



Connecting people in the Heart of Jesus

January 2025

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 reach out with his love.

**Join Us ~ Service times:**

Traditional Worship:

Saturday 6:00pm

Contemporary Worship:

Sunday 9:00 am

**Education Hour~ Sunday 10:30 am**

My Child & Me 0-3 years

Sunday School 3 years –Grade 4

Confirmation Grade 5 –8

High School Youth 9-12

Adult Bible Study

**Wednesday Bible Study:**

Men's –Parish Hall– 9:00 am

Women's—Parish Hall -9:30 am

**About St. John Ministries:**

St. John Lutheran Church

Battle Creek NE 68715

308 S. 2nd St.

Church 402-675-3155

School 402-675-3605

Childcare 402-675-4039

Email: churchsecretary@stjohnbc.net

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church

Web Page: stjohnbc.net

**Staff:**

**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



## The Epiphany Star and the Wise Men

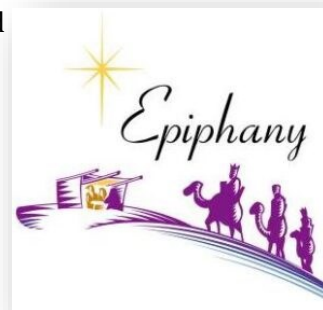
In Matthew chapter two we read the account of the wise men who journeyed from the East to worship Jesus. The Bible tells us they followed a star. Many people have wondered about that star. Was it a miraculous star created by God just for the purpose of leading the wise men? Others have looked for astrological evidence of such a star at the time of Jesus' birth.

We know that close to the time of Jesus' birth there were some unusual astrological occurrences. For example, Jupiter came into conjunction with Regulus, the star of kingship, the brightest star of the constellation of Leo. Leo was the constellation of kings, and it was associated with the Lion of Judah. Later there was a conjunction of Jupiter and Venus, the two brightest objects in the sky save the sun and moon. Predictions of these conjunctions were made 400 years prior to the birth of Christ.

Whether this was a miraculous star or an unusual astrological phenomenon, we know that God used these events to serve the purposes of His plan of salvation. The wise men must have had some Biblical knowledge of the coming King of Judah. Along with other scientific observations, they were led by God to Jesus. No one really knows how many wise men there were. Many people assume there were three because of the three kinds of gifts they brought. There may have only been two wise men or many more than three.

One thing we do know for certain is that they looked upon Jesus as a new born king. That's amazing when you consider the poverty and the low class into which Jesus was born. Yet the wise men looked beyond the outward circumstances to the realities of God's revelation. Oh, how much we need that same view today. It is very easy to see the chaos and the degradation that grows stronger and stronger in our world. It would be very easy to lose hope that God is real and that He is coming again in glory. Nevertheless, like the wise men, we can see reality in the promises of God. Just as the wise men search the Scriptures and followed the star, so we are called to follow Christ in His word and look beyond all the outward circumstances.

*(Pastor Walther, January 2004-Good Shepherd Lutheran Church)*



### Funerals

#### Richard Arlen Otjen

Richard was taken home to be with his Lord on December 1  
December 1  
His funeral was here at St. John on December 5.

*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



## Thank You!

The Altar Guild would like to thank everyone who donated a Poinsettia! You may take yours home following services on January 6 and 7.

### Funeral Committee

Planning a funeral after the loss of a loved one can be a very challenging experience. The primary role of the Funeral Committee is to support grieving families by providing a funeral luncheon. This is one of the ways St. John Ministries connects the hurting in the heart of Jesus. We offer a hot meal for family and friends, along with time to share cherished memories. We extend our gratitude to everyone who donates food and to those who volunteer their time to cook, wash dishes, collect trays, and clean tables.

Your contributions have been a tremendous blessing to many over the years. Thank you!

**Lutheran Bible Institute**  
January 12, 19, 26  
1:30-4:30pm

**JONAH**

Grace Lutheran Church, Norfolk, NE  
Strengthen Support Serve Share

The Lutheran Bible Institute, digging deeper into the Bible.

This year hear about the similarities between Jonah and Jesus in the Old Testament.

**Celebrate God's Blessings in 2024**

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." James 1:17

- Knowledgeable Lay Leaders
- Increased Education Hour Attendance
- Grant Money to Provide a New ELC Playground
- The Birth of Our Savior
- Dedicated Staff Members
- Tax Credits
- Assistance from Our Savior
- Devoted Volunteers
- Generous Financial Supporters - (No Additional Money Borrowed Since June!)
- Alumni Returning to St. John Lutheran School for Senior Day
- Skilled Trustees Who Provide Excellent Care of the Facilities

We are grateful for all of the blessings God has provided over this past year. We pray that your Christmas and New Year are filled with the hope and joy that only Jesus can bring. Thank you for your continued support!  
St. John Ministries Staff

**American Red Cross**

**Battle Creek Blood Drive**  
Tuesday, January 7, 2025 - St. John Parish Hall  
12- 6:00 pm

Walk-Ins Welcome  
Call Marlene at 402-992-1561 or make an appointment by visiting [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

\$8,000  
in

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE / AVAILABLE IN 25/26  
FOR STUDENTS TRANSFERRING FROM A PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Existing Families: Refer a new student  
to St. John & receive a \$500 tuition credit**



We can't contain our excitement about the great news of Jesus! Spread the word and refer a family to our school!



