



The *GOOD NEWS*

To provide hope by Reaching out and Connecting people to Jesus through the Holy Spirit and Encouraging them to share the same Good News.

December 2023

FROM PASTOR BREWER

Probably the simplest way to describe the month of December is the word expectation. December is filled with expectations by young and old. Expectations of gifts under the Christmas tree for the young, building to the point that the last few days before Christmas are almost unbearable for them and their parents who hear them begging to open at least one gift. Expectations to see family for many of the old, where December is a joyous time when children and grandchildren come home one of the few times each year to crowd together in their home again and celebrate the days gone by. But December is a month of expectation for a very different reason also, the season of Advent.

The expectation we feel in Advent is highlighted by Isaiah the prophet in chapter 9:2-6, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

And 40:3-5, "A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Worship With Us!

St. John Lutheran Church
Pastor Carl Brewer
Pastor Craig VanPay

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
700 Heritage Road Luxemburg, WI
Ph: (920) 845-5250
Email: secretary@stjohnlux.com
www.stjohnlux.com

Pastor Carl Brewer

Cell: 920-536-1041

Email: Pastorbrewer@stjohnlux.com

Pastor Craig VanPay

Cell: 920-255-3267

Email: Pastorvanpay@stjohnlux.com

Worship Schedule

LIFE Hour

Sunday 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Worship Services

Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Holy Communion is served each week

The live stream of the 8am service can be found on the St John Lutheran Church Facebook page.



And 12:2-6, Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense ; he has become my salvation.” With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: “Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

But the greatest example of the expectation in Advent comes from Mary the mother of our Lord who says in Luke 1:46-55, And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

*The last sentence captures the heart of the meaning of Advent, “He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, **just as he promised our ancestors.**” As God has kept His promises in the past, so He will keep His promises for the future. As Jesus fulfilled the promise of the Messiah that would come to restore God’s people from the destruction that sin, death and the devil had wrought upon them, so will Jesus come again to finally put all things in subjection under Himself and recreate a new heaven and earth where there will be no more sin, death and the devil. Advent is a season of preparation that uses expectation to prepare us for the Savior that not only has come and fulfilled God’s promise to us, but will come again to bring it all to completion.*

On a completely different note I wanted to circle back to my newsletter article from last month and remind you of the changes coming in the new year with ChurchConnect. We are rolling out another option for communication and information for the congregation called ChurchConnect. This app will also be how online giving will be done starting January 1, 2024. You will need to log in to Vanco, our current online giving provider and have your offerings stop at the end of 2023. And then set up your new online giving through the ChurchConnect app with Swipe.

In order to utilize ChurchConnect you will need to set up a user account in it. You can go to <https://stjohnlux.churchtrac.com/sign-in> and click on the **Create An Account** button to create your account. Your information is already in the ChurchTrac database system and will be associated with the login you create. You can update your information as needed from there.





Sunday, December 17

8:00 am & 10:30 am
Worship Service
9:00 – 10:15 Christmas
Program Practice
4:30 pm Children's
Christmas Program

Monday, December 18

7:30 Worship Service

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24
No LIFE Hour
Services at 1:00 pm, 4:00
pm, and 7:00 pm

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25
9:00 am Worship Service

Wednesday, December 27

No Confirmation Class or
High School Youth Group

New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31
No LIFE Hour
8:30 am & 10:30 am
Worship Service

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1
7:30 pm Worship Service

Wednesday, January 3

No Confirmation Class or
High School Youth Group



member spotlight

Matt & Courtney Schmidt and Hadley

Matt & Courtney are Algoma natives, having moved to Luxemburg just over two years ago. After their initial meeting in 3rd and 4th grade, they finally got married last July and welcomed their daughter, Hadley, this August.

Matt has been employed at Precision Machine as a CNC Machinist for the past decade.

Courtney recently started a new role as Algoma's High School Counselor.

