

A Christmas Message from your Pastor ...

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

*Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel. Isaiah 7:14 (NRSV)*



Advent is here. We anticipate the coming of the Christ Child. The altar colors change from green to blue in anticipation and hope. Our church and homes will be decorated with festive lights and Christmas greenery.

It is my hope and prayer that you will stop sometime during the hurry and scurry of the holiday season to contemplate what we're about as Christians. I encourage you to slow down & take time to ponder Christ's coming into the world.

Advent begins the weekend of November 30th & December 1st.

- Tuesday Advent Morning Prayer will take place on the 3 Tuesdays in December: December 3rd, 10th & 17th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with a time of fellowship after the service.
- Saturday, December 7th you are invited to a St. John's Magical Christmas Dinner; it is a progressive dinner. Members of the Fellowship & Hospitality Committee have coordinated this progressive meal after worship with appetizers, salads, an entrée, and dessert. Sounds like fun! Join us!
- On Sunday, December 15th our Sunday School children will present their Christmas Program. Come to church that day to celebrate Jesus' Birthday!

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FROM OUR
PASTOR

Our Christmas Eve Service, Tuesday, December 24th, will be a service of Lessons & Carols at 4:00 p.m. Please let me know if you would be willing to participate in the service, I need 15 readers. Join us as we gather to welcome the Christ Child into the world and into our hearts.

Steve & I want to wish all of you a wonderful and blessed Christmas & best wishes into the New Year! I give thanks to God each and every day for the opportunity to serve as your pastor.

May you enjoy God's Blessings and Peace this Advent
& Christmas Season and into the New Year!

Pastor Chris



LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

December 10th

**9:30 am to 3:00 pm and
7:00 pm to 9:00pm Bring a Lunch**

December 11th

9:00am to 3:00 pm Bring a Lunch

The Quilt and Kit Ministry is the longest running program of Lutheran World Relief and because of its growth, LWR is expanding to reach our neighbors in the United States. Several social service organizations-like Lutheran Services of the Carolinas and Lutheran Family Services of the Rocky Mountains- are eager to share LWR gifts of care and comfort with children, women and men in their communities. This means we must continue our hard work!!!

December during work days we will be cutting school bags and getting the packs ready for people to sew at home. There will be blocks to cut for the Piece Maker packets which go home to be sewn into quilt tops. The sewn quilt tops will be matched with a center and a back so they are ready for the tiers. Happy fingers will tie the quilts and pin the edges. Then the quilts will be sewn around and folded so they can be packed for transport to Elgin. We put together things that have come in for the Baby Care Kits so they can be sent. There are many jobs that need to be completed to get things ready for packing. Even though it is a busy time of the year, we can each give a little time to this cause!

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - October 6, 2024

Members present: Bob Fraley, Drew Hallman, Connie Hamer, Mike Hamer, Scott Horsch, Cindy Karp, Wayne Karp, Jeanette Pfeifer, and Pastor Chris.

Jerry and Toni Lundeen presented to the council their idea of hosting a gourmet dinner prepared by a professional chef on February 22nd to raise funds for Growing Hope. They asked for permission to use the church facilities, tables, and flatware. All other dinner and cookware will be provided. The dinner will be limited to 100 guests. Council granted them permission.

Connie presented devotions on the fruits of the spirit.

- ⇒ Meeting was called to order at 11:06
- ⇒ Drew made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Connie seconded. Motion passed.
- ⇒ Scott presented the Treasurer's report. The church is in good shape. Connie asked why the negative amount under federal taxes. It was explained as money allocated for tax payments throughout the year by our accounting company.
- ⇒ Committee reports
 - ◇ Fellowship/Hospitality – A progressive dinner will be held December 7th.
 - ◇ Outreach – None. Jeanette mentioned to Scott to remove the line item for bread to new residents since that program is no longer done.
 - ◇ Finance - Worked on finalizing a preliminary budget.
 - ◇ Missions/Stewardship – See report.
 - ◇ MOG – Twenty tables were purchased and will be delivered soon.
 - ◇ Parish education – An event night was held with the Sunday school students to put up and decorate the giving tree. Jeanette suggested printing out the readings on the Sundays the students do the service. December 15th will be the Sunday school program.
 - ◇ The dryer at the parsonage needs to be looked at. One of the entrances has a leaky roof. Matt Gengler will look and check the roof tiles.
 - ◇ Worship – See report.
 - ◇ Tech – None.
- ⇒ Pastor's report – See report.
- ⇒ Scott reported that St John's made a payment to three Lutheran churches in Peru with our noisy offering collection.
- ⇒ The preliminary budget was presented.
- ⇒ Scott brought up capital projects to think about – Blacktop, power washing, pews, AC.
- ⇒ An honorarium line item was added for VBS leaders.

