



# 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.

January 2024

## FROM PASTOR BREWER

January is often thought of as a low key month here in the Northwoods. The big holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas are over and people are trying to recover from them, both in terms of sleep and their wallets, maybe even their waistlines. We have begun a new year. But in terms of the Church Year January is extremely busy. We celebrate two different seasons during January. The Season of Christmas extends into January in the Church, and we celebrate Epiphany.

The season of Christmas, which is so often encapsulated by the passage from Luke 2:8-14, *"<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!'"*

And Epiphany from Matthew 2:1-12, *"<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;*

## Worship With Us!

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
**Pastor Carl Brewer**  
**Pastor Craig VanPay**

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### 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.



<sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

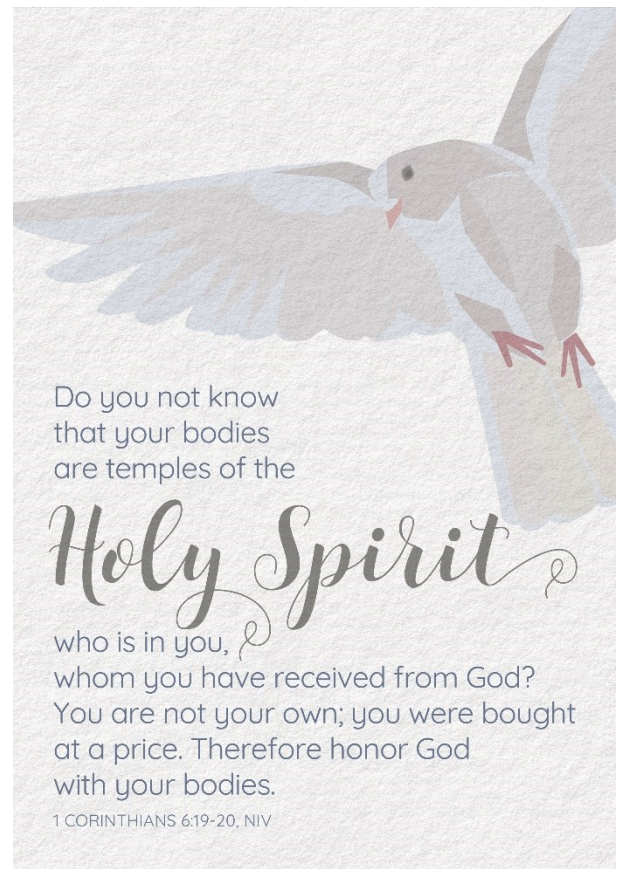
<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way."

While these passages may seem ordinary to you and I because we have heard them so many times over the years, they speak something truly profound. Our righteous God who created the universe and all that is in it, chose to come down in our flesh in the most humble form possible, a baby. He fulfilled the promises of old that said He would do this in order to bring us salvation. He revealed Himself in miraculous ways even in His birth through the virgin birth and the Christmas star that led wise men from a foreign country to seek Him on earth.

Our perfect God who should have brought wrath for the destruction that we brought into the world through original and actual sin, instead came to fix what we had broken, and to be the perfect sacrifice necessary to pay the price for our iniquity. Why? To save us from ourselves, and the things that we cannot save ourselves from; sin, death and the devil.

In the Epiphany season Jesus not only reveals the purpose for why He came into the world, but also the new purpose He has given us for our lives now as His children. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "<sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

Jesus wants to use us who He has called into faith and given salvation to bring Him glory by doing the same for others.



## News & Events

**Who will speak up for the Little Ones?** As we cherish, respect, and honor the sanctity of life, it is important to remember the unborn in our thoughts and prayers. Lakeshore Lutheran's for Life, which comprises of St. John Luxemburg, St. John's in Rankin, and St. Paul's in Montpelier, will be holding special collections throughout January to help children in need. At St. John, we will be collecting clothes and diapers (sized newborn to age 2-3), as well as donations of coins and cash during the weekends of January 21st and 28th. These donations will be given to women's shelters, crisis pregnancy centers, and mothers in need of extra assistance. It is the perfect opportunity to honor the precious gift of life bestowed upon us by our mothers and our Lord Jesus. From January 7th to February 5th, clothes and diaper contributions may be placed in the crib in the Narthex.

**Giving Envelopes:** The 2024 offering envelopes are available in your mailboxes. Everyone is being asked to use the envelopes that have been assigned to them or use the online giving portal located on the [www.stjohnlux.com](http://www.stjohnlux.com) home page (the giving portal will be changing sometime in January – keep watching for more updates). If you didn't receive envelopes and would like some, please contact Jenny DeGrave at (920) 837-7235.

**2024 marks St John's 150<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

**St John Snow Tubing Night** at Winter Park in Kewaunee is scheduled for February 1. This event is open to ALL congregation members. Tubing and fellowship from 6-9pm (weather permitting). Hot dogs will be included, please bring a dish to pass. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



**Wednesday Youth Night:** *(Open to post Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>) & 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: January 3, January 17, and January 31.