Nebraska District financial support is available to anyone preparing for full-time service in the church. More information on these scholarship opportunities can be found at <https://ndlcms.org/scholarships/>.



### St. John Ministries Church Workers Scholarship Opportunities

St. John Ministries has established a scholarship fund for a high school senior or current college students attending any Concordia (Missouri Synod) University. These students must also be in a declared church work major. The application and further details can be found on our website at [stjohnbc.net/church](http://stjohnbc.net/church).

### Lutheran High Northeast Scholarship Application

Will you be a student at LHNE for the 2025-26 school year? All members of St. John Lutheran Church may apply for scholarship assistance. Use the QR or visit [stjohnbc.net/church](http://stjohnbc.net/church) to apply.



### Offering Envelopes

Make sure to pick up your 2025 offering envelopes. They are located on the table in the parish hall. If your box is missing or if you would like to have a box of envelopes please contact the church office.

### Nebraska Childcare Tax Credit starts over in January of 2025

To contribute to provide funding for St. John Early Learning Center. Fill out the "Childcare Tax Credit Application" at [stjohnbc.net/credit](http://stjohnbc.net/credit) and get a receipt from the church office. Send those to the Nebraska Department of Revenue. More information on this credit can be found at <https://revenue.nebraska.gov/businesses/child-care-tax-credit-act>.





## **December**

- WINGS Annual Christmas Craft and Vendor Show was held on Saturday, December 7. Delicious homemade soups and pies were enjoyed by many. Free will donations received will be given to local missions and ministries. It was a wonderful day of fellowship and shopping! Thank you to all who joined us.
- WINGS gathered for a Christmas Luncheon at Goody's Grille. We were blessed to have the church office staff and guests join us. It was a fun time of fellowship together.

## **FAQ about WINGS:**

### **What is WINGS?**

*Women in God's Service*

- Our 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, along with all women at St. John are members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). The mission of LWML is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

### **When does WINGS meet?**

- WINGS meets the last Thursday of each month, at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall classroom. Meetings include devotion and prayer, encouragement, event planning, fellowship, and social time with delicious desserts.

### **How does WINGS encourage and support?**

Through prayer.

Through financial support: Financial support was given in 2024 to Lutheran Bible Translators, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Lutherans for Life, Orphan Grain Train, Camp Luther, SMILE, Mission Central, Lutheran Hour, Battle Creek Lions Food Pantry, St. John parsonage renovation, and St. John School library.

- Special donations to help families in need in our community. Gifts of appreciation to our Pastors.
- Encouraging cards and gifts to the residents at Community Pride Care Center.  
Helping with BINGO at Community Pride Care Center each month.  
Servant events in 2024 included making and 135 diapers out of t-shirts and assembling 22 hygiene kits, all given to the Orphan Grain Train.  
Leading chapel for St. John Lutheran School.  
Providing breakfast and lunch for the Circuit Pastor's meeting.

### **How does WINGS grow in their faith?**

- Through prayer and devotion at our meetings.
  - Weekly women's Bible study hosted by WINGS, meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall classroom.  
Being involved in service and servant events.

**Orphan Grain Train Volunteer Day** for St. John Ministries is the first Friday of every month from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. The need for volunteers is great! Come as your time allows.

**Connecting people in the heart of Jesus.** Serving the Lord's House in January 2025

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
Sat. Jan 4 Sun. Jan 5	5:00 9:00	Howser/Borgelt Prauner/Kossmann	Volk/Schwede C. Zohner/Werner	Volk Borchers/Kirby	Schmidt Schnoor/Kolm
Sat. Jan 11 Sun. Jan 12	5:00 9:00	Wedekind/Howser D. Zohner/K. Zohner	Volk/Schwede Tillman/Wolf	Volk Andersons	Huttman Wolf
Sat. Jan 18 Sun. Jan 19	5:00 9:00	Borgelt/Kossmann Prauner/Sunderman	Volk/Schwede Borchers/Ridder	Volk Huntley/Kuchar	Anderson/Kossmann Wolf/Huntly
Sat Jan 25 Sun Jan 26	5:00 9:00	D. Zohner/Wedekind K. Zohner/Sunderman	Volk/Schwede Tillman/Werner	Volk Wysocki/Freudenberg	Anderson/Nathan Wolf/Huntley



Can we pray for you? If you would like us to pray for a specific request, contact the church office at 402-675-3155. For one-on-one prayer or if you just need someone to listen, contact Cherie Werner at 402-675-1265. All requests will remain confidential. The prayer request box is located in the Church Narthex.

