

A New Year's Message from Your Pastor ...

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.” ... Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)*

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful and Merry Christmas! Don't you wonder what God may have in store for St. John's Lutheran Church this year?

Have you made your New Year's resolution list for 2025? Perhaps you could add something to that list ... please consider coming to Bible study and adding daily Bible reading to your list of resolutions. There are multiple ways in which you could keep in touch with and be touched by God.

In January, our Annual Meeting will take place on January 26th. Come to this important meeting as we discuss what God has been doing in this place.

In the coming year, our Council and committees will continue with their respective responsibilities of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through activities and projects; our Bible Studies will continue Sunday & Thursday mornings, Sunday School will gather, and Confirmation classes will continue to meet. Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter will soon be here. I look forward to our shared ministry in the New Year!



On a personal note, thank-you for all the cards, gifts and well wishes Steve & I received at Christmastime and for the New Year! We are so blessed to be here! Thank-you!!!

*God's Blessings & Peace,
Pastor Chris Schoon*



Rebekah Circle

Date: Thursday, January 16th

Time: 1:00 pm

Lesson: Mary, a Woman for All Seasons

Session #1: The Annunciation

Location: St. John's Fellowship Hall

Hostess: Karol Grandgeorge

LWR Lutheran World Relief Work Days

January 21st

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

January 22nd

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

January 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. I know we are all busy doing many things throughout 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 - December 8, 2024

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

- ⇒ Cindy gave devotions on Jesus as our light.
- ⇒ Wayne called the meeting to order at 10:41
- ⇒ Mike made the motion to approve the consent agenda, Cindy seconded, motion passed.
- ⇒ Scott pointed out three large expenditures from last month: Organ tuned, Furnace serviced, smoke detectors were purchased and upgraded.
- ⇒ Scott presented the treasurer's report and noted that we were on pace to not meet our budget by around \$30,000. He recommended and presented a lowered revised budget. Cindy made a motion to accept the 2025 budget as proposed but to be amended at the end of December. Mike seconded. Motion carried.
- ⇒ Committee reports
 - ◇ Fellowship/Hospitality – Progressive dinner went well. Chili cookoff January 4th.
 - ◇ Outreach – None
 - ◇ Finance – None
 - ◇ Mission/Stewardship – See report
 - ◇ MOG – None
 - ◇ Parish Ed – Children's Christmas program December 15th. Confirmation going well.
 - ◇ Property – Dryer is fixed. Bob reported the cemetery committee cd was renewed.
 - ◇ Worship – See report. The altar piano was discussed. The soundboard is cracked, out of tune and will be costly to repair. Brad Haas has offered to donate a baby grand piano. Council recommends having Brad's piano checked out and measurements made before accepting. The Lange family who donated our current piano has been made aware of the situation. The worship committee will follow up on progressing forward.
 - ◇ Tech – Jim Beal has upgraded our email to make the storage bigger. Diane replaced the power cord on the audio laptop.
- ⇒ Pastor's report – See report.
- ⇒ Wayne reminded everyone to have their reports in to the office by December 20th.

- ⇒ Pastor will ask the ministerial association if they have a need for any tables.
- ⇒ Synod representatives are needed for 2025.
- ⇒ Connie made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Jeanette seconded, meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

In God's service,

Bob Fraley

News from St. John's Committees

STEWARDSHIP/MISSION MINUTES 12-4-24

The December meeting began at 8:50 a.m. with Mike Hamer, Karol Grandgeorge, Pastor Chris Schoon, and Connie Hamer present. The opening prayer was about our "greatest gift ever" – Jesus!

Connie completed and submitted the following: Safe Passage article, Stewardship annual report, Mission calendar, and Stewardship task calendar.

Michael reported that he had only one request for new offering envelopes and that person agreed to change their giving number, so he did not need to order any new envelopes.

We received a final report on CROP (see report in secretary's notebook). They fund raised \$21,254.02. Of special interest were their combined efforts with Rosati's, Culver's, and Star 34.

