

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sit here at my office desk, I give thanks for the year that has past—while it has been a difficult one over at the parsonage, we have many great and wonderful things going on in your congregation. We have recently begun our Rejoicing Spirits ministry which will hold worship every Second Thursday. This worship is directed to those in our community in local group homes, but it is open to EVERYONE. Also, we continue to be faithful to worship—which includes Advent and Lent worship—along with our usual schedule.

This past year, we renovated our basement fellowship area which provides not only a wonderful place for meals—but also an opportunity for even more ministry. In February, we will host our annual Shepherd of the Hills Conference Meeting (this was just recently announced). Pastor is always on the lookout for new ways to use this space for both church and community.

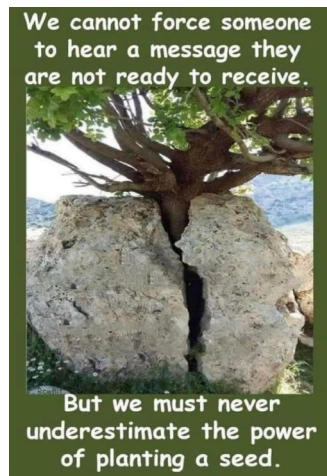
For the next couple (or few months), I will also need to take some time with my mother who is presently at the Prairie Maison (PDC). She looks forward to any visitors or phone calls—so if you are heading to Aldi's or Wally World in Prairie, please stop by for a short visit. If you need directions, please ask.

So, what will happen in 2024?? No crystal balls here, folks. No fortune cookies. All we have is a prayer that God will provide—and God does. Just a reminder that Lent is early—which brings also a sense of God's humor as Ash Wednesday is February 14th (Valentine's Day, yep).

My hope and prayers this year is that God will continue to surround our whole family here at St. John's with peace, love and joy—those gifts from God that come without ribbons or bows. May we learn to share and to use them wisely.

Peace.

Pastor Mike



St. John's Lutheran Church
PO Box 819
203 Pearl Street
Guttenberg, IA 52052

Pastor Michael Ashman
319-231-6440
mikepstr64@gmail.com

CHURCH WORSHIP:

5:30 PM - Saturday
10:15 AM - Sunday

Church Office Hours:

Tues: 7:00AM - 3:00 PM
Wed & Fri: 7:00AM - 12:30 PM
Thursdays 12:30-3:30 PM

Church Phone: 563-252-2355

Church Email:
stjohnsoffice@alpinecom.net

Our Website:
www.stjohnsguttenberg.com



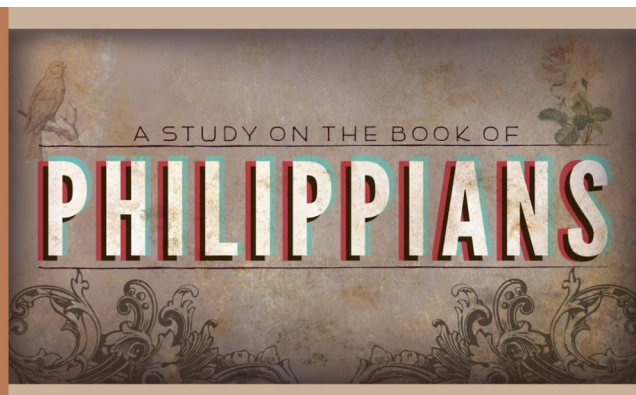
Pastor Mike sporting his new Christmas stole, gifted to him by St. John's Council

Rejoicing Spirits

Join us for worship!

Worship on January 11th at 11am. We will serve some soup and sandwiches. All are welcome to worship as we will make a joyful noise to the Lord!!

Any questions, please ask Pastor!!



Bible Study will begin on Thursday January 18th at 1 pm-- and is only 4 weeks long-- getting done just in time for Lent. Please let Pastor or the office know if you are interested!!

Thanks!



1st Communion Meeting for Parents and Students will take place on January 23rd at 7 pm. This might seem early-- but Easter is also early this year. Please bring along your calendars so we can make plans. This class is open to 4th Graders-- along with others who have not yet received communion instruction. Student must be baptized before receiving their first communion.

Any questions, please ask Pastor.



The next couple months we will be taking items from the needs list of our Family Resource Center-- and promoting two items every month for donations. For January, we are looking for donations of Canned Soup and Spaghetti Sauce. We ask that you please pay attention to dates on the food.

Thank you in advance for your donations!!



