

# The Beacon

December, 2021



## "A Christmas Message"

Christmas holds the mystery  
Of how God touched the earth  
By giving us the Christ child  
In a newborn baby's birth.

Great awe was in young Mary's heart,  
And in the shepherds' pace  
As they ran quickly to the town  
And found that special place.

These humble shepherds knelt before  
This tiny newborn king;  
And as they did so, they could hear  
The lovely angels sing:

"Fear not, for unto you this day,  
The Prince of Peace has come  
To share God's love throughout the world.  
Rejoice now, everyone!"

St. John's Lutheran Church—Sherburn, Minnesota

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Pastor: Rev. Steven D. Wilson (507)236-1181

Vicar: Mr. Jeff Hagen (507)236-3114

*From the  
Pastor*



## Indwelling of God

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:4-6

Over the years of being a pastor who represents Christ both within the church and within the community I have discovered something uniquely wonderful about prayer and praying. One of the discoveries I have made in prayer is that the closer we come to God, the closer we come to all our brothers and sisters in the human family.

Here at St. John's we have and continue to pray for our brothers and sisters who are experiencing good times and bad times. The good times might include a birth of a child, baptism, confirmations, weddings, wedding anniversaries and other celebrations in life. The bad times can include difficult times such as loss of home, sickness, cancer, aging, dying, and death that bring about suffering and much grief.

**LOVE**  
**YOUR** *neighbor*  
**AS YOURSELF.**  
*Mark 12:31*

When we pray to God on behalf of our brothers and sisters it as though we are united with them in the body of Christ and the Spirit draws us in love and compassion for one another. We may not even know the person or persons that we are praying for, but God does. In all we are assured that God listens and answers our prayers in His way and according to His will. God commands us to love our neighbor as we love Him. One of the ways we love our neighbor is to pray for them in time of celebration and in time of need. Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

God is not a private God. The God who dwells in our inner sanctuary is also the God who dwells in the inner sanctuary of each human being. As we recognize God's presence in our own hearts, we can also recognize His presence in the hearts of others, because the God who has chosen us as a dwelling place gives us the eyes to see the God who dwells in others.

On Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, we entered into a New Year in the church with the season of Advent. A time to watch and prepare for Christ's coming to us in both the human flesh as a baby boy born in Bethlehem centuries ago and when He comes again as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Please come and join with us this Advent and Christmas season as we explore God's many gifts of love, hope, joy and peace through the birth of Jesus and as we await His return.

Jesus is Coming! Let's be Ready!

Pastor Steve



Prepare Ye  
the Way  
of the Lord





# *December Events*

Jr. High Food.Fun.Faith

Wednesday, December 1 @ 1:45 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, December 5 from 8:30 a.m.—12:00 Noon

LWML Guest Day

Wednesday, December 8 @ 2:00 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 15 @ 6:00 p.m.

Soup & Sandwich Supper @ 6:45 p.m.

Sr. High Food.Fun.Faith

Wednesday, December 22 @ 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Family Service

Friday, December 24 @ 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, December 24 @ 9:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship

Sunday, December 26—One Service @ 9:00



## **What Child Is This?**

*Sunday School  
Christmas Program  
Wednesday, December 15  
6:00 p.m.*

*Youth fund raiser supper following program.*

Our Sunday School will share the Christmas Story at their Christmas Program on **Wednesday, December 15, 6:00 p.m.**

Program practice will be on Wednesday night, December 8 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We hope that many of our preschool-6th graders will be able to attend this practice. They are also practicing during part of their Sunday school hour on Sunday mornings.

The youth will serve a soup and sandwich supper following this service. Free will donation for the supper and the money that is collected will go towards their National Youth Gathering trip this coming summer.

## **Christmas Eve Services**

**5:00 p.m. Family Service**

**9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service**



**Poinsettia Orders** will be taken through December 20. The poinsettias will be from Sherburn Nursery. Cost is \$20.00. Please let us know if you are giving them in memory of loved ones so that it can be included in the Christmas bulletins.





# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**St. John's Lutheran  
Sherburn**

**Sunday, December 5**

**8:30 -12:00**

**Free will donation**

**Served by St. John's Youth.**

**Proceeds to go towards the National Youth Gathering Trip.**

## **Reminder to Youth**

We are asking each Youth going on the National Youth Gathering Trip for \$10 to help cover the expenses of the pancake breakfast. You can drop it off at the church office or bring in on Sunday to the pancake breakfast. Make sure to sign up to help with the pancake breakfast on sign up genius. Youth families should have received an email with the sign up genius.

## **Pastoral Visits**

Due to the privacy act, if you are hospitalized and would like a visit from the pastor or to be included in the prayers, you or a family member need to contact Pastor Wilson, Vicar Jeff, or the church office.

## **Parent Meeting**

An informative meeting led by congregation president elect, Ryan Baker and the Board of Elders was held for parents of Sunday school children and Jr. & Sr. High youth on Sunday, November 28. This meeting will be offered again on **Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30**. If you were unable to attend on Sunday, please make sure to attend this meeting on Wednesday. Your input is important!



## **LWML Minutes November 10, 2021**

Meeting was called to order by vice president, Judy Hybbert.

Vicar Jeff Hagen gave a devotion from Lutheran Witness based on Proverbs 31.

Secretary's report was read and approved. Treasurer Mary Swanson gave the report that was placed on file. The check Dr. Lepird returned will go in the treasury. Diane Nelson reported on grocery receipts.

Mary Swanson will send a \$25 gift card to servicemen.

Connie Markquart made a motion that we send cards to our shut-ins. Seconded by Karen Brolsma. Motion passed.

Judy Hybbert presented the ballot for officers: vice president—Judy Hybbert; treasurer—Marlene Stueven; LWML board—Mary Lange; zone delegate—Diane Nelson. Motion to cast a unanimous ballot for candidates. Seconded by Marlys Kahler. Motion passed.

Diane Nelson made a motion that we have Guest Day on December 8. Seven people will bring nativity sets. Sally Yahnke will decorate the tables. Four group chairmen will decide what we will serve. Lois Ziemer made a motion to have Karis Hagen speak for guest day. Seconded by Mary Swanson. Motion carried. Diane will make coffee.

Vice president Judy read about Thirst and Learn: Bible books for Africa's Children, Lutheran Heritage. Mites were collected and purple stockings offering.

Birthday song was sung for Marlene Stueven, Mary Lange, and Mary Swanson. Motion was made to adjourn by Diane Nelson. Seconded by Marlys Kahler. LWML Pledge was said. We prayed the Lord's Prayer and table prayer. Lunch was served by Connie Markquart.

~Lois Ziemer, Secretary



## **LWML Guest Day**

**Wednesday  
December 8**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Program:** Karis Hagen will speak on experiences of growing up as a missionary's child in Africa.

**Dessert lunch to be served.**

**Join us as we share the Joy of Christmas!**





## Choir Practice

There have been some requests to see if we could get a choir together to sing this month and especially for the Christmas Eve service(s). We are asking all former choir members, along with anyone else who enjoys singing with others to come together this Christmas! There will be a practice scheduled for Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary to see if we can "dust off" some past Christmas service favorites and warm up our voices. We also have set up practices for the 15th after the soup & sandwich supper and again on the 22nd at 6:30. Let's brighten up everyone's Advent and Christmas with song! Hope to see you there!!

### Giving Tree



The MCW Elementary is in need of water-proof mittens and gloves and dark sweat pants sizes 4T to 10. Items can be left at the church through the month of December.

**Church Events Cancellations:** Please listen to the following radio stations and also check your emails for cancellations of church events

**Fairmont**

**KSUM 1370 AM and 106.5 Lakes FM**

**Blue Earth**

**KJLY 104.5 FM**

**Jackson**

**KKOJ 1190 AM and KRAQ 105.7 FM**

You can also check the church website & Facebook

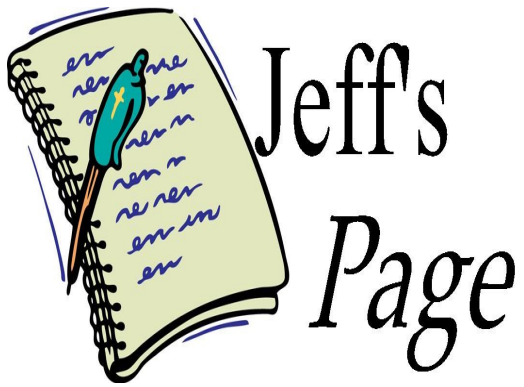
**Website:** [sjlsherburn.com](http://sjlsherburn.com)