Michael's November offering report was as follows: General Fund - \$15,291.09, Capital Fund - \$1,026.44, and LSSI - \$245.95 (total now \$1345.95 with Endowment gift). Karol and Connie will purchase additional gift cards with the funds.

Karol will write the January emphasis article for Outreach and Fel-

lowship/Hospitality committees.

Community Feast – Our turn for hosting the community feast will be Tuesday, February 25th, 2025. We have decided on ham for the main meat, and we will also do the cold salads. Those foods will be made on site. We will be contacting Phyllis Whitehead (UCC Sandwich) and Marilyn Wouda (Salem Lutheran of Sandwich) as to their involvement. A small committee will meet on Wednesday, January 8th at 10:00 a.m. to discuss details such as warming appliances for hot dishes, set-up, etc. We will apply for the temporary DeKalb County Food Establishment permit at the end of January.

LWR update: Another roll of diaper flannel was purchased.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. by praying The Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8th at 8:45 a.m.



Reading Buddies

Tuesday, January 28

Sign up in the Welcome Center to read with Wendy Merkel's kindergarten class.



Please plan to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, January 26th.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 12-4-24

Members present: Pastor Chris, Toni Lundeen, Cindy Karp, Lois Spizziri and Julie Horsch

Meeting opened with prayer at 1:02 pm

Check with Diane to see if pointsettias have been ordered.

Adam and Erin Killey will be playing trumpets for the Christmas Eve service and Jessica Ortega will be the accompanist. Her family will provide special music.

The baby grand piano offered to us by Brad Haas is in discussion with the council.

For the worship services on December 15th (children's Christmas program) and Christmas Eve, the silver trays for communion will be used instead of the tables for space and aesthetics.

The liturgy setting will be changed for Lent starting March 5th.

The meeting closed with prayer at 1:18.





New Year's Blessing

**The eighth day of Christmas,
the eighth day of Creation,
the Next New Day,
New Year's Day.**

**May every day be a new year's day for you:
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,
to start again.**

May you take courage to begin anew. ...

**As you let go of the year past,
may you ... in your free fall find yourself held
by an eternal love that has come ages to be with you,
and will carry you all the way to the end. ...**

**Every day may you trust your belovedness,
your freedom from having to prove yourself,
and receive the grace that is given to you.**

May this year be a year of grace and hope.



When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?

- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days
- D. 7 days

Answer: (See Luke 2:46.)

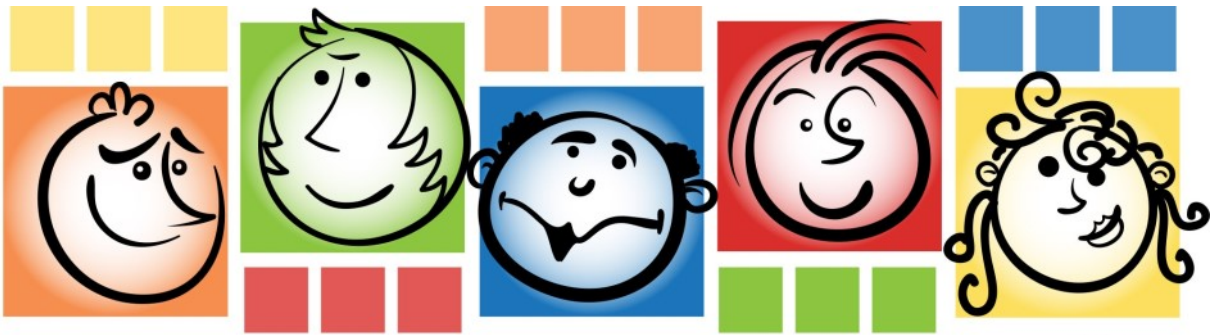


MLK on what really matters

Exactly two months before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. preached his final sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. On February 4, 1968, the civil-rights icon spoke about how he wanted to be remembered at his funeral. He preferred that people recall not his education or achievements but that he “tried to give his life serving others” and “tried to love somebody.”