A few of their favorite activities these days include spending time with family and friends, changing lots of diapers, and attending live music events.

Please introduce yourself and welcome Matt & Courtney and little Hadley the next time you see them!



News & Events

Mark your calendars – the Children's Christmas Program will take place on December 17 at 4:30 pm. Christmas program practices are on Sunday mornings. Children meet each week from 9 – 9:15 am prior to their LIFE Hour class.

Save the date – St John Tubing Night at Winter Park in Kewaunee is scheduled for February 1. This event is for all congregation members. Keep watching the bulletin for more details.

2024 marks St John's 150th Anniversary. As this date approaches, this is a good time to look back and celebrate our congregation's founding, its history, and its ministry to the community. It's also the perfect opportunity for members to get involved with the 150th anniversary advisory committee. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for members interested in helping with this – please put your name, email and phone number on the sheet as a point of contact. Keep watching the bulletin for more information.

Register Today!

Ruby's Pantry

December 9, 2023

St. John Lutheran Church
700 Heritage Rd. Luxemburg WI



Ruby's
PANTRY



*Parking lot opens & In person registration begins at 7:30 a.m.
Food Distribution from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (or earlier if shares are out)*

DRIVE THROUGH DISTRIBUTION | \$25 SHARE DONATION

*Pre-Registration is available until 3pm the day prior to the distribution.
Reserve your shares ahead of time at www.rubyspantry.org
Pre-Registration guarantees your share & you can use a debit or credit card online!*

December will be the final Ruby's distribution here at St. John. The current site leadership is stepping down and we were unable to fill these crucial positions. Ruby's Pantry headquarters is trying to secure another location in the area to take over the distributions. Should they be able to accomplish this goal, they may reach out to you via email. You can always look at their website for another location that would be close to you, www.rubyspantry.org - Just look under the tab "Find a location". Ruby's Pantry gift certificates are good to use at any of the Pop-Up Pantry locations.



Wednesday Youth Night: (Open to post Confirmation (7th & 8th) & High School Youth).

Join in on the fun on Wednesday's @ 6:30pm. We will meet in the fellowship room in the garage where we will start with a bible study and end with games. Upcoming events are scheduled for: December 6th, and December 20th.

"Learn to Play Dart Ball": All are welcome. If you already know how to play and want to join us, that would be great! We will likely spend time learning the game and how to throw, and then divide up and play. This will be in the back garage. Dates: Tuesday, December 5th, and Tuesday, December 12th from 7:00 pm – 8:30/9:00 pm. There will be some snacks, but feel free to bring snacks to share and your own beverages. If there is interest, we will potentially roll this into the creation of some leagues that could involve Dart ball, bean bag (cornhole) toss, and other games for fellowship. In the past we've referred to possibly calling this the "Midwest Olympics League". ☺ Please sign up on the sheet in the church Narthex.

High School Game Night (Open to high school students in 9-12th grade): The next event will be Friday, December 15th from 7pm to 12am. This one will be a little different as we will be having Commando Paintball coming in to set up Laser Tag in the fellowship hall. Laser Tag will run from 7:30 to 11:30, and we will have the other activities set up throughout the other areas of the church. We will also have cookie decorating to make a cookie/cookies for yourself, or to take to give to others. If you'd like a chance to win a prize, please wear an ugly or unique Christmas sweater/outfit. Everyone who does will have their names put into a hat for prize drawings.