**Facebook:** [stjohnslutheransherburnmn](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheransherburnmn)

### Mission Central Tour

We have the opportunity to tour Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa. The tour will be Tuesday, December 28. We will leave the church at 7:00 a.m. and arrive at Mission Central around 10:15. Gary Thies has promised us a great meal served by the volunteers at Mission Central and a special program at 1:00. We will depart Mission Central about 3:00 and return home around 5:30. Bus reservations are limited to the first 54 people who sign up. Sign up sheets are located in the front entry or you can call the church office. An anonymous donor has graciously donated the cost of renting a motor coach bus—Thank you!





## **"And He shall be their peace" Micah 5:5**

Peace. When you read and speak this word, it seems to have a calming affect on you, doesn't it? You hear this word when people speak of peace at Christmas. Conflicts and expressions of hatred seem out of place during the season of Advent and Christmas. Instead many of us see peace as expressions of love and compassion, hope, joy and singing during this time of families gathering together and exchanging gifts to each other.

We look forward to Christmas and then we feel down when it passes, because this season provides us a needed rest from daily stress in our lives. This peace that we hold close to us at Christmas provides us strength to deal with our daily struggles and suppresses our fear of death.

Micah, who wrote the verse that is quoted above, wrote his bible passages around 700 years before Jesus was born. He prophesied to the people of Israel the time when the Lord will gather His faithful people and reign over them as King. At the time when he wrote this, God's people were facing invasion by a foreign army. God reminded His people that they had sinned and turned away from His will and His love, that they had neglected to worship Him alone and love their neighbor. The strife they faced was not only the result of foreign invasion, but also the result of their own sin. It isn't surprising that what he wrote mirrors very much our present-day society, is it?

Today we face struggles from the evil and hatred all around us. We also face the reality of our own sin and its consequences, including death. We ruin relationships, we fail to love others as God commands us to do, we often leave people hurt from their interactions with us. These all result from our own imperfect lives and remind us that we are broken. The world presses in on us and it causes us anxiety and fear.

Micah's Old Testament promise is the same for you today. Peace is found in the one sent by God to be the Savior. His name is Jesus, and He is God's own Son in human flesh. His death and resurrection paid for all sin and earned eternal life for all who believe in Him. Jesus' love gives peace to all who trust in Him. Christmas is the time of peace and joy, singing and laughing, all because of Jesus. This is the Good News of the Gospel and the TRUE MEANING of Christmas.

You have many opportunities to experience peace, joy, love, singing and fellowship during this Advent and Christmas season. The St. John's Sunday school children will present their Christmas program on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will also have our Christmas Eve worship services at 5:00 p.m. for the Family Service and at 9:00 p.m. for the Candlelight Service. You also are invited to worship with us each Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. for worship. Please join us for fellowship, together in person, at St. John's. We invite those who normally watch our services online to participate in-person in fellowship together, experiencing the peace that only God can give us.

From both Karis and I – we pray for God's blessings to be upon all of you and that you truly receive the peace that surpasses all understanding, keeping your heart and mind in Christ Jesus not only during this season, but all year 'round.

May God bless you, watch over you, protect you, and guide you as we come together in person to worship, have fellowship and receive peace from our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Vicar Jeff*







### A Successful Shoe Box Pack!

On Saturday, November 20, a group of people, both young and old, gathered to help with the Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" shoe-box packing event. The fireplace room was packed with items to be placed into the shoeboxes, including boys and girls items (ages 3 to 14), school supplies, personal hygiene items, books, games and toys, and even some "WOW" items. The group busily packed a total of 114 shoeboxes for this event and marked each box as going to either a boy or girl along with the age group that it was intended for.

The boxes were then transported to Evangelical Covenant Church in Trimont, where they were placed into larger boxes that were transported last week to Worthington and from there on to Omaha, Nebraska. Once all the boxes are inventoried, they will be shipped out throughout the world for distribution through Samaritan's Purse. Thank you to all who donated items! Many thanks to the adults and youth that helped pack boxes: Ky-lar Larson, Bailey Larson, Taylor Hughes, KayLea Truesdell, Cody Potts, Kelly & Kiley Bettin, Macie & Nolan Kneeland, Molly, Cooper & Ruby Roben, Darren & Londyn Thate, Sheri Markquart, and Jeff & Karis Hagen.