**Save the date - High School Game Night** *(Open to high school students in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade):* The next event will be Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7pm to 12am.

**LIFE Hour for Youth:** LIFE Hour offers a variety of programs for youth - adults. For youth, there are a variety of classes for age 2/3 - high school. LIFE Hour is a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow together in Christ. LIFE Hour meets on Sundays from 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Board of Education Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2023

Members Present: Janice, Marissa, Jennifer, Madison, Autumn, Pastor Craig and Pastor Carl

Report:	Agenda Item	Discussion Notes:	Action steps needed
<b>Coordinator of BOEd:</b> Janice	New BOEd members	We will make phone calls to different people to fill spots	Autumn will send the months to Janice
	Annual BOE report	Janice will put a report together	
<b>Confirmation Coordinator:</b>  Jennifer	Community Service Update	Still working on it	
	Acolytes	Find a way to incorporate acolytes into the church service	
<b>LIFE Hour Coordinator:</b> Autumn	New Offering Collection Schedule	Dec 17 Janice Jan 7 Jennifer Jan 14 Autumn Jan 21 Marissa Jan 28 Micole ?? Feb 4 Madison	
	Christmas Ornaments	Autumn will be the 75 bags together	
	LIFE students signing more often in church	Will make a plan to incorporate for future years	
<b>Christmas Program/VBS Coordinator:</b>  Micole			

<b>Additional Education Programs Coordinator:</b>  Marissa	Doughnuts- continue?	We will continue having 125 donuts for each sunday	
	Youth Group	Craig will work on making a schedule for youth church services	
	Community Youth Group Events	Working with area church to bring all local youth together	
<b>Comm. Coordinator:</b> Madison			
Misc:	Next Council Date:	Dec 21	
	Meeting Date:	Jan 4 at 5:30	

### **St John Church Council Meeting – November 30, 2023**

Members present: Pastor Craig VanPay, Edward Trembl, Rob Funk, Brenda Reckelberg, Kevin Piesler, David Buntman, Zach Lensmire, Rich Wienke, Debra Heling, Greg Savage, Dennis Dalebreau, Miriam Hemp, and Heather Derenne.

Ed Trembl called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. Pastor VanPay opened with prayer.

The Minutes from the October meeting were emailed before the meeting. Kevin Piesler moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Greg Savage. Motion passed.

Changes in membership: From Elders report – by Affirmation of Faith – Tonya Miller. New Member class Dan and Lisa Johnson.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- Total Undesignated Contributions -- \$353,750
- Total Church Revenue -- \$383,548
- Total Expenses -- \$289,379
- Total Assets -- \$335,577
- Net Cash Flow -- \$64,371

The Committee reports were emailed. Asked if there were any changes to reports.

- Elders – no changes
- Trustees – discussed contract with Journey's Club. Journey's Club thought St John's was donating the space since 2020 so they have not been paying for the space. Dave Buntman moved to go back with a contract with the Journey's Club for 1 year at \$10 per day. Seconded by Zach Lensmire. Motion carried.
- Stewardship – have a list of people to put on the ballot for the January election to fill the positions coming available. They have picked up cardstock to printout cards for visitors to church services. Also, discussed donuts for Fellowship after services.
- Board of Education – no one was present at the meeting.
- Evangelism -- Giving Tree – had extra names this year. They will use money from Evangelism budget to purchase gifts for the names not taken. College packages are packed and will be sent out soon.
- Pastor Craig's report – Craig discussed Youth event coming up. Also reported on the Archery Ministry for next year and dart ball. Carl and Craig have been tag teaming visits so the shut ins are seeing them every two weeks. He also discussed Christmas eve services.
- Strategic Planning – The Committee has been reviewing the Pastor's and Treasurer's Job Descriptions.

#### Old Business

- 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Scheduled for Sunday November 3, 2024, do we want to change it to Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> so more Pastors can attend.

#### New Business

- Names for January Election – Stewardship has names for the ballot. Evangelism and Elders are working on it. Ed would like them to give him the names for the ballot.
- The Secretary's would like to know if the Boards are still going to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 6 pm for next. The plan is to still meet that day at 6 pm or earlier.
- Electronics Fair – Last year St John sponsored an Electronics Recycling event. We received \$400 from it. Need someone to take it over and coordinated for the future.
- Craig VanPay brought up a Family in Church needs funds to help finish a remodeling project for a son that is in a wheelchair. The collection from the Deer Hunter Service and the Cookie walk are going toward helping them. Could we use money from the emergency assistance fund also to cover what they need.