-PLEASE PRAY FOR-

Keep in your prayers: Ross Abbott, Vera Ashman, Owen Aulwes, Cecil Bahls, Kay Becker, Ron & Kay Bahlmann, Tiffany (Randall) Cichowski, Lois Davis, Marvin Dean, Bob Ferguson, Tammy Goodman, Marcia Kruse, Brayton Kuhse, Richard Larson, Juanita Loven, Kathy Meskimen, Jenny Meyer, JoLynn Moore, Merlin Moser, Randy Moser, Shirley M. Moser, Tiffany Moser, Jean Pensel, Mick Pierce, Shelby Preston, Zander Purman, Denny Reth, Pat Rodenberg, Denny Roth, Natalie Schmelzer, Rich Schmelzer, Jim Solomon, Terry Thein, Wayne Thiese, Bill Tielbar, Arthur Tomkins, Al Ullerich, Allan White, Dennis Zittergruen

River Living Center: Bob Ferguson, Kathy Handke, Nell Stone, Arlene Tackman, Mae Jetter, Janet Lundt, Ed & LaVonne Rodenberg, Virginia Roth

Guttenberg Care Center: Shirley Moore, Shirley Moser, Wayne Thiese, Judith Olson

Ennoble Nursing Care: Dennis Roth

Garden View Place, Monona: Terry Thein

Prairie Maison, Prairie du Chien: Vera Ashman

Homebound: Bill Tielbar, Allan White



Save the Date: February 4th

Blessing of our Missionaries:
Doc and Carolyn Hoffmann

CARE CENTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

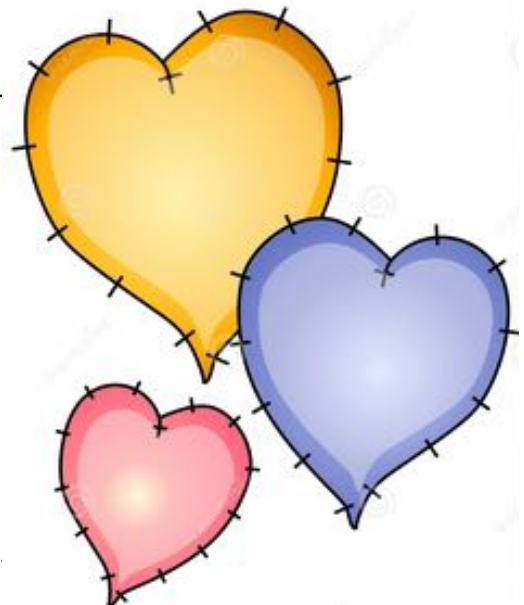
GUTTENBERG CARE CENTER:
Every 1st, 3rd, 4th Monday at 10 AM

RIVER LIVING CENTER: Thurs. Jan. 4 - 10:30 AM

QUILTS OF GRACE

Join us for fellowship and laughter as we work on Hospice Quilts. Beginning on January 9th, at 9 am, we will meet monthly, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month to work on Hospice Quilts. Only required skill is to be able to tie a knot and cut thread.

Hospice quilts are distributed locally by area Hospice nurses.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Camera Ministry



SUNDAY

JAN. 7 - Myka Bries
 JAN. 14 - Lennox Moser
 JAN. 21 - Nash Reimer
 JAN. 28 - Gavin Stoerp



SATURDAY

JAN. 6 - Wyatt Kremer
 JAN. 13 -
 JAN. 20 - Mason Hinzman
 JAN. 27 - Lennox Moser

SUNDAY

JAN. 7 - Jovi Allyn
 JAN. 14 - Madilyn Thomas
 JAN. 21 - Delaney Brown
 JAN. 28 - Mason Hinzman

PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE



Prayers for Healing are available after worship
 and by appointment. Contact Pastor Mike



If you would like to join, or
 know someone interested
 in finding a church home,
 please let us
 know.

We are very flexible – you are welcome to join on
 any weekend— just contact Pastor Mike!

St. John's will hold our **ANNUAL MEETING** on **SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st** immediately following the 10:15 a.m. worship service. ***All members, please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important event*** — it's very important that we have enough members attend to meet a quorum so that the budget for 2024 can be approved.

JANUARY Stewards

	Ushers	Lector
JAN. 7	Myron & Diane Thiese	Diane Thiese
JAN. 14	Don & Julie Schmelzer	Nancy Heitman
JAN. 21	Brian & Vicki Rodenberg	Brian Rodenberg
JAN. 28	Julie Finnegan, Sam Thein	Lynda Akers



St. John's Sunday School

**Annual
Christmas
Program**





Community Thanksgiving Dinner

was served at St. John's church - we served 200 meals to families in the Guttenberg area!