### Fall Service Day Event

Great turnout.....this event had requests for help from Ceylon, Sherburn and Trimont area families!

A huge thank you for doing the yard work at my home. This help was very much appreciated, as I was out of town and the leaves continued to fall. We are so blessed to have members—adults and youth who are willing to help others.  
~Lynne Mulso

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SERVE  
SERVING TOGETHER

What a  
great  
turnout for  
our fall  
service  
day!



## Sr. High FOOD.FUN.FAITH. ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER



The youth have started their envelope fundraiser! The board is located in the hallway by the coat rack. Thank you to those who have already participated in this fundraiser. Your support for the youth is greatly appreciated!



### Confirmation Class Time

Due to early dismissal at MCW on December 1, confirmation instruction will be 12:30—1:45 p.m. Fairmont students, Vicar Jeff will provide classroom studies to be completed by the following week.



### Jr. High FFF Event

Jr. High FFF activity will take place on the 1st following confirmation class. The Jr. high youth are invited to take part in a fun activity, great food and words of faith. Activities should wrap up around 4:00, so parents can make arrangements to pick up their children.

Thank you to Tiffany Waldee for leading the group activity.



Several of our youth enjoyed the November bowling.



### Thank You!!!

The youth would like to thank the MN South Lutheran Laymen's League for their gift of \$1,000.00 given to the St. John's youth program. Many, many thanks!

## Youth NEWS AND EVENTS



Thank you to all who ordered items from our Christmas Greens Fundraiser. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to Sherburn Nursery for their involvement in our youth in helping ordering the wreaths, porch pots, etc. for us.



**Sr. High Food Fun Faith**

**Wednesday, December 22  
6:00 p.m. or when you can make it.**

**Decorate Christmas Cookies!!!**

If any member of the congregation would like to make cut out cookies (not decorated) for this youth event please contact Connie Markquart at 507-848-0601.



### Christmas Social

The LWML at St. Paul's Wilbert is happy to invite others to join them this year for their annual Christmas Social on December 9 at 1:30 p.m. After a short program there will be an opportunity to purchase craft and bake sale items to help the Wilbert LWML fund their mission projects. There will be a small lunch available.



### Thank You

Words cannot express our deep appreciation to all who remembered us with kind words, cards, prayers, food and memorials given in memory of my mother Leona VanHove. A sincere thank you to our St. John's family. ~Pastor Steve & Bonnie Wilson, Jessica Kaurich and Thomas Wilson

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The LWML would like to thank everyone who attended the Fall Festival and supported us. Donations raised will help support a seminary student.

A special thank you to those who helped with set up and clean up, furnished salad and desserts, prepared food, and helped in the kitchen and dining area and other areas.

It was great to have our youth help with the serving: Kylar Larson, Paige Anderson, Evan Roben, Harrison Rathman, Jake Clarke, Sydney Beseke, Cade Williamson, Josh Roben, Lucas Larson, Brenan Ringnell and Macie Kneeland.

### Hy-Vee & Fareway Receipts

The LWML would like to thank you for saving the receipts from Fareway and Hy-Vee. Hy-Vee also accepts gas and prescription receipts as well.

	HyVee Goal	FareWay Goal
150,000		
140,000		
130,000		
120,000		
110,000	117,732.01	
100,000		\$100,477.12
90,000		
80,000		
70,000		
60,000		
50,000		
40,000		
30,000		
20,000		
10,000		
0		



*Wishing you a Joyful Christmas Season  
Many blessings to you and your family  
as we remember and rejoice  
in our Savior's birth.*

*~The Staff at St. John's Lutheran*



# Savior

## The Savior's gift

*"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior" (Isaiah 43:2-3a).*

**Savior.** That is a word in which we in the Church have so often taken great comfort. We love to talk about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! And we should. We have much to be thankful for in the person and work of Jesus. We should shout it from the rooftop!

But, when was the last time you contemplated the word "Savior"? To say that Jesus is your Savior is also saying something about you. It shows your weakness. To say that Jesus is your Savior means that you are confessing that you can't save yourself.