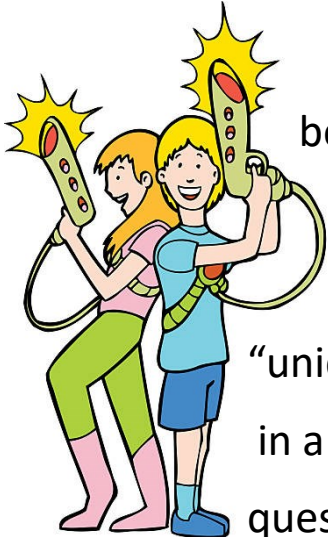


HIGH SCHOOL GAME NIGHT

If you are a
high school student,
we invite you to join us for
“Game Night” at St John Lutheran
Church in Luxemburg, WI

When – Friday, December 15th, 2023, 6:30pm-11:30pm

Where- St. John Lutheran Church, 700 Heritage Rd.,
Luxemburg, WI 54217



Laser tag from 7-11pm. Other activities to include,
bean bag toss, ping pong, card games, board games,
cookie decorating, etc. Food to be served at

8:30pm. Anyone wearing an “ugly” or

“unique” Christmas sweater will be able to put their name
in a hat for a drawing for gift cards. If you have any

questions, please contact pastor Craig Van Pay (via phone

or text) @ (920)255-3267, or contact the church @ stjohnlux@gmail.com
or (920)845-5250. RSVP's are appreciated, but not necessary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Elder Minutes – November 6, 2023

Elders Present: Marv Perleberg,
Zach Lensmire, Gus Schmoll,
Matt Kinnard, Kevin Piesler,
Rich Weinke, David Buntman

Open with Prayer



**Church Council Board
Members are needed**

*See one of the Pastors or a
Council Member for more information*

Transfers In/ New Members:

Name: <i>(include all family member names joining)</i>	Type of Transfer: <i>(Church, New Member Class, Affirmation of Faith)</i>
Tonya Miller	Affirmation of Faith from Peace Lutheran in Green Bay
Dan and Lisa Johnson	New members class from St. Killians in New Franken

Released from Membership: None

Notes:

- Spiritual Care:
 - Marv brought up an issue about Larry and Marylin Warden family Janice mentioned Pastor Brewer did not follow up with them. Pandemic and circumstances let them fall through the cracks. We will need to allow them a peaceful release. Marv is taking care of it.
 - Marv talked with Sue about ChurchTrak
 - They can track how many attend but not how many commune.
 - We can open a ticket to see if that is possible. David will follow up
- Worship:
 - Discussed using Ushers
 - Marv reviewed a list of duties that they could do or have had them do in the past
 - Do we need to have a Lead Usher?
 - Can we get kids and Acolytes to help?

- Service Times
 - Thanksgiving 6pm
 - Will be enough Elders to cover
 - Christmas Eve
 - 1 PM Marv and Rich
 - 4 PM Kevin, Matt
 - 7 PM Gus, Zach ?
 - Christmas Day
 - 9 AM Marv, David
 - New Years Eve
 - 8:00 am Kevin, Marv
 - 10:30 am Matt, David
 - New Year's Day
 - 7:30 pm Rich
- Pastoral Care:
 - Pastors Job description discussion
 - Supplement to the Diploma of Vocation document for Pastor call document/Job Description
 - We have a copy of the call document for Pastor Craig to add to his job description
 - Marv spoke to Ed on Sunday about job descriptions. We need to update Craig's to allow for leeway of duties. The document has been adjusted and sent to Elders
 - Feedback:
 - Pastor Carl
 - Can we make clear the examples.
 - He felt it looked good
 - Call documents supersedes job description
 - Pastor Craig
 - Adjusted name of position to
 - 'Associate Pastor with focus on Youth and Family Ministries'
 - Also added clarity to the examples of duties

Next Meeting: December 4, 2023

Closed with Prayer

Submitted by: David Buntman

Board of Stewardship Meeting - November 6, 2023

Members Present: Debra Heling, Janice Haen, Dana Engelking, Gail Trembl

The meeting was called to order with a short prayer.

Our main discussion was on the fellowship after 8 am service. Donuts have been provided by the BOE, but it is felt that this should be a Stewardship project. We got Janice Krueger on the phone and had a discussion about approximately how much donuts etc. is required weekly. There are sign up sheets if anyone wants to donate items, and for November and December it will be taken care of by BOE, after that Stewardship will take over. It is felt that if anyone wants to donate money toward the purchase of donuts etc. an IGA gift card can be purchased through Script and left in the office or drop box for the Stewardship Committee.

