

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

We find ourselves in the opening days of 2021. Often during these days, we reflect upon the past year while planning for the upcoming year. Well, what would we like to remember about the past year—I believe there are actually more things that we would like to forget—or at least put into our past. While we might find all too many negatives about this past year, we should also focus about the good things.

First, by the grace of God, we are still here. If nothing else, this past year should teach us about just how fragile life is—and what a gift health remains for us. We should give thanks for all the health care workers who have toiled under extreme conditions—along with front line workers who served the public diligently. We need to reflect just how much we learned about technology in such a short time—just imagine what this whole ordeal would have been like 10 to 20 years ago without FaceTime or Zoom. We should also give thanks for all the people who worked to produce vaccines in a record-breaking time—a lot of people who worked in the background unnoticed.

This time of year also has me planning for what is next. While everything is still on hold, we can start to make a few plans. Confirmation will begin again on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Lent will soon be here—and I have some ideas for our worship together. We might think about having an early mid-week Lenten worship—along with the one in the later evening. We could also use some people to portray people around the cross—both male and female. Also during Lent, I will gather the parents of the kids looking to receive their first communion—having two classes due to the fact that there was no class last year.

I believe that we will find that both the weeks and months will move past us quickly. Before we know it, we will be thinking about warmer weather—about sunshine and Easter. As children of God, may we find strength to meet the days and weeks ahead in Christ our Lord who has promised to be with us each and every step along the way. Amen.

*Pastor Mike*

St. John's Lutheran Church  
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203 Pearl Street  
Guttenberg, IA 52052

Pastor Michael Ashman  
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[mikepstr64@gmail.com](mailto:mikepstr64@gmail.com)

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[www.stjohnsguttenberg.com](http://www.stjohnsguttenberg.com)  
[stjohnsoffice@alpinecom.net](mailto:stjohnsoffice@alpinecom.net)  
Office Hours: 8am - 1 pm (M-F)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Mary Lou Harbaugh, Mick Pierce, Bill Tielbar, George Harbaugh, Bob & Carla Ferguson, Brayton Kuhse, Donna Pont, Cecil Bahls, Ammi Hugo, Shelby Preston, Joyce Bakken, Merlin Moser, Sid Sickels, Pete Sakas, Tiffany Moser, Bev Aulwes & Randy Astling

**Guttenberg Care Center:** (SJ) Una Bishop, George Harbaugh, Vonnie Bormann, Shirley Moore, Eunice Zearley, (SP), Janice Bahls

**Assisted Living:** (SJ) Joyce Bakken, Arlene Tackman, Shirley Moser

**St. Pt. Lutheran Home:** Neil Morarend

**Edgewood Convalescent Home:** (SJ) Terry Krieg

**Homebound:** (SJ) Bob & Carla Ferguson, Gayle Kahle

**Our condolences to the families of:**

Delos Sadewasser who passed on November 25th, Letha Moser who passed on November 26th, Dave Pont who passed on November 30th and Eunice Walke who passed on December 27th. Because of Covid 19, private family services were held.

**ADOPT A DAY**

How would you like to consider adopting a day(s) and paying for St. John's church utilities for that day(s)? This would be above your regular church giving and would be a huge financial plus for St. John's. You choose the day(s). Why not consider adopting a day for your birthday or that of a family member, or an anniversary of your baptism, wedding or all of them and more? If you would like to adopt a day, just write your information on a piece of paper and enclose it with your payment of \$38 per day.

- Dec. 12            In honor of Jovi Allyn's birthday by Rick & Mary Beth Allyn  
                          In memory of Donald Garlow by Bonnie Garlow  
                          In memory of Janet Moser by Karilyn McArthur
- Jan. 19            In honor of Phyllis & Lawrence Allyn

**JANUARY STEWARDS**

	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Camera</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Jan. 3</b>	Judy Puls Nancy Heitman	Sam Thein	Nancy Heitman
<b>Jan. 10</b>	Judy Puls Nancy Heitman	Lynda Schaefer	Mary Beth Allyn
<b>Jan. 17</b>	Judy Puls Nancy Heitman	Sam Thein	Cindy Niehaus
<b>Jan. 24</b>	Judy Puls Nancy Heitman	Tim Puls	Michele VonHandorf
<b>Jan. 26</b>	Judy Puls Nancy Heitman	Lynda Akers	Lynda Akers

**ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE**

St. John's will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, January 31 immediately following the 10:15 Worship Service. Please mark your calendar for this important date - it's very important to have enough members to meet a quorum so that the budget can be approved for 2021.