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- ⇒ There was discussion on whether a parsonage landline is needed.
- ⇒ Drew will investigate whether to use Nexamp as our electric provider.
- ⇒ Council agreed to pay Anita Milligan for filling in as a supply pastor.
- ⇒ Drew made the motion to adjourn. Mike seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:58.

In God's service,

Bob Fraley

News from St. John's Committees

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 11-6-24

The November meeting was called to order with the following present: Pastor Chris Schoon; Karol Grandgeorge; Mark Lee; Lynn Skrzypiec; Mike Hamer; and Connie Hamer present. The opening prayer was about "going out into the world with peace."

The October minutes were approved as corrected. Lynn's last name was misspelled.

Mike's October offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$11,551.04; Capital Fund - \$963.04; LWR Shipping Fund - \$500 (total now \$1110.97 without matching from Endowment); Good Samaritan - \$134; Hurricane Disaster Assistance - \$265; Sharing Pantry - \$500; and Growing Hope Globally - \$1523.61.

Mark set up the Meals-on-Wheels drivers for November. Thanksgiving week delivery is only Mon-Wed.

Upcoming Community Feasts: Karol reported the following information. The next gathering is Sunday, November 24, 2024 at the United Church of Sandwich with the ecumenical service to follow. St. John's is responsible for 10 hot vegetable dishes which will be picked up by 3:00 that day. Salem reported that they fed 90 and gave leftover food to Open Door. The minutes from the wrap-up meeting are in the secretary's notebook. Our date to host will now be Tuesday, February

25, 2025 and then in November '25 (date and time to be set later). Because this event is advertised to the public, we need a DeKalb County Health Department permit (\$55), which must be posted at the event. In house gatherings (ex. funerals) do not require a permit. Other sanitary requirements are in the meeting notes.

Salem Church goes to the Northern IL Food Bank on the third Tuesday of each month. The shift is from 9:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. You must sign up with your phone # and e-mail address 3 weeks ahead of time. For example, for the Dec. 17th date, you must sign up by Dec. 1st. Salem leaves at 8:00 a.m. and welcomes riders or you may drive yourself.

The Lutheran Social Services of IL (LSSI) Giving Tree will be set up by the confirmands this evening. We have received 18 names with 3 requested items per name. Gifts must be returned to our church by Dec. 1st. Monetary donations are always welcome if you can't shop.

Connie will write the article for our December emphasis which is Safe Passage in DeKalb. Connie will also write the annual report and do the 2025 calendars.

No new LWR information currently.

CROP had a successful drive according to Mark and Mike. Their goal was to reach \$17,000.

Karol brought up another opportunity for community involvement. We Are Called To Care is an agency in Plano which supplies needed items for foster children. They are currently renovating a home in Yorkville where kids can stay until they are placed in a foster home. They are trying to fund raise \$27,000 to purchase a van for transporting the children. They are designating the 2nd Sunday in Nov. as 'Pure Religion Sunday,' and asking folks to "stand up for the vulnerable." Their website is CAFO.org/purereligion.

December 7th will be our St. John's progressive dinner. It was wonderful last year, so please come!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 4th. We adjourned at 10:00 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.



Merry
Christmas



DeKalb County Safe Passage

Dear Congregation,

St. John's continues to support worthy local organizations and charities whenever possible. Safe Passage has been our December emphasis for many years. Safe Passage (SP) is DeKalb County's *only* Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Center. As per their website, their mission is "to promote the right of all to nonviolent and abuse-free relationships through advocacy, intervention, and prevention. SP is funded through state and federal grants, private donations, and the support of some local agencies. SP was founded in 1981 as a grassroots non-profit organization run by volunteers who wanted to create a safe place in the community for victims of domestic violence." Their services include crisis intervention; emergency shelter; long-term transitional housing; case management; counseling; legal and 24/7 medical advocacy; community prevention education; and offender intervention services. All survivor services are completely free, confidential, and available to all no matter age, gender, or when the abuse occurred. SP's vision is a world without violence where all are safe. They focus not only on the victims, but also on interrupting cycles of harm. As mentioned in previous articles, SP is attempting to build a new facility. They now have the property, and the existing building on the new property was demolished. They are currently working with an architect whose drawings will be certified by House and Urban Development. After that, bids for construction will be available. They must have 80% of their funding before they can receive a loan.