**Join our Ministry prayer group on January 4 & 18 @ 9:00 am in the school conference room.**

Celebration of Life

January Birthdays



- |                    |                       |                     |                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ross Buckendahl  | 8 Lydia Roskeland     | 17 Brad Freudenburg | 27 Jean Unkel       |
| 1 Sewerna Tiedtke  | 8 Ella Hoehne         | 17 Caitlyn Hitz     | 27 Leah Tillman     |
| 1 Corinne Trudeau  | 9 Lydia Walz-Kruger   | 17 Chris Preusker   | 28 Scott Wiedeman   |
| 2 Derek Unkel      | 9 Nikki Buckendahl    | 17 Tammy Werner     | 29 Jerry Schulz     |
| 2 Travis Aldag     | 9 Tom Hitz            | 18 Ardith Borgelt   | 29 Easton Beck      |
| 4 Jolene French    | 10 Linda Berg         | 18 Mary Eckert      | 30 Joy Bauermeister |
| 4 Kay Knapp        | 10 Rachel D. Zohner   | 18 Nickii Volk      | 31 Jordan Kollbaum  |
| 4 Gavin Tegeler    | 11 Katelyn Brauer     | 19 Brent Anderson   | 31 Melinda Mueller  |
| 4 Treysen Krueger  | 11 Titus Lewis        | 20 Aftynn Stusse    |                     |
| 6 Aaron Anderson   | 12 Sharon Bierman     | 20 Scott Lyon       |                     |
| 6 Nicole Hrabanek  | 13 Mary Baker         | 21 Alyssa Nelson    |                     |
| 6 Harper Wennekamp | 13 Dan Kirby          | 22 Kendall Aldag    |                     |
| 7 Preston Boeh     | 13 Jayne Test         | 22 Katie Schnitzler |                     |
| 7 Jason Dahlberg   | 13 Nancy Wysocki      | 23 Dave Schaffer    |                     |
| 7 Barrett Griffith | 13 Augustus Haack     | 24 Ada Smith        |                     |
| 7 Kent Hawthorne   | 14 Haylee Freudenberg | 25 Jacey Hassler    |                     |
| 7 Ty Klug          | 15 Taylor Schnitzler  | 25 Amy Kuchar       |                     |
| 7 Deb Miller       | 15 Micah Baumgartel   | 25 Kevin Wedekind   |                     |
| 7 Bill Thomas      | 16 Zeth Volk          | 26 BriAnna Zohner   |                     |
| 8 Milan Hoffman    | 16 Jay Werner         | 27 Jeff Borchers    |                     |
| 8 Sharon Prauner   | 17 Paul Renner        | 27 Amber Schurman   |                     |



## **St. John Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, NE- Council Meeting-Monday, November 25, 2024**

**In attendance:** Katie Schnitzler, Christy Schmidt, Colby Kolm, Nick Onnen, Steven Whitney, Pastor Leech, Dane Prauner, Tresa Prauner, Caleb Zohner, Nikki Houlden, Cara Hoehne, Mandy Lewis and Vince Hoehne

**Call to Order** at 8:01 pm by Colby Kolm

**Opening Devotion & Prayer** by Colby Kolm

**Approval of Minutes** from August 26, 2024 - Dane Prauner motioned to approve the August meeting minutes as written. Second by Christy Schmidt. Motion carried.

### **Board Reports**

**Treasurer's Report** by Katie Schnitzler – Since January 1, St. John Ministries has received \$128,000+ in donations for the Child Care Tax Credit. That equates to just over 5% of the total \$2,500,000 allotment for the credit. Praise God! The Day of Giving will be December 3. There is a \$20,000 match. The funds raised will be used to make a payment on the long-term note. There was \$53,900 received in scholarship funds for school families from LB 1402. These funds will be moved to a six month CD to earn interest until they are needed for the next school year. Dane Prauner made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Christy seconded. Motion carried.

**Trustees Report** by Caleb Zohner – The trustees are finalizing crews and preparing equipment for the snow removal season. The parsonage updates have been completed. The trustees have a live-in occupant for the parsonage to help maintain the property during the winter months. The occupant will vacate the property in the spring of 2025.

**Elders Report** by Dane Prauner – The elders will serve soups for the Advent meal on December 4.

**Evangelism Report** by Tia Eriksen - Evangelism will be giving the chapel message on Wednesday, December 18 and will be serving the Advent meal that same evening with Parish Ed.

**Parish Ed Report** by Christy Schmidt – Parish Ed will be serving the Advent meal on December 18 with Evangelism. The Christmas break for Sunday school is quickly approaching. There will be no education hour on Sunday, December 22 due to the family Christmas worship service. Sunday school will resume January 12, 2025.

**Parochial Ed Report** by Nick Onnen – AD, Staci Kolm, organized "Senior Day" at St. John which will be Friday, December 6. St. John Alumni who are current seniors in high school were asked to return to St. John to speak with the eighth grade class and then round up for a friendly competition of volleyball verse the staff. St. John students and staff are busy preparing for the Christmas concert happening on December 15.