## CONFIRMATION!!!

We will resume classes on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. I will have Diane tally up your sermon notes and your worship notes—to give you and your parents some idea where you are. On the first day back, we will do a big review—along with the cards I gave you to study along with some of the prophets. From there we will head into the birth, life and death of Jesus—not only the facts—but also what they mean for us as children of God.



### FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

I am setting up a meeting for all parents on January 18<sup>th</sup> following school—we might have a couple of sessions to get everyone oriented—we will set up days for the classes plus set a date(s) for your child's first communion. I will have the kids create their own first communion chalice during class—and maybe another activity to make the class memorable.



### BIBLE STUDY

Pastor will have a study of John's gospel beginning on January 21st @ 1:00 pm.

### CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

#### FOOD PANTRY

In memory of:

- Joe & Virginia Meissen and Herman & Shirley Benskin by Jack & Linda Benskin
- Cornelius Tuecke, Broghild Tuecke & Richard Entwistle by Craig & Kari Tuecke
- Robert & Addie Radabaugh and Lloyd & Ivanelle Harbaugh by Elmer & Sharon Radabaugh
- Wayne Lau, Merrill & Vince & Helen Hogan and Adele Lau by Carol Lau
- Kenneth & Bob Walke by Joan Walke
- Jim Schilling & Zach Lee by Diane Schilling
- Elmer, Rhett & Rillian Ashman by Pastor Mike & Vera
- Virgil & Christina Niehaus and Burton & Margie Schlein by Jerry, Cindy & Carrie Niehaus
- Donna & Delos Sadewasser and our parents by Joan Sadewasser

In honor of:

- \* Eunice Walke by Joan Walke
- \* Don, Tom, Julie Jo & Jim Sadewasser by Joan Sadewasser



### MID-WEEK LENT SERVICE

Pastor is beginning to look at Lent—outrageous, I know. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17<sup>th</sup>. I am considering having two worship services—one in the early afternoon—and then one later in the evening. Please let me know if this is something that sounds interesting—I believe people might be more willing to drive during daylight hours in mid-February and March. Keep your eyes and ears open—or just give me a call.

## A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing of this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caring to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray.

Amen.

*Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada*



**Red Cross Blood Drive at St. John's on January 28th from 1 - 6**

## ST. JOHN'S JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan. 2	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
Jan. 3	9:00 am (SP) Worship 9:30 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship
Jan. 5	5:30 pm (SP) Council Mtg.
Jan. 9	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
Jan. 10	9:00 am (SP) Worship 9:30 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship
Jan. 13	Confirmation classes resume
Jan. 14	7:00 pm (SJ) Council Mtg.
Jan. 16	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
Jan. 17	9:00 am (SP) Worship 9:30 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship
Jan. 18	5:00 pm (SJ) Mobile Food Pantry
Jan. 20	Confirmation
Jan. 23	5:30 pm (SJ) Worship
Jan. 24	9:00 am (SP) Worship 9:30 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship
Jan. 27	Confirmation
Jan. 30	No Saturday Worship
Jan. 31	9:00 am (SP) Worship 9:30 am (SJ) Sunday School 10:15 am (SJ) Worship Annual Meeting

### Camera Operators

Thank you to Sam Thein, Lynda Schaefer, and Tim Puls for running the camera every Sunday and Pastor Mike for putting the service on the St John's website!

**FROM OUR PARISH NURSE —**

**January is Glaucoma Awareness Month**

Currently, more than 3 million people in the United States have glaucoma. The National Eye Institute projects this number will reach 4.2 million by 2030, a 58 percent increase. Glaucoma is called "the sneak thief of sight" since there are no symptoms and once vision is lost, it's permanent. As much as 40% of vision can be lost without a person noticing.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness. Moreover, among African American and Latino populations, glaucoma is more prevalent. Glaucoma is 6 to 8 times more common in African Americans than Caucasians. Over 3 million Americans, and over 60 million people worldwide, have glaucoma. Experts estimate that half of them don't know they have it. Combined with our aging population, we can see an epidemic of blindness looming if we don't raise awareness about the importance of regular eye examinations to preserve vision. The World Health Organization estimates that 4.5 million people worldwide are blind due to glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually steal sight without warning. Although the most common forms primarily affect the middle-aged and the elderly, glaucoma can affect people of all ages. Vision loss is caused by damage to the optic nerve. This nerve acts like an electric cable with over a million wires. It is responsible for carrying images from the eye to the brain.