St. John's and Safe Passage thank you for your past and present support. A donation for Safe Passage may be put in a blue envelope or brought into the church office at any time. Please remember to mark the intent of your donation, and thank you once again.



WORSHIP

with us!

CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

Christmas Eve

Tuesday.

December 24th

4:00 pm

If you'd like to be a reader for this service, please
sign up in the Welcome Center.



MEETING

Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, December 4



Property Committee

10am Wednesday, December 4



Fellowship & Hospitality

10:30am Wednesday, December 4



Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, December 4



Rebekah Circle Meeting

6:00pm Thursday, December 5



Church Council

10:45am Sunday, December 8



MOG Committee

7:00 pm Tuesday, January 7



Altar Guild

6:30pm Tuesday, February 18



Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, March 4





DECEMBER

Birthdays

Christopher Dingman	12/06	Abigail Denault	12/20
Sharon Mueller	12/06	Doris Rogers	12/21
Evelyn Smith	12/07	Ed Stahl	12/21
Cindy Westbrook	12/07	Bob Mueller	12/21
Anita Beal	12/08	Sharon Rhea	12/22
Hudson Christopher	12/08	Becky Anderson	12/26
Taylor Johnson	12/11	Dave McKenzie	12/30
Johnny Johnson	12/14	Lorelei Killey	12/30
Kevin Anderson	12/19	Bruce Wold	12/31



DECEMBER

Anniversaries

Joseph & Rosemary Underwood	12/02
Tom & Kathy Anderson	12/29
Martha & John Johnson	12/30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	2	3 9:00AM ADVENT MORNING PRAYER 10:00am Put up Christmas tree at the church	4 8:45am Stewardship Mtg. 10:00am Property Mtg. 10:30am Fellowship & Hospitality Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's	
8 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship 10:45am Church Council Meeting 5-8PM 3-N-1 SECRET SANTA PARTY AT BOCZKO'S	9	10 9:00AM ADVENT MORNING PRAYER <i>LWR Workday</i> 9:30am-3pm 7pm-9pm	11 <i>LWR Workday</i> 9am-3pm 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's	
15 8:30am Sunday School 9:45 Worship w/Children's Christmas Program & Noisy Offering 8:30am Adult Forum	16	17 9:00AM ADVENT MORNING PRAYER Northern IL Food Bank 9-11:30 am 10:00am Reading Buddies	18 6:30pm Confirmation @ St. John's	
22 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	23	24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25	
29 9:45am Worship	30	31		

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p> <p>6:00pm Rebekah Circle</p> <p>Christmas Women's Gathering</p> <p>Village Courtyard</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p> <p>Magical Progressive Dinner after worship</p>
	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>
	<p>19</p> <p>9:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>
	<p>26</p> <p>No Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:00pm Worship</p>
			<p>December</p> <p>2024</p>



The Parents Corner

When our daughters were in elementary school, there was an epidemic of mumps. Although they were in different classrooms, they came down with the mumps at the same time. My mother assured me that I had the disease as a child, so I was safe. I cared for them and felt so badly for them. The fever made them thirsty, and swallowing was painful. The day they were well enough to go back to school, I came down with the mumps. In childhood, only one side of my throat was involved and my left side glands swelled hugely. I learned that sympathy is a long way from empathy. I hadn't treated my girls nearly nicely enough.

A couple in our congregation lost all they owned when their house burned to the ground. They know the joyful relief that their loved ones got out of the house safely and years later, they still speak of the people who rallied to their support while rebuilding. But even they do not know what would have happened if there had not been a community to help because they also had lost everything, as in places in our country today.

This December, as we pray "Thy will be done", think of a young girl facing pregnancy, the loss of her betrothed and the approval of family and friends who then sang, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,".

Can we do the same?