**Early Learning Center (ELC) Report** by Tresa Prauner – The ELC will be doing a butterbraid fundraiser to assist with technology updates. Butterbraids will be delivered before Christmas. The birthday party for Jesus will be December 19 at 6:00 pm. This is a community event so bring a friend for pizza, crafts, and fun.

**Stewardship Report** by Vince Hoehne – Stewardship will be serving the Advent meal with Trustees on December 11. Stewardship discussed financial statements, performed the monthly audit review, and finalized plans for the Day of Giving event.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

## **Other**

Constitution Questions/Concerns – A discussion of the current proposed constitution was held.

Next Meeting – Monday, December 16 at 8:00 pm

Adjourn - Motion to adjourn at 8:47pm by Tresa Prauner. Seconded by Christy Schmidt. Motion carried.

Closing Prayer by Pastor Leech

Minutes submitted by Mandy Lewis.

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## **St. John Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, NE -Council Meeting Monday, December 16, 2024**

**In Attendance:** Steven Whitney, Christy Schmidt, Tia Eriksen, Katie Schnitzler, Dane Prauner, Colby Kolm, Vince Hoehne, Nick Onnen, Caleb Zohner, & Mandy Lewis

**Call to Order** at 8:04 pm by Colby Kolm

**Opening Devotion & Prayer** by Colby Kolm

## **Board Reports**

**Treasurer's Report** by Katie Schnitzler: The donations collected for the Day of Giving totaled just over \$57,000, including the \$25,000 match. Praise God! Those funds will be used to pay down the debt. Katie was informed that St. John Lutheran Church is the beneficiary of approximately \$200,000 that is left in assets in the Richard Kleider estate. Tia Eriksen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Christy Schmidt seconded. Motion carried.

**Trustees Report** by Caleb Zohner: There is currently an occupant in the parsonage to help watch over the house and report any issues to the trustees. The parsonage has been occupied for less than a month and already a few issues with water leaks have been identified. The trustees are very thankful to be made aware of these things now and to correct the issues before we have a new pastor to occupy the parsonage. The Trustees are also considering different options for lawn care for the next season.

**Elders Report** by Dane Prauner: There are no transfers in or out. The Elders served the Advent meal on December 4. Gary Borgelt volunteered to serve as the Elders representative on the Endowment Committee for a five-year term. During Christmas Eve worship services the Elders are going to assist the Volks in cleaning up the wax from the candles after each service.

**Evangelism Report** by Tia Eriksen: The Evangelism Board will be serving the Advent meal this Wednesday (December 18) with Parish Ed. The Evangelism Board will also be leading chapel this Wednesday (December 18) as well.

**Parish Ed Report** by Christy Schmidt: The proceeds from the Advent meal will help cover the cost of 2025 VBS t-shirts. The Parish Ed Board packed goodie bags for the family Christmas service this coming Sunday (December 22).

**Parochial Ed** Report by Nick Onnen: The school Christmas concert was a success. There are constant reminders of the need for the school due to the current environment of the world and the importance for more people to be redirected to the truth. Staffing needs for the next school year are being assessed and the school board is evaluating different ways to keep operating costs for the congregation and tuition for the families at a minimum. A couple weeks ago St John alumni, who are currently seniors in high school, came back to meet with the St. John 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class. It was a day full of good discussions and a St John Staff vs. Seniors volleyball game.

**Early Learning Center (ELC)** Report: There were no board members present to report, but please remember the birthday party for Jesus is this Thursday, December 19, starting at 6:00 pm.

**Stewardship Report** by Vince Hoehne: The Stewardship Board discussed the scholarships St. John will offer in 2025. The board decided to continue to offer the Concordia Church Worker Scholarship and LHNE Scholarships, as those are supporting students in Christian education and ministry work for the future. The High School Senior Scholarship will not be offered in 2025.

### **Old Business - None**

### **New Business**

a. Approval of 2025 Non-Taxable Allowances for Rostered Workers by Katie Schnitzler: Katie reported the proposed percentages for each rostered worker. The list will be attached to the official copy of the Council minutes. Rostered employees must meet three “tests” to achieve this classification. These percentages don’t change what we pay our workers. It’s just a classification for W-2 reporting. The first test is that these percentages are approved in the minutes. The other two tests fall personally on the individual. Dane Prauner made a motion to approve the request for non-taxable allowances for the rostered workers. Caleb Zohner seconded. Motion approved.

### **Other**

a. Constitution Update by Katie Schnitzler: The Constitution Committee is looking at making some adjustments to the current proposed constitution. Once these changes are finalized by the committee, they will be shared with the leadership staff. The committee will also hold more informational meetings to inform the congregation of these changes prior to the Voters meeting in February.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 27 at 8:00 pm

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Vince Hoehne at 9:02 pm. Seconded by Dane Prauner. Motion carried.

Closing Prayer by Steven Whitney.

Minutes submitted by Mandy Lewis.