There is no cure for glaucoma—yet. However, medication or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss. The appropriate treatment depends upon the type of glaucoma among other factors. Early detection is vital to stopping the progress of the disease. There are two main types of glaucoma: primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG), and angle-closure glaucoma. These are marked by an increase of intraocular pressure (IOP), or pressure inside the eye. When optic nerve damage has occurred despite a normal IOP, this is called normal tension glaucoma. Secondary glaucoma refers to any case in which another disease causes or contributes to increased eye pressure, resulting in optic nerve damage and vision loss.

Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world, according to the World Health Organization. In the most common form, there are

virtually no symptoms. Vision loss begins with peripheral or side vision, so if you have glaucoma, you may not notice anything until significant vision is lost. The best way to protect your sight from glaucoma is to get a comprehensive eye examination. Then, if you have glaucoma, treatment can begin immediately. Siblings of persons diagnosed with glaucoma have a significantly increased risk of having glaucoma. Those at higher risk include people of African, Asian, and Hispanic descent. Other high-risk groups include: people over 60, family members of those already diagnosed, diabetics, and people who are severely nearsighted. Regular eye exams are especially important for those at higher risk for glaucoma, and may help to prevent unnecessary vision loss.



**MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**

Food distribution will be held on the third Monday of each month at St. John's. The next event will be a drive through event from 5-6:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 18th. Extra volunteers will be needed to rotate so volunteers can go into the church to warm up. Over 170 households were served in December.

If you are able to help, please call the church office at 252-2355, and we will add your name to our volunteer list.

**Council Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2020**

**Members Present:** Craig Tuecke, Mary Streich, Judy Puls, Jim Solomon, Nancy Heitman, Stephanie Thomas, Forest Brown, Chuck Hemann, Pat Jones, Pastor Ashman, and Diane Schilling  
**Members Absent:** Michele VonHandorf, Lorna Moser, and Don Schmelzer

**Call to Order:** President Craig Tuecke called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Devotions and Prayers:** Pastor Ashman read part of Paul's letter in First Thessalonians. Paul reminds us to rejoice always! Pastor Mike reminded us that we are at the center of Advent and asked where we are in our own preparations. He went on to share that there are many themes of Advent, but there is always one pink candle, the Godetha candle that translated means joy. We were reminded that God will supply us with joy this Christmas.

**Secretary's Report:** The council reviewed the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting stand approved as published.

**Treasurer's Report:**

General Fund:	\$8,198.52
Benevolence:	\$15,096.81
Improvement:	\$14,283.44
Memorial Savings:	\$49,421.51
Benevolence Savings:	\$15,758.38
Sunday School:	\$3,520.46
Organ Fund:	\$4,062.86
Scrip:	\$4,049.59
Luther League:	\$4,679.59

The Treasurer's Report stands approved as presented.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ashman submitted a written report for the previous month to keep the Council updated on his activities. The report includes Saturday and Sunday worship, staff consultation, church council, office visits, phone calls, newsletter articles, Thanksgiving Eve worship, working on website, confirmation, continuing education, funerals, synod Zoom meeting, and helping with the Mobile Food Pantry. Pastor shared that he misses visiting with people.

**Outreach Ministries:** Nancy Heitman reported that her committee wrote a total of 120 individual thank you notes, one to each staff member at the

Guttenberg Care Center. It provides positivity for the staff members.

**Educational Ministries:** Stephanie Thomas reported the Sunday School students are working on a virtual Christmas program. Pastor is working with the older students to help perfect their parts and record them.

**Children and Youth Ministries:** Forest Brown reported that the Halloween Party has been scheduled for 2021. A scavenger hunt was suggested as an activity that individuals could complete by themselves by turning in pictures of their finds.

**Public Relations Ministries:** Chuck Hemann shared that he has updated the sign for Christmas. The video camera was purchased for \$318.86. That's under the budgeted amount.

**Stewardship Ministries:** Michele VonHandorf was absent.

**Worship and Music Ministries:** Pat Jones had nothing new to report.

**Property Ministries:** Don Schmelzer was absent. Craig reported that a lot of the things on the parsonage list have been completed. The flooring, a new medicine cabinet and light bar, and installation of GFCI outlets are yet to be completed

**Parish Fellowship:** Lorna Moser was absent.

**Vice President:** Mary Streich shared that Sheryl and David Bahls will donate the two Christmas trees for the sanctuary next year.