Submitted by Lois Spizzirri



Church Staff

A. Administration

- i. Office Secretary: Julie Horsch

b. Business

- i. Financial Recorder: Mike Hamer
- ii. Treasurer: Scott Horsch

c. Facilities

- i. Building Superintendent: Diane Wold

d. Worship

- i. Accompanists: Jessica Ortega, Toni Lundeen, Becky Stephens, Margaret Page

Church Council

President: Wayne Karp
Vice-President:
Secretary: Bob Fraley

Congregation Council

Andrew (Drew) Hallman
Michael Hamer
Connie Hamer
Cindy Karp
Jeanette Pfeifer

Lutherdale Bible Camp Representatives-2024

Karol Grandgeorge, Nancy Miller

Synod Assembly Representatives-2024

Pastor, Lynn Skrzypiec

Cemetery Ministry Team

Bob Fraley, Glen Reuter, Doug Stahl

Endowment Ministry Team

Mike Hamer, Wendy Merkel, Jeanette Pfeifer, Dale Robinson

Finance Ministry Team

Chuck Hoepe,

Bob Mueller, Joanne Robinson

Memorial and Other Gifts Fund Team

Kathy Anderson, Connie Hamer,

Nancy Miller, Lynn Skrzypiec

Church Ministries & Organizations Contacts

Altar Guild

CROP Walk: Mark Lee & Mike Hamer

Growing Hope: Jerry & Toni Lundeen

Global Missions: *In need of leadership*

Habitat for Humanity: Karol Grandgeorge

Hearts & Hands: Stella Gardner

House of the Little Ones: Linda Johnson

LSSI Christmas Hope Chest: Karol Grandgeorge & Julie Horsch

LWR Projects (Mission Quilts, Baby Care Kits, School Kits,

Personal Care Kits, Sewing Kits): Karol Grandgeorge

Meals on Wheels: Mark Lee

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans: *In need of leadership*

Our Sharing Pantry: Chuck Lee

Partners In Mission - Uganda, Africa: *In need of leadership*

Prayer Chain: Karol Grandgeorge,

Parish Education

Confirmation

- a. Primary Instructor—Pastor Chris & Scott Horsch
- b. St. John's Congregational Council

3N1: 7—12 gr. Youth Ministry:

Coordinators: Jason & Kim Boczko

from Salem Lutheran Church, Sandwich

Youth Ministry Connection from St. John's—Julie Horsch

Esther Circle: Jeanette Pfeifer

Rebekah Circle: Connie Hamer

Sunday School Coordinator: Nancy Miller

Chairpersons/Ministry Summaries

(Listed alphabetically by ministry)

Cemetery Ministry: Doug Stahl

Oversees the care of the church cemetery, maintenance and improvements.

Communications Ministry: Bob Fraley

Seeks to improve communication with members and the community.

Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry

Plans activities and recreational outings to promote friendship and fellowship in our congregation and community.

Finance Ministry: Scott Horsch

Proposes the budget and administers incoming and outgoing funds.

Outreach Ministry: Jeanette Pfeifer

Reach out to the community by welcoming new neighbors with bread, hosting/participating in community events, following up with visitors, and bringing God's love to St John's 'special members' from cradle roll through the homebound.

Parish Education Ministry:

Oversees Sunday School Program, Summer Bible Day Camp, and youth related activities.

Property Ministry: Drew Hallman

Oversees the care of the church facilities and grounds, maintenance and improvements.

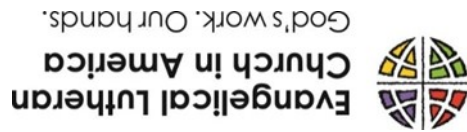
Stewardship /Missions Ministry: Lynn Skrzypiec

Provides opportunities for members of our congregation to use their gifts and resources, which includes raising funds for special projects. Provides a variety of opportunities to do God's Work with Our Hands. Organizes activities, publicize events and coordinate participation. Please join us in any way that works for you.

Worship Ministry: Cindy Karp

Striving to provide Spirit filled worship opportunities in an atmosphere of hospitality.

December 2024
Newsletter of St. John's Lutheran Church



We're on the Web:
www.elcastjohns.com

235 South Green Street
P.O. Box 245
Somonauk, Illinois 60552

Church Office 815-498-3667
office@elcastjohns.org

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