# EARLY LEARNING CONNECTION



## IMPORTANT DATES:

- Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 - ELC Closed, Happy New Year!
- January 9 - PTL at 6:30 pm in School Age Room
- January 10 - 3:30 pm closure for Staff Development

## A LOOK BACK AT 2024

As we approach the end of the year, we have so much to celebrate at St. John Early Learning Center! Here's a look at the exciting updates happening in our classrooms, playground, and beyond.

### Playground Project Update

Thanks to the incredible generosity of grants and community support, our long-awaited playground renovation is officially underway! The toddler area will be the first to see improvements, providing a safe and engaging space designed specifically for our youngest learners. This project has been made possible by a \$136,000 Restoration grant from Nebraska DHHS, along with additional funding from our community, including \$1,800 raised during our successful golf scramble fundraiser. These updates will enhance outdoor play opportunities, supporting children's physical development and imaginative exploration.

### STEAM Makerspace Launch

We're excited to announce the creation of our brand-new STEAM-focused makerspace. This innovative area will allow children to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math through hands-on, creative projects. With the generous \$20,000 grant from the Connie Fund, this space will feature engaging materials and activities that spark curiosity and foster critical thinking. Whether children are building, experimenting, or expressing themselves through art, the makerspace will be a hub for discovery and learning.

### Supporting Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles

Promoting physical health is an important part of our mission. Thanks to a \$500 PATCH grant, we've been able to purchase new physical education equipment for our after-school program. These tools help us incorporate fun, active play into the children's daily routines, encouraging healthy habits and teamwork.

### Celebrating Community Support Through Tax Credit Contributions

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support we've received through the Child Care Tax Credit (CCTC) program. This initiative has allowed us to raise over \$120,000, which will directly benefit St. John Ministries and the families we serve. This milestone underscores the generosity of our supporters and the shared commitment to early childhood education as a vital part of our community's future.



## 2024 (CONTINUED)

### Enhancing Curriculum and Classroom Environments

Our dedication to providing meaningful learning experiences continues with updates to our curriculum and classroom environments. We've been refining our Jesus Time lessons, focusing on teaching children how to treat a classroom altar and worship Jesus in ways that are both age-appropriate and impactful. These lessons align with our mission to nurture not only academic and social growth but also spiritual development in our young learners.

### Looking Ahead

With all these exciting developments, we are deeply grateful for the support of our families, staff, and community. Together, we are building a brighter future for our children—one filled with opportunities to learn, play, and grow. Thank you for being part of the St. John ELC family and for helping us make a lasting impact in the lives of our young learners.

# CLASSROOM altars



## 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



Early childhood educators help children, families, and Nebraska thrive. Show your care at [NebraskaCaresForKids.org](https://NebraskaCaresForKids.org)

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Desirae Kilonzo, Assistant Teacher

Desirae came to St. John ELC in 2024. She lives in Battle Creek with her mom and brother. She is a St. John School alum. Desirae is currently attending Northeast

Community College, majoring in Early Childhood Education. She works with several of our age groups, however, she primarily works in our infant room.

## From the Principal



“Ships don’t sink because of the water around them; ships sink because of the water that gets in them. Don’t let what’s happening around you get inside you and weigh you down.” I have this quote posted in my office as a reminder not to let the challenges of the day become an internal struggle. It can be easier said than done.

This quote also speaks to the Christian’s battle in our world. How does one live surrounded by sin and not let it penetrate the heart? We’re not just facing an uphill battle but a vertical cliff! We’re raising children in a world obsessed with promiscuity, vulgarity, and violence. It’s not just something distant—it’s in their faces constantly. Temptations are ever-present, dancing across their phones and devices, chiming, dinging, and ringing to draw them in.

How do we teach a child to go against societal norms and choose behaviors that won’t harm their relationship with Christ? The answer: we teach them. Over and over. Children, like their adult role models, cycle through falling into sin and seeking repentance. We must help them identify the contrast between the world’s ways and the ways of our God.

We face the challenge of raising children to be in the world, but not of the world. As Jesus prayed in John 17:14-16, “I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

I thank God for a team of partners who walk alongside me in parenting, guiding not only my own children, but other students as they navigate their walk with Christ. I’m grateful to work in a school and ministry where the staff help redirect students’ focus, leading them back to repentance and forgiveness through Christ.

We don’t have a ministry for perfect people. As Jesus said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Mark 2:17) How blessed we are to recognize our need for a Savior. How blessed we are to have Jesus, who loves us even when we don’t act like we belong to His flock and when we feel unlovable.

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (Colossians 4:6) In a dark and lost world, there is opportunity because the darkness accentuates His light. “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Living as a Christian in a broken world will always be a challenge, but we are not without guidance. We have Jesus’ example, His words, and His forgiveness. We also have the promise that we are not left to this task alone. The Holy Spirit empowers us to withstand the waters around us, keeping us afloat and strong as we navigate life’s storms.