**Old Business:**

**Broadcasting Services:** Chuck shared a handout from Lifeline Audio Video Technologies outlining their proposal for completing the new video broadcasting equipment and installation. Lifeline is from Platteville, Wisconsin. The owner, Scott, came to give the bid. His company offers a turn-key solution to our problem. The system is estimated at \$10,100 and includes a shock mount. The system has nine presets. There would be little additional training needed for our current camera operators. MSC to reverse last month's motion, approve the proposal from Lifeline and use the Sophia Smith CD, funds from the memorial fund, and donations for the remainder of the cost and authorize Craig Tuecke to sign the contract with Lifeline. The council discussed where to mount the camera including center in the balcony and surface

mount in front of balcony. The quilt currently hanging from the balcony may need to be moved.

**Benevolence Endowment:** Jim is working on the application for the Matthew 28 distribution to be used as benevolence to entities outside of our church.

**Budgets:** We went through the committee budget requests. MSC to keep the amount of our synodical support at \$15,000.00. The budget will be finalized at the January meeting.

**Stewardship Position:** Craig shared that Sherry Oliver is willing to serve as the Stewardship council member. We discussed our constitution and what it says about filling vacancies. It does not address having no one on the ballot when the voting occurred. We discussed adding Sherry to the ballot at our annual meeting. MSC to approve placing Sherry Oliver on the ballot for Stewardship Chair on the Council.

**New Business:**

**Christmas Eve Services Ushers:** Lorna and Mary will usher at the 1:00 pm service. Forest, Jim, Craig and Chuck will usher at the 8:00 pm service.

**Christmas Offering:** We discussed designating the Christmas offering. MSC to donate the Christmas offering to the Family Resource Center.

**Safe Gatherings:** Pastor Mike shared that the synod is having all pastors take Safe Gathering training. The training is also available for volunteers such as Sunday School teachers and Vacation Bible School volunteers. The Safe Gathering program also provides background checks for those working or volunteering at church or for church activities. The training includes how to be aware of signs of abuse and neglect. Pastor is investigating the cost for a congregation to take part in this program.

**Annual Audit:** Last year we had an outside audit performed by Anna Moser, CPA for the general fund and Peoples Bank for the rest of the accounts. We discussed having Peoples Bank do the entire audit this year. MSC to have Peoples Bank, if they are agreeable, conduct the audit for all funds. Diane will contact them, and we will act on this at the January meeting.

**Charter for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts:** Craig told us he had been contacted about signing the charter papers for the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. We have been their charter organization for many years. We discussed the scouts current situation of filing for bankruptcy. MSC to authorize Craig to sign the Charter Organization with assurance of safety from future liability.

**Girl Scout Request :** The Girl Scouts have asked to meet at the church. The Council reviewed the motion passed in September to not consider allowing additional groups in the church until the beginning of the year. We discussed the amount of extra cleaning required for the activities we have at church now.

**Resignation:** Diane Schilling announced her retirement effective in April or May. We are very appreciative of Diane's advance notice. We are also very appreciative of all of the work Diane has done for St. John's. The council will begin the process of finalizing a job description and determining how we want to proceed.

**Singing?:** The question was raised as to why we are not allowed to sing when we are allowed to speak parts with our masks on. Pastor explained that when we sing, the particles expelled have more force behind them, and the droplets could be forced out of the mask. For now we are looking for individual vocalists to provide special music for our Christmas services.

**Adjournment:** Craig declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Regular Council Meeting:** Thursday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Puls



All Women of St. John's. [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

**2021 St. John's Women of the Board**

President: Lynda Akers -- Vice President: Carolyn Hoffmann -- Treasurer: Cindy Niehaus -- Secretary: Pat Meyer  
 At Large: Lynda Schaefers, Jan Solomon Sarah Circle Representative: Judy Puls

Mission: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Purpose: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

*If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 5:32 & 26*

**Prickles and Porcupines**



Ever hear the saying “prickly as a pear”? Pears that we are used to in Iowa are not the pears that are prickly. These prickly pears are cactus of which the fruit is prickly, yet edible.

Hmm, what else is prickly besides a cactus? Well, rose bushes are prickly and if you’ve ever picked raspberries they are too.

Porcupines are prickly even though I’ve not had the opportunity to observe that first hand. Can people be prickly? Yes. Those annoying, irritating barbs hurt. The sting can last a long time. The memory of the sting can last a long time. There was a woman at St. John’s who gave me a wise answer to a question I had about some people understandably getting hurt feelings from a miscommunication at church. I wanted a way to fix it. She said, “Lynda, people just need to get thicker skin”. It might sound callous but the meaning is not. What does having thicker skin mean to you? Let us pray to God to give us thicker skin and a more loving heart so that we can pray for those who are as “prickly as a pear”.

