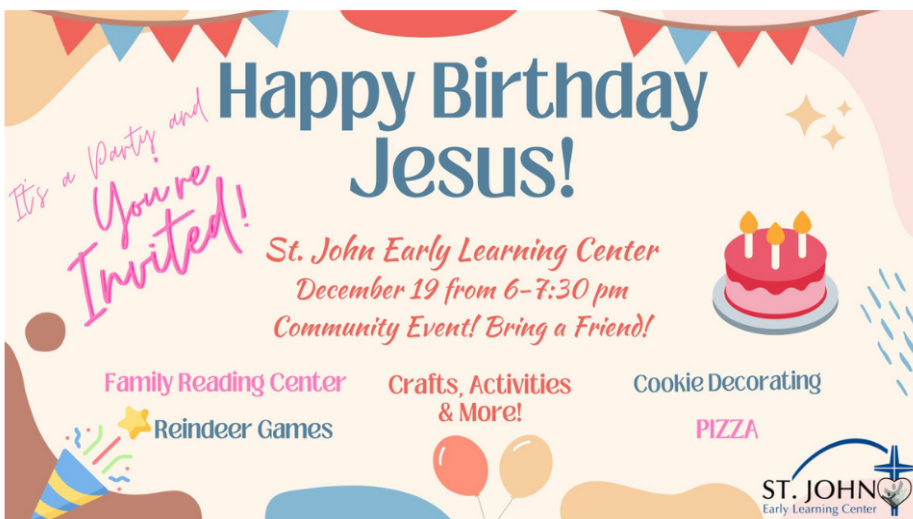
Balancing routine and adaptability during the holidays can teach children valuable lessons in flexibility, patience, and coping with change. It also allows families to enjoy traditions without sacrificing the structure that supports young children's development.

For further reading on the importance of routines, explore resources from Zero to Three, JCC Chicago, and Childcare Network, which provide expert insights and practical tools for fostering consistency in children's lives.

By thoughtfully balancing structure and celebration, parents can ensure a festive season that nurtures both joy and well-being for the whole family.

References

1. Decker, J. "The Importance of Routines, Schedules, and Predictability for Children." Published by JCC Chicago Early Childhood. Discusses the role of routines in reducing stress, building independence, and enhancing social-emotional development. Offers practical strategies for maintaining predictability. Available at: <https://earlychildhood.jccchicago.org>
2. Childcare Network. "The Importance of Routine for Children: Creating a Consistent Schedule." Highlights how routines foster a sense of security and provide developmental benefits for young children. Includes examples of effective routines and tips for flexibility. Access the full article at: <https://www.childcarenetwork.com>
3. Zero to Three. "Creating Routines for Love and Learning." A detailed resource on how routines support young children's growth and how parents can establish and adapt them to meet family needs. Visit the Zero to Three website for more information: <https://www.zerotothree.org>



MINISTRY CORNER

- Church Services:
 - Saturday, 5:00 pm
 - Sunday, 9:00 am
 - Education Hour, 10:30 am

CHILDCARE TAX CREDIT

The Nebraska Child Care Tax Credit (CCTC) offers nonrefundable tax credits for qualifying contributions to benefit families and child care centers like St. John ELC. Contributors, including various entities, can claim credits up to 100% of their contribution, supporting programs, staff training, facility improvements, equipment acquisition, and employee retention. Contributions to programs in opportunity zones or serving children in subsidy programs can qualify for a 100% tax credit, promoting investment in early childhood education and supporting children's development at St. John ELC.

Donated as of 11/22/2024: \$128,250



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Trisha Haack, Assistant Teacher



Trisha has been at St. John ELC since 2019. She lives in Battle Creek with her husband, Justin, and their 6 children. She has worked in several of our classrooms. Her current

role is helping the mornings with breakfast and filling in as a sub. Trisha has worked several years in childcare. Before working at St. John, she worked as a classroom teacher at a childcare in Omaha.