Growing Together in Christ,

Mr. Onnen



**Get excited for an incredible night at the St. John IGNITE Auction on March 1, 2025!**

Enjoy dinner, entertainment, and thrilling live/silent auctions. Your support helps sustain our Christian school by offsetting tuition costs, making education affordable for families and easing the church's financial burden. Funds raised also go towards scholarships for families in need. Don't miss the fun with a purpose!

Visit [www.stjohnbc.net/ignite](http://www.stjohnbc.net/ignite) for details.



National Lutheran Schools Week in 2025 will take place from January 26 to January 31, with the theme "Endure".

The theme is based on Hebrews 12:1-3, which includes the lines, "Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us".

National Lutheran Schools Week is an opportunity for Lutheran schools to celebrate God's work and share Jesus' love with children and their families.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL**  
Connecting People in the Heart of Jesus



**Lutheran Schools Week**  
**January 26-31**  
**Sharing the life-changing message of**  
**Jesus' love with more than**

**180,000**

**students, their families and**  
**communities!**

**Providing Excellent**  
**Academic Preparation.**  
**Raising up the Next**  
**Generation of Faithful Christian**  
**Disciples.**

**Early Childhood Centers > 1,677**  
**Elementary Schools > 191**  
**Middle Schools > 625**  
**High Schools > 103**  
**Total > 2,596**



***St. John School children will sing in church***  
***Sunday, January 26 to kickoff Lutheran***  
***Schools Week.***





MERRY  
**CHRISTMAS**  
 AND  
 HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Jesus Christ**  
 is true light of  
*Christmas*



# Youth and Family Ministry



Behold, I make all things new. Rev. 21:5

You are invited!

*St. John*

## PTL MEETING

Thursday, January 9 @ 6:30 pm  
At the Early Learning Center

ST JOHN SCHOOL

Stop In

Morning Coffee

07:30 AM

ALL YOU NEED IS JESUS & COFFEE

THURSDAY COFFEE CART



welcome BACK

## Education Hour Resumes January 12.

Treats are provided in the parish hall following Sunday worship. Connect with us in Fellowship! If you are new to our Education Hour we invite you to any of the following Bible studies/Sunday School classes.

### Sunday 10:30 am (meet in the parish hall first)

- My Child & Me- ELC Preschool Room
- Sunday School- 3 year old -4<sup>th</sup> Grade at School
- Confirmation-5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grade at School
- High School Youth 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> at School Conference Room
- Adult Bible Study with Mr. Jon Baumgartel at School
- Adult Bible Study - Parish Hall

### Weekdays- Beginning January 8

- Ms. Werner- Tuesdays @7:00 pm in the altar guild room
- Pastor Joe - Men's Bible Study on Wednesdays @ 9:00 am in the parish hall
- WINGS Women's Study on Wednesdays @ 9:30 am in the parish hall classroom

## Prayer Partners

ENDURE

2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

HEBREWS 12:1-3

Seeking Prayer Partners for the 12 Youth as they prepare for their journey and attend the National Youth Gathering. If you are interested please contact Mr. Whitney

### 2025 Youth NYG Attendees:

Hunter Anderson  
Avery Onnen  
Tucker Schnoor  
Wyatt Wedekind  
Emilee Anderson  
Ivy Haack  
Sherridan Kirby  
Mazzy Kuchar  
Hollie Anderson  
Nikki Haack  
Ellyson Ottis  
Lana Tillman



# Senior Day 2025

We were honored to welcome some very special guests to St. John's in December. The senior class of 2025 (St. John's class of 2021) returned to inspire and connect with our current 8th-grade class of 2025.

After sharing valuable insights and experiences, the seniors faced off against the St. John's staff in an exciting volleyball match. They then visited classrooms, meeting younger students and signing autographs, making the day unforgettable for everyone.

We couldn't be prouder of these remarkable young men and women--outstanding role models and cherished St. John's alumni!!