Other things that were discussed were upcoming New Members classes, and letters that are sent to new members.

We are in need of volunteers for greeters before services, and also picked out some templates for Thank You cards to be sent to visitors. Will probably be getting card stock and making our own, this will be discussed further in future months.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Gail Trembl

Board of Education – November 2, 2023 5:30-7:30 pm				
Members Present: Jennifer, Autumn, Janice, Pastor Carl				
Report:	Agenda Item	Strat/Obj	Discussion Notes:	Action steps needed
Coordinator of BOEd: Janice	New BOEd members		Janice and Micole will be going off, need to fill 2 spots for this upcoming year.	
	Annual BOE report		Get that together	
	Fellowship		Communicate with other	

	Snacks		boards to make a plan moving forward	
Confirmation Coordinator: Jennifer	Community Service		Wanting to incorporate in with our youth, not be a requirement, open to confirmation age and up	
LIFE Hour Coordinator: Autumn	Memory Check Help Offering Round 2-where to donate? New Offering Collection Schedule Christmas Ornaments		Janice would be willing to help, will ask teachers if they want to or want BOEd to support Possibly the Casco community closet Nov 5 Janice Nov 12 Jennifer Nov 19 Autumn Nov 25 Marissa Dec 2 Micole Dec 9 Madison Autumn is working on	Autumn will email teachers about the plan Jennifer will reach out to organizer of community closet
Christmas Program/VBS Coordinator: Micole	Updates before Christmas program begins		Working on touching base with Kevin to make sure we are ready for the program	
Misc:	Next Council Date: Meeting Date:		Nov 16th Dec 12th	

Attendees: Abby Hanmann, Heather Derenne, Miriam Hemp, Pastor Carl, Pastor Craig

Guest: Kayla Bosman

Heather opened the meeting with a prayer.

- Discussion on Ruby's Pantry
 - St Louis church, partnering with Ruby's
 - Similar type of ministry that the Evangelism team could look into
 - Potential outreach packaging backpacks, etc:
- College care packages
 - Update on how many students
 - 38 students total
 - Peggy Miesler will give us Thrivent dollars for this
 - Heather - ordered jars for Spiritual vitamins
 - Ordered 60 jars
 - Look at samples of Bible verses to put in jars
 - Chalkboard labels for jars
 - Date/time to put jars together
 - Confirmed on Nov 20th, 5:00pm for putting the jars together
 - Confirmed on Dec 4th, 5:00pm for putting packages together
 - Asked Pastor Craig to put something about spiritual vitamins in his message
- Speaker for 2024/ other ideas to start working on
 - Pastor Brewer would like to have a couples event January or February
 - Offering it as an outreach
 - Advertising for the event, helping serve for this
 - **Potential ladies event in the future**
- Advent by Candlelight
 - Being held on December 7th
 - Any additional help is needed in regards to decorating and setting up the week of
- Pastor Craig Notes:
 - Learn to Play dart ball night
 - This would be the kickoff to Midwest Olympics, Dec. 5th and 12th
 - Starting archery next year and develop into any leagues for future events
 - Turning youth events into more family outreach events to gain more attendance
- Giving Tree updates
 - Abby sent over the final copy for the flyer, along with the "coming soon" flyer
 - Meeting this Wednesday to put the ornaments on
 - Need to confirm with Jenny on list from the County
- Toys for Tots - Matt Joski will drop off box sometime next week. Pick up is December 14th unless we want him to come earlier and meet with kids/or congregation

- Miriam confirmed with Matt to bring the box next week
- Pickup is Thursday, December 14th
- Miriam will update the office on announcements for Toys for Tots

Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Upcoming meeting for December 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by Abby Hanmann