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 1:00 Sr Fun Day	4 6:00 Advent Meal Soups 6:30 Confirmation	5 WINGS Noon Luncheon- Goody's Grille	6 10:00 School Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal	7 9:00 Prayer Group 10:00 WINGS Craft & Vendor Fair 11:00 Luncheon
8 9:00 Spare Change Collection 11:30 NYG Parent/ Child Meeting	9	10	11 6:00 Choir 6:00 Advent Meal Chicken & Mac 6:30 Confirmation	12	13	14
15 5:00 School Christmas Concert Church Sanctuary	16 8:00 Church Council Meeting	17 1:00 Sr Fun Day	18 6:00 Choir 6:00 Advent Meal French Toast Bake 6:30 Confirmation	19	20	21 9:00 Prayer Group
22 No Education Hour 9:00 Family Christmas—Podluck to follow worship	23	24 Offices Closed Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 Traditional 7:00 Contemporary 11:00 Candlelight	25 Offices Closed 10:00 Christmas Day Worship	26	27	28
29 No Education Hour	30	31 Church Office Closed No Worship	Church Office Closed			

Join us!

Weekly service times:

Chapel:

Wednesday 8:30 am

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

Education Hour/

Sunday School

Sunday 10:30 am

Bible Studies:

Tuesday Night Bible

study with Ms. Werner
@ 7:00 pm Parish Hall

Men's Bible Study

Wednesday @ 9:00 am

Parish Hall

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday @ 9:30 am

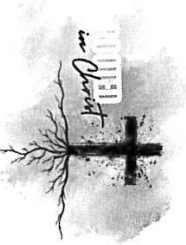
Parish Hall Classroom

308 S. 2nd Street
P.O. Box 87
Battle Creek, NE
68715



Connecting people in
the heart of Jesus

St. John
Lutheran School
102 W Martin St
P.O. Box 67
Battle Creek, NE 68715
Phone: 402-675-3605
Fax: 402-675-1303
Principal@stjohnbc.net



Therefore, as you
received Christ Jesus the
Lord, so walk in him,
rooted and built up in
him and established in
the faith, just as you
were taught, abounding
in thanksgiving.
(Colossians 2:6-7)

December 2024

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	Worship 9:00 AM No Education Hour Adult Sports Fellowship 6:00 PM						
2		Hot Dog					
3			Chili				
4				Mrs. Baumgartel leads chapel Advent Soup Meal 6:00 PM Worship 7:00 PM Lasagna Rolls			
5				Miss Kelsey leads chapel Advent Chicken Nugget Meal 6:00 PM Worship 7:00 PM	PTL 6:30 PM		
6					BBQ Chicken Sandwich	Christmas Concert Open Dress Rehearsal 10:00 AM	
7						Chili	Worship 5:00 PM
8	Worship 9:00 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Adult Sports Fellowship 6:00 PM						
9		Mac & Cheese with Ham					
10			Cook's Choice				
11				Hamburger Stew			
12				Chapel 8:30 AM Preschool - Grade 8 sing @ CPCC 2:00 PM Advent Brupper Meal 6:00 PM Worship 7:00 PM	End of 1st Semester 1:20 Dismissal Bowling Pizza Party @ ELC 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM		
13							
14							
15	Worship 9:00 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM St. John Preschool - 8th Grade Christmas Concert @ St. John Church 5:00 PM						
16		July in Christmas Salisbury Steak					
17			Christmas Movie Character Scalloped Potatoes & Ham				
18				Cook's Choice			
19							
20							
21							
22	Family Christmas Worship 9:00 AM Potluck to Follow No Education Hour						
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							Worship 5:00 PM
29	Worship 9:00 AM No Education Hour						
30							
31							

No School - Christmas Break
School Resumes on Tuesday, January 7

No School -
Christmas Break

No School - Christmas Break

Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 PM Traditional
7:00 PM Contemporary
11:00 PM Candlelight

Christmas Day Worship
10:00 AM

Worship 5:00 PM

Worship 5:00 PM



The staff at St. John Ministries would like to extend their warmest wishes to everyone for a merry Christmas and a joyful holiday season. As the year comes to a close, we express gratitude for the support and fellowship that has been shared. We hope this festive season brings you happiness, peace, and cherished moments with loved ones. May the new year be filled with the hope that only the Savior can bring. To God be the Glory. Amen!