# St. John 'Hawks' Sports Schedule

## Basketball

		Teams	Event	Location	Time
Saturday	12/7/2024	G & B B	Christ Lutheran Basketball Jamboree	CLS	TBA
	12/22-12/27	ALL	Moratorium- Gym Closed	NA	NA
Thursday	1/9/2025	G & B A	Zion Pierce	Pierce	4:30/5:30
Friday/Saturday	1/10-1/11	G & B B	Christ Lutheran Tournament	CLS	TBA
Tuesday	1/14/2025	G & B B	vs. Christ Lutheran	HOME	4:30/5:30
Thursday	1/16/2025	G & B B	St. Paul Norfolk	St. Paul- Norfolk	4:30/5:30
Saturday	1/18/2025	G & B A	Emmanuel Faith York Chad Chapman Tourmmanet	York	TBA
Tuesday	1/21/2025	G & B B	Zion Pierce	Pierce	4:30/5:30
Thursday	1/23/2025	G & B A	vs. Christ Lutheran	HOME	4:30/5:30
Saturday	1/25/2024	G A	Roundball	Grand Island	TBA
Tuesday	1/28/2025	G A&B	West Point	West Point	4:30/5:30
Thursday	1/30/2025	G A&B	Immanuel Columbus	HOME	4:30/5:30
Saturday	2/1/2025	B A	Roundball	HOME	TBA
Saturday	2/1/2025	G A	Zion Varsity Tournament	Pierce	TBA
Tuesday	2/4/2025	G & B B	Christ Lutheran (C-Team)	CLS	4:30/5:30
Thursday	2/6/2025	G & B B	vs. Zion Pierce	HOME	4:30/5:30
Saturday	2/8/2025	G A	Christ Lutheran Girls Varsity Tournament	CLS	TBA
Tuesday	2/11/2025	B A&B	Immanuel Columbus	Columbus	5:00/6:00
Thursday	2/13/2025	B A&B	West Point	West Point	4:30/5:30
Saturday	2/15/2025	B A	Christ Lutheran Tournament	CLS	TBA
Tuesday	2/18/2025	G & B B	St. John/Christ Columbus	HOME	4:30/5:30
Thursday	2/20/2025	G&B A	Trinity Lutheran Fremont	HOME	5:00/6:00
Friday-Sunday	2/21-2/23	G & B A	C-Club Tournament	Seward (CUNE)	TBA

Come and cheer on our teams!

— **JOIN OUR** —  
**FUNDRAISER**  
**AT RAISING CANE'S**

Mention the fundraiser at the register  
and Cane's will donate **15%** of sales to:

**St Johns Lutheran School**  
**Battle Creek, NE**

DATE & TIME:

**Sunday, January 26th, 2025, 11 am - 4 pm**

LOCATION:

**1150 S 13th St, Norfolk, NE**

**Scan, Order Online, Use Code RCFUND96**



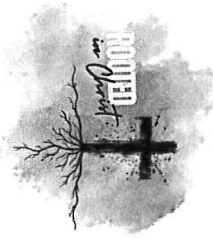
[CanesAndCommunity.com](http://CanesAndCommunity.com)



Connecting people in the heart of Jesus

# January 2025

St. John  
Lutheran School  
102 W Martin St  
P.O. Box 67  
Battie 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)

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
29								
30		No School - Christmas Break						
5	Worship 9:00 AM No Education Hour Adult Sports Fellowship 6:00 PM	No School Staff Development	School Resumes	Chapel 8:30 AM	G & B (A) @ Zion Pierce 4:30 PM PTL 6:30 PM	G & B (B) Christ Lutheran Basketball Tournament	G & B (B) Christ Lutheran Basketball Tournament Worship 5:00 PM	
12	Worship 9:00 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Adult Sports Fellowship 6:00 PM		Cook's Choice	Chicken Tenders	Baked Potato Bar	Cheeseburger	18 G & B (A) Emmanuel Faith York Chad Chapman Tournament Worship 5:00 PM	
19	Worship 9:00 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Adult Sports Fellowship 6:00 PM	Burritos	Chicken Fried Steak	Hot Dog	Pizza	Cook's Choice	25 Girls (A) Roundball @ Grand Island Worship 5:00 PM	
26	Preschool - Grade 8 Sing in Worship 9:00 AM Education Hour 10:30 AM Raising Canes Fundraiser 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM Adult Sports Fellowship 6:00 PM	No School Staff Development	G & B (B) @ Zion Pierce 4:30 PM Cook's Choice	Miss Werner/leads chapel 8:30 AM KFC Bowl	G & B (A) vs. Christ Lutheran (home) 4:30 PM Hot Ham & Cheese	Cook's Choice Soup		
27		Mismatch Day Mr. Rib	Fake an Injury Day G (A & B) @ West Point 4:30 PM Creamy White Mac & Cheese	Donuts with Dad 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM 8th Grade leads chapel Cook's Choice	G (A & B) vs. Imm. Columbus 4:30 PM Orange Chicken	Color War		
28								
29								
30								
31								

Pre-Enrollment Opens February 3rd for the 2025-2026 School Year

# LHNE NEWS

2010 N. 37TH STREET  
NORFOLK, NE 68701

(402) 379-3040  
[www.LHNE.org](http://www.LHNE.org)

JANUARY 2025



@LHNEagles lhneagles



## EAGLE FUN DAY

LHNE will be hosting Eagle Fun Day on Friday, January 17th from 9:00 AM-12:30 PM. This event is for grades 6-8. All students in the community are invited to come for an exciting day of classroom events, games, and pizza. Everyone is welcome! If you have a student who would like to come and experience LHNE please call the office (402-379-3040) to register for the event! We hope to see you there!