Adapting a 1952 homily by J. Wallace Hamilton, King decried the “drum major instinct — a desire to be out front, a desire to lead the parade.” Humans often want to be great and first, as evidenced by the disciples James and John requesting prime seats in paradise. But King urged listeners to focus on the “reordered priorities” of Jesus, who wants us to “be first in love.”

As Jesus showed, “everybody can serve,” King said. Your background or status doesn’t matter, as long as you have “a heart full of grace” and “a soul generated by love.”



MEETING

MOG Committee

7:00 pm Tuesday, January 7



Stewardship Committee

8:45am Wednesday, January 8



Property Committee

10am Wednesday, January 8



Fellowship & Hospitality

10:30am Wednesday, January 8



Worship Committee

1:00pm Wednesday, January 8



Church Council

10:45am Sunday, January 12



Rebekah Circle Meeting

1:00pm Thursday, January 16



Altar Guild

6:30pm Tuesday, February 18



Endowment Committee

6:30 pm Tuesday, March 4





JANUARY

birthdays

Doug Stahl 01/02

Stephen Kossak 01/03

Kyle Reuter 01/03

Charles Hoepe 01/03

Alexander Shoener 01/03

Neil Miller 01/07

Addyson Barnes 01/07

JoAnn Fox 01/10

Martha Johnson 01/11

Dale Robinson 01/14

Caitlyn Norris 01/21

Marilyn Abbott 01/24

Crystal Pyle 01/25

Keith Larson 01/27

Nancy Gletty-Olson 01/27

Steven Vermeland 01/27

Kelly Denault 01/28

Sharon Goode 01/29

Vanessa Pyle 01/30

Kirk Schmitt 01/31



JANUARY

anniversaries

Michael & Nancy Maroscia 01/06

Lee & Gerry Gehrke 01/24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<h1>January</h1> <h1>2025</h1>			1
5 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship	6	7 7:00 PM MOG MEETING	8 8:45am Stewardship Mtg. 10:00am Property Mtg. 10:30am Fellowship & Hospitality Mtg. 1:00pm Worship Mtg. 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
12 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship 10:45am Church Council Meeting	13	14	15 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
19 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45 Worship w/Noisy Offering	20	21 <i>LWR Workday</i> 9:30am-3pm 7pm-9pm Northern IL Food Bank 9-11:30 am	22 <i>LWR Workday</i> 9am-3pm 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem
26 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Adult Forum 9:45am Worship Annual Meeting after worship	27	28 10:00am Reading Buddies	29 6:30pm Confirmation @ Salem

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4 5:00pm Worship Chili Supper and Games after worship
	9 9:00am Bible Study	10	11 5:00pm Worship
	16 9:00am Bible Study <i>1:00pm Rebekah Circle</i>	17	18 5:00pm Worship
	23 9:00am Bible Study	24	25 5:00pm Worship
	30 9:00am Bible Study	31	



The Parents Corner

A snowfall in the city has a brief moment of beauty and then it's a slushy mess. But not for me. I lived across the street from a city park. When I was small, that park was surrounded by a tall steel fence with vertical bars topped by points, so my view was of trees frosted with snow. Decorative, massive gates were at each corner of the grounds and were locked at 8 o'clock each evening. I was constrained. Then the Second World War began. All that steel was needed for the war and I now had free access to "my" park.

I could now enter the park anyplace, anytime. I went through the perimeter of woods and viewed acres of fresh, new snow. The park benches were pillowed in white, and everything sparkled with soft lamplight. Traffic noises were hushed as if far away. It was beautiful and fresh and new. My heart calmed and was filled with quiet joy.

As I celebrate the hopeful promise of a new year, I relive that quiet joy. And, as I greet each new day, I find joy in the new life Jesus has given me. I invite you and yours to celebrate each new day, too.

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.

Newsletter of St. John's Lutheran Church
January 2025

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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