**Prayer:** Dear God, by your grace may we give the same love, grace, and mercy to others that you have given to us. And may we be careful not to become the “prickly” person ourselves! Amen

**DECEMBER MINISTRIES**  
 Family Resource Center \$500  
 Womenade \$500

**ST. JOHN'S SEWING LADIES**



Information on donations needed or helping with piecing tops, tying or binding contact Carol Tomkins.

**Quilt tops for LWR need to measure 60" x 80".**

**Porcupine Meatballs** – Marlene Meyer  
*St. John's Daily Bread Cookbook – 1971*

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 ½ lbs ground beef | 1 T minced onion  |
| ½ c uncooked rice   | 1 can tomato soup |
| 1 t salt            | ½ c water         |
| ½ t pepper          |                   |

Combine meat, rice, salt, pepper and onion. Shape into small balls. Combine tomato soup and water. Drop meatballs in soup mixture. Bake about 45 minutes in 350 degree oven, turning once.

**JANUARY  
BAPTISMS**

Jan. 1  
Joyce Bakken  
Genevieve Balajadia  
Richard Balajadia  
Andy Heitman  
Debbie Leeman  
Jay Leeman  
Luann Martins  
Linda Noack  
Julie Rosacker  
Clark Strader  
Delos Weseman

Jan. 3  
Chris Hugo

Jan. 4  
Steph Radabaugh

Jan. 9  
Caden Strader

Jan. 10  
Madilyn Thomas

Jan. 11  
Pat Rodenberg

Jan. 14  
Kennedy Corbin  
Lynda Schaefers

Jan. 15  
Adeline Meyer

Jan. 18  
Dawn Herrmann

Jan. 19  
Sandy Barron

Jan. 20  
Levi Chase  
Jake Myer

Jan. 21  
Becky Kelly  
Roger Rodenberg

Jan. 23  
Ron Thein

Jan. 24  
Breyer Witham

Jan. 26  
Margo Friedlein

Jan. 27  
Mary Abbott

Jan. 28  
Sharon Radabaugh  
Lola Reimer

Jan. 29  
Delaney Brown  
Ginger Sakas

Jan. 30  
Terry Meyer

Jan. 31  
Donald Bries  
Nash Reimer

**JANUARY  
BIRTHDAYS**

Jan. 2  
Tina Brown  
Courtney Finnegan  
Todd Moser  
Terry Pensel

Jan. 3  
Bob Ferguson  
Chris Hugo  
Sara Noack

Jan. 5  
Brandon Duwe

Jan. 6  
Mason Hinzman  
Ginger Sakas  
Everd Tuecke

Jan. 7  
Carol Tomkins

Jan. 8  
Steph Radabaugh  
Sam Thein

Jan. 11  
Mary Abbott  
Sandy Tielbar  
Desiree Walke

Jan. 12  
Brandon Friedlein  
Kari Harbaugh

Jan. 14  
Dennis Hanna  
Brayden Niesman

Jan. 16  
Emily Finnegan  
Vicki Rodenberg

Jan. 18  
Jerel Holohan

Jan. 19  
Dirx Reimer

Jan. 20  
Jason Reimer

Jan. 21  
Andrew Kraus  
Allison Troester

Jan. 22  
Dan Meyer  
Violet Zittergruen

Jan. 25  
Don Bries  
Nick Tielbar  
Tait Wilker

Jan. 26  
Weston Judkins  
Brian Rodenberg

Jan. 27  
Courtney Severson

Jan. 28  
Carl Pensel  
Tim Severson

Jan. 29  
Randy Backes  
Kari Friedlein  
Brooklyn Schroeder

Jan. 30  
Abi Jostand

**JANUARY  
WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARIES**

Jan. 18  
Bill & Sandy Tielbar

Jan. 23  
Bill & Elaine  
Blanchard

Jan. 24  
Harlan & Shirley  
Meyer

**St. John's**

**Matthew 28:19 Endowment**

Our St. John's Matthew 28:19 Endowment is supporting and will continue to support disciple-making in this place forever.

Contributions \$50 and over qualify for Iowa tax credit. Those checks should be made out to CFGD St. John's Matthew 28:19 Endowment. Contributions less than \$50 should be made payable to St. John's and will be credited to your giving record.

Consider the Endowment when making memorial gifts. Memorial envelopes are available in the old Narthex.