## BOOSTER CLUB TRIVIA

Are you looking for a great event to break up the cold of winter in January? The Booster Club Trivia Night is an excellent option! Put together a table of eight and come team up to show your brain skills in an entertaining evening with food, fellowship, and fun. The event takes place at Our Savior Lutheran on Friday, January 17th, but you must purchase a table online ahead of time. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. to grab some food and purchase beverages and the trivia starts at 6:30 p.m. All the funds raised will go to the Booster Club for the benefit of all of the LHNE students. There are also sponsorship opportunities available. Visit this link to register or sponsor, but do it soon! <http://bidpal.net/lhnetrivia2025>

## LHNE PUZZLE COMPETITION 2025

Come join us for a fun, social night filled with a pizza meal, drinks, and friendly competitions on Friday, January 31st at Divots Ballroom! Registration and the social starts at 5:30 PM. A pizza meal will be provided at 6:00 PM and the competition starts at 7:00 PM. Gather your team of 6 and race against others to see who can conquer the puzzle first. But wait—there's more! Throughout the event, you'll dive into 6 thrilling mini-games, each giving you the chance to win awesome goodies for your table. Get an extra boost by purchasing an Advantage Envelope for your table. A silent auction will also run through the night. And the best part is that all of the funds raised throughout the evening help students through our financial aid fund. We can't wait to see you there! The link to sign up is: <http://bidpal.net/lhnepuzzle2025>

## REGISTRATION NIGHT

Monday, FEBRUARY 3RD is the BIG NIGHT! All 8th grade students and parents are invited to come and register for the 2025-2026 school year. While here you can browse through displays of all the activities we offer, talk to coaches and club sponsors, receive a \$50 registration discount, and reserve your free Eagle Class of 2029 T-shirt (to be delivered in March).

We will also have the information parents need to apply for an Opportunity Scholarship and financial aid as well. If you're interested in learning about LHNE, this is the night for you! We hope to see you there!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 2 - CBB vs Battle Creek
- Jan. 3 - BB @ Pierce
- Jan. 6 - Teacher In-Service
- Jan. 7 - First Day of 3rd Quarter! Welcome Back!
- Jan. 7 - Bowling @ Hartington-Newcastle
- Jan. 7 - BB @ Wakefield
- Jan. 9 - Bowling @ Wayne
- Jan. 9 - GWrestling @ Columbus
- Jan. 11 - BWrestling @ Summerland
- Jan. 12 - Booster Club Mtg
- Jan. 13 - Blood Drive
- Jan. 13 - CBB vs Stanton
- Jan. 13 - GWrestling @ Summerland
- Jan. 14 - Bowling @ Boone Central
- Jan. 14 - GBB vs Howells-Dodge
- Jan. 16 - GWrestling @ Summerland
- Jan. 16 BB @ Battle Creek
- Jan. 17 - Eagle Fun Day
- Jan. 17 - Booster Club Trivia
- Jan. 18 - Speech @ Pierce
- Jan. 18 - BWrestling @ Battle Creek
- Jan. 18 - GWrestling @ Plainview
- Jan. 18 - CBB @ Wausa Tournament
- Jan. 20 - NO SCHOOL/Teacher In-Service
- Jan. 20 - GWrestling @ Battle Creek
- Jan. 20 - CBB @ Humphrey
- Jan. 21 - Bowling @ Plainview
- Jan. 21 - BB vs Neligh-Oakdale
- Jan. 22 - FFA Livestock Judging
- Jan. 23 - BWrestling @ Neligh-Oakdale
- Jan. 23 - GWrestling @ Pierce
- Jan. 24 - BB @ Norfolk Catholic
- Jan. 25 - Speech @ SCOTUS
- Jan. 25 - Bowling vs Norfolk
- Jan. 25 - BWrestling @ Neligh-Oakdale
- Jan. 25 - GWrestling @ Crofton
- Jan. 27 - GNAC Band Clinic
- Jan. 27 - Bowling vs Columbus Lakeview
- Jan. 27 - CBB @ Boone Central
- Jan. 27 - LHSANN BOD Mtg
- Jan. 28 - Bowling vs Plainview
- Jan. 28 - BB @ Laurel-Conrad-Coleridge
- Jan. 30 - GWrestling @ Stanton
- Jan. 30 - BB @ Fullerton
- Jan. 31 - Bowling vs Bancroft-Rosalie
- Jan. 31 - Scholarship Puzzle Event



# January 2025



Join us!

**Weekly Service times:**

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

**School Chapel**

Wednesday 8:30 am

**Education Hour/  
Sunday School**

Sunday 10:30 am

**Bible Studies:**

Tuesday 7:00 pm

Women

Wednesday 9:30 am  
Parish Hall Classroom

Men

9:00 am Parish Hall

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Years Day Church Office Closed	2	3 10:00 Orphan Grain Train Volunteer Day	4 9:00 Prayer Group
5	6	7 12:00 Blood Drive	8	9 6:30 PTL at ELC	10	11
12 10:30 Education Hour Resumes	13	14	15	16	17	18 9:00 Prayer Group
19	20 6:30 Endowment Meeting	21 1:00 SR Fun Day	22	23	24	25
26 Lutheran Schools Week Begins 9:00 Children Sing 11:00- Raising Cane's Fundraiser	27 8:00 Council Meeting	28	29	30 1:30 WINGS Meeting	31	

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

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Web: stjohnbc.net  
Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church

Connecting People in the Heart of Jesus