This flies in the face of what we have been saying since we were three-years-old. We always want to do things ourselves. The child wants to be independent. The youth can't wait to leave home and be independent. The senior citizen does whatever can be done to be as independent from God's rules. The sinful steward often wants to get by with giving as little credit and stewardship as possible to the Lord! But all of these strivings for independence usually end badly! What a mess we can make of our lives at times. We are overwhelmed, consumed and drowned.

But Jesus IS our Savior. All those times we have tried to be independent of Him, He has been right there to catch us when we have fallen. When we have hoarded, He has been generous with His grace. When we have claimed ownership of that which is His and deserved death in the process, He has been there to save us and give us life! He is our Savior! Of that we can be thankful every day!

We are called then to be stewards of this Savior. We serve and live for Him every day. Our lives, and all our possessions, belong to Him. They are to be used for His glory every day! We are saved in Him. In Him we have life!

### **Prayer**

Lord of promise, You are there for us to save us from ourselves every day. Save us again this day from ungratefulness, selfishness and unfaithful stewardship of all we are and all we have. Save us so that we in turn can be used by You to save others. Amen.

## December Birthdays

- 1 Robert Anderson  
Whitney Hanson  
Cody Potts  
Madison Thate
- 2 Lisa Rienhardt
- 3 Ryan Kahler  
Judy Kleine  
Barret Olson  
Tracie Schumann
- 4 Sway Buchmeier  
Jason Dorschner  
Dan Meyer
- 5 David Klug
- 6 Mavis Morris  
Dylan Peters  
Carol Scheff  
Damon Vanden Berg
- 7 Gwen Lingle
- 8 Liz Fisher
- 9 Renee Amis  
Greg Jacobsen
- 10 Chelsea Brolsma
- 11 Payten Crosby  
Makaylee Freking
- 12 Marvin Garbers  
Andy Nolte  
Gordy Preuss
- 13 Renee Amborn  
Mary Swanson
- 14 Kari Brolsma  
Jodi Schermerhorn  
Mitchell Wallerstedt
- 15 Gabriella Anderson  
Braelynn Spark
- 16 Skyler Kennedy  
Myrna Peters  
Charlie Reigel  
Sierra Williamson
- 17 Kyle Steffen
- 18 Arron Hecker
- 19 Florine Brolsma  
Nora Fitzgerald  
Lori Groshens  
Logan Kosbab  
Cooper Stanton
- 20 Danielle Thate



- 21 Dennis Finke  
Mary Lange  
Terri Stahn  
Jackie Tow  
Madasin Whitehead
- 23 Abby Gibson  
Dustin Thate
- 24 Nicole Behrens  
Ray Brolsma  
Kathy Christensen
- 25 Dianne Beseke  
Tom Davis  
Nate Janssen  
Bonnie Wilson
- 26 Pat Bettin  
Matt Janssen  
Nolan Kneeland  
Don Ziemer
- 27 Ann Jacobsen  
Kia Ringnell  
Jake Ross  
Linda Thate
- 28 Amy Ballard  
Tony Connors  
Lona Larson  
Kasey Ziemer
- 29 Mary Kay Schultz  
Corbyn Sinn  
Stacie Vonderharr
- 30 Adeline Gabrielson  
CeAnn Klug  
Rebecca Knaak  
Malaki Runkle
- 31 Riley Cole  
Jocelyn Lange  
Todd Smith

## December Anniversaries

- 1 Dave & Louise Janssen
- 4 Steve & Darla Runge
- 10 Chad & Mandi Kosbab  
Matt & Jennifer Madden
- 14 Vern & Mary Swanson
- 19 Dick & Shirley Brolsma
- 20 Paul & Marlene Stueven
- 21 Kent & Erin Meyers
- 22 Gary & Ann Jacobsen
- 27 Karl & Deb Olson
- 28 Glen & Betty Nordhausen
- 30 John & Doreen Burmeister
- 30 Justin & Jill Williamson

### November Attendance

November 7: 192

November 14: 157

November 21: 174

Thanksgiving November 24: 64

November 28: 188





## **PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 10, 2021**

President Paul Stueven called the Planning Council Meeting to order and 6:00 pm.