- Rich Wienke brought up the Andy Barta Legacy Charitable Fund. They will be sending a \$50 gift card for families who are dealing with cancer. Would the church be willing to donate to the fund since a few families from the church will benefit from it.
- Kevin Piesler brought up the option to take Money from the Emergency Assistance line item could be voted on by the Board and Evangelism Board could vote to use money from their line item to help with these items.
- Heather Derenne moved Evangelism to donate \$250 to the Barta Fund. Seconded by Kevin Piesler. Motion carried.
- Heather Derenne moved to donate \$500 from Evangelism to the family in need. Seconded by Kevin Piesler. Motion carried.
- Deb Heiling moved that we give \$1,000 from the Emergency Assistance Fund to the family in need. Zach Lensmire seconded. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be December 21st at 7pm.

Rob Funk moved to adjourned. Seconded by Dennis Dalebreau. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Reckelberg  
Council Secretary

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### **Board of Elders Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2023**

**Elders Present:** Marv Perleberg, David Buntman, Kevin Piesler

**Open with Prayer:** Marv

#### **Transfers In/ New Members:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Type of Transfer:</b>
Blaine Ullman	Transfer in from Christ of the Bay Lutheran
Alex and Amanda Beaurain Children Cameron and Lolitta	Affirmation of Faith From Stevens Point. Married at St Johns 2019, both children baptized at St. John
Mavis Ullman	Transfer in from Christ of the Bay Lutheran

**Released from Membership:** NONE

**Notes:**

Spiritual Care:

Carl explained confirmation is now at 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They are transitioning.

Discussed nomination of Elders

Tim Jergenson was contacted. Would like to see job description before deciding.

Hunter Roop was contacted. He will think it over.

Worship:

Verified worship times

Christmas Eve 1pm, 4pm and 7pm

Christmas Day 9am

New Years Eve 8am, 10:30am

New Years Day 7:30 pm

Pastoral Care:

Discussed with Pastor Carl about job description changes. David will adjust master copies for us to approve.

- Next year Monday night meetings will need to change to 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, later Wednesday or Thursday.
- Confirmation is done through a rotation which helps spread things out.
- Craig and Carl made schedule for next year for themselves and vacations

Carl and Craig have been going through some sickness, but are working through it and covering everything

**Next Meeting: TBD**

**Closed with Prayer**

**Submitted by:** David Buntman

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## **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2023**

Members Present: Pastor Carl Brewer, President Ed Trembl, Kevin VandenBush, Dennis Dalebroux, Greg Savage

- Gas line is in ground, needs to be hooked up.
- Working on Journey's Club contract
- Working on a new motion sensing light for car port – changing to LED.
- Working of fixing leaking gutters
- Sprinkler system tested on 12/6/2023.
  - Ball valves replaced.

Submitted by Kevin VandenBush

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## **Board of Evangelism Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2023**

Attendees: Abby Hanmann, Heather Derenne, Kayla Bosman & Miriam Hemp

Abby opened the meeting with a prayer.

- College care packages
  - Packages put together for college students tonight, December 4
  - Diane DeMeuse and Kayla Bosman helped us
  - 42 spiritual vitamin jars along with treats, sending out to 42 students
  - Miriam spent \$106.69 on treats
    - Part of the \$250. Rest will go towards shipping. Most of packages going in WI will be \$10, out of state will be \$13+
    - All comfort foods included in the boxes
    - Being mailed out tomorrow, December 5 hoping they receive by end of week
- At Thursday council meeting
  - Two donations were made from our budget
    - \$250 for the Andy Barta Foundation
      - They used towards donating hams to cancer patients

- \$500 for a family in the congregation
- \$250 for the 5 kids left on the giving tree and 6 adults
  - Used from budget to take care of kids and families
- Kayla Bosman accepted to be nominated to fill Miriam Hemp's position for the next three years
- 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\*\***
- Craig will have his dart ball meeting held tonight **12/4**
- Advent by Candlelight
  - Being held on December 7th, this Thursday
- Pastor Brewer Notes
  - Heart of Marriage upcoming meeting
    - Video modules
      - Relationships/marriage counseling overview
      - 2023 just released booklets for this course
        - Potential date Jan/Feb/March
        - Next meeting touching base with Neil/Sarah Seering
- Toys for Tots -
  - Pickup is Thursday, December 14th

Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Upcoming meeting for January 8th on: (4:00pm)

Submitted by Abby Hanmann

## Board of Stewardship Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2023

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

We started the meeting with a short prayer. Everyone was present.

Deb brought copies of a letter that will be sent to new members, that have not responded to previous messages. She also had an alphabetical list of new members for approximately the past year, with dates they joined, phone number and address if available, and where they came from.

We have been approached about going with a different company for blood drives, but decided we will stay with the Red Cross, as we alternate with the high school on this, and other blood drives in the area are also done by the Red Cross, this helps to keep the schedule handy for donors.

We will be taking over the donut purchase in January for fellowship between services, and we each took a weekend to be responsible for ordering, delivery etc.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Trembl