Present at the meeting: Pastor Wilson, Vicar Jeff Hagen (Board of Education); Paul Stueven (President); Robb Larson (Vice-President); Dennis Larson (Board of Elders); Marlene Stueven (Board of Stewards); Lana Morris (Board of Parish Services); Sheri Markquart (Technology and Youth Committees); Jeff Markquart (Board of Trustees); Mary Whitehead (Treasurer). Pastor Wilson opened with a short devotion and prayer.

### **Secretary's Reports**

The minutes of the October 24 voters meeting were reviewed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mary Whitehead will be lining up an audit committee to go over the church financials at the beginning of next year, so the report is ready for the January voters meeting.

### **Pastor's Report**

There have been a number of funerals in recent weeks and providing the counsel that goes with the grief process. Pastor and Vicar have been performing the janitorial duties at the church for the past 6 weeks.

### **Vicar's Report**

Vicar will be starting his next semester of classes soon.

### **Board of Elders – Dennis Larson**

The Elders have not met recently. The hiring of a Director of Christian Education was discussed, and the Elders have been given permission from the congregation to start exploring this project.

### **Board of Education – Vicar Hagen**

Stephanie Kneeland has put together the Sunday School Christmas program. The budget overages were questioned.

### **Technology Committee - Sheri Markquart**

The new sound boards, microphones and music stands will be here on November 19. We are waiting for additional equipment to come before everything is completed.

### **Communication Committee - Sheri Markquart**

It has been found that the church is missing email addresses and other contact information for many of our church members. We discussed how to obtain the contact information we need and also to find out what is the preferred method of communication with our members. Some prefer texts over emails, and some prefer paper. We may need to call these individuals to find their preference.

### **Youth Committee - Sheri Markquart**

We have 38 youth and 7 chaperones committed to attending the National Youth Gathering in Houston in July of 2022. After trimming the proposed budget, the group is estimating the cost to be around \$65,000. So far, the youth have raised around \$41,000. The committee is planning to do the following fundraisers in order to fill out their budget needs:

Selling wreaths	Flamingo fund raiser
Envelope fundraiser	Easter Breakfast
Pancake breakfast – Dec 5	Ash Wednesday Supper
Valentine meal/pie auction– Feb 13	Sponsor a child

Motion made and seconded to approve fundraiser list. Motion carried.

### **Board of Trustees – Jeff Markquart**

The board hired Jill Swanson to be the janitor for our church. She will be starting this week. It was suggested that the Trustees review the insurance policy for the church to be sure the new equipment is covered and that the old equipment has been removed.

### **Board of Parish Services - Lana Morris**

The Board will decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday November 27. Everyone is welcome to help.

### **Board of Stewardship - Marlene Stueven**

Reminder about the Mission Festival/Harvest Dinner on November 21. Disappointed in the poor response (29) to the Time and Talents Survey. Had a request to put a category for Youth and other items in the giving portal on the website.

### **Open Discussion**

All boards are encouraged to start working on their budgets for 2022.

The next Planning Council meeting will be held on December 7, 2021.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Motion carried.

Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Stueven, Acting Secretary



Emails are sent each week from the church. Our newsletters are also sent out the end of each month. If you are not receiving these emails, please check your junk email boxes and see if they have landed there. It is also possible that we may not have your email address or a current email address, please send it to us at [church@sjlsherburn.com](mailto:church@sjlsherburn.com)

THANKS!



St. John's Lutheran Church

317 South Main Street

P.O. BOX 760

Sherburn, Minnesota 56171

### **The Lutheran Hour**

Radio Broadcast: KSUM, Fairmont 1370 AM—Sundays @ 11:00 a.m.

December 5 **"Because We Belong"** Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The world tells us we must be useful in order to belong, but that's not how God sees us. (Luke 1:5-25)

December 12 **"When You're Expecting"** Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The season of Advent is about living in the middle of a story that is still unfolding, between what is already and what is yet to come. (Luke 1:20-80)

December 19 **"Charlie Brown Christmas Tree"** Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The drama surrounding the first airing of "The Charlie Brown Christmas Special" 56 years ago, against all odds, it gave viewers the true story of Christmas and doomed aluminum Christmas trees to near extinction. (Luke 2:1-15)

December 26 **"Rite of Passage"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Luke 2:21-40)