Thanks to all who helped organize, cook, serve, distribute and deliver meals - and to the clean up crew who so generously washed all the dishes!



CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The year 2023 was fantastic for our congregation. One year ago, we, the members of St. John's began a journey that will transform our church and its role in the community for years to come. The basement remodeling and upgrading of our HVAC system were huge improvements to our facility and our ability to better serve our congregation and community.

I thank the Remodeling Committee members and contractors for their time and input to produce the plan that was implemented with congregational support. The pledges came in and most have been received at this time. I am personally immensely proud of the work done, and I would think you, as members of the congregation would feel the same way.

I am also proud of our congregation for all the "good" we do for our community. Our ministry is far reaching as can be seen with the role St. John's plays in the food pantry program, the support of the Community Resource Center, supporting local families when they are faced with challenges, serving a meal at Thanksgiving that serves a part of our population that needs to have a place of comfort at that time of year, the Trunk or Treat event brings a true sense of community, just to name a few. I am also pleased that we were able to share our benevolent foundation funds with Shepherd of the Hills, Lutheran Service of Iowa, and Community Resource Center. This represents a regional, statewide, and local commitment to help those in need.

In addition, our Sunday School, VBS and confirmation programs are working hard to prepare our youth for life as Christians and the ways of the Lutheran Church. The teachers, parents, volunteers, and Pastor have been doing magnificent work. This lays the foundation for the future of our church.

Finally, the church council has worked well together and have put in countless hours to do the work of the committees. Not only do the council members put in their time, so do the committee members. Without this level of dedication, much of the above-mentioned work would not get done. We are still looking for someone to serve the council in the areas of public relations and property. I am grateful to have served you as your President for the past three years and look forward to another good year.

May you all have a blessed 2024.

Brian Rodenberg,

Council President

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 \$45 per day.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Happy 2024!

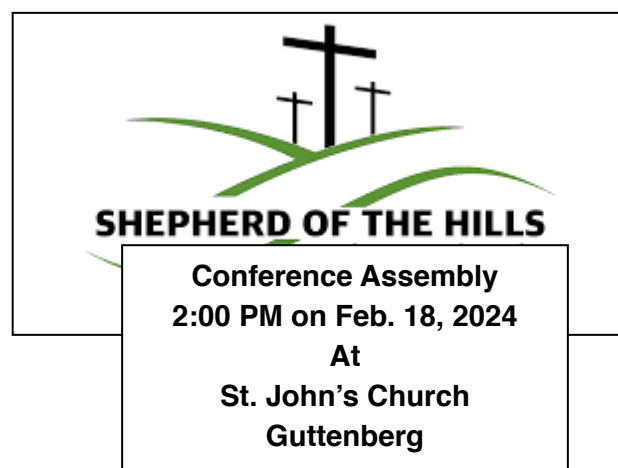
Another tick mark that we use for a new beginning, a sign of hope that this year will be better than the last. The timing for writing this is close to the winter solstice and that means colder, wetter, and slippery conditions outside. Snow days ahead (some of us hope). If you are in my frame of mind it's time to put soup on the stove, work on a project, catch up on calling friends or grab a good book. If you are in my husband's frame of mind, it's time to go outside, see what's going on, who needs help, and how far can I venture on a day like this. Yes, it has created some chaos in our life but so many more times than not, it has brought us closer together. I have the soup waiting and he comes in with snow covered clothes and cold knees with freshness from the outside infiltrating our home. We are blessed to have a neighbor who does the heavy lifting of snow removal by going up and down the street with his snowblower. We are at that stage of health where we need that helping hand and it is much appreciated.

Sharing our love of Christ is so much like our personalities on a chaotic, stormy day. God provides us abundantly with spiritual and physical gifts to share amongst ourselves and overflow to others we meet or hear about daily. Our experiences allow us to come alongside the people God knows are needing to hear what He has done in our lives and the Good News of Hope. It is amazing to see the Spirit in action in the most unsuspecting places and time. I love Mark 6:30: The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. We know the apostles each had their own personality and gifts. We see through the stories of Christ's ministry the physical needs and opportunities were varied. Many needs were met publicly but many were met in very quiet places where one or two experienced the miracle. The Spirit leads each of us when we listen to our hearts, see with our eyes, and God waits patiently for us to come to Him with stories of what we have done with His gifts.

It is important to hear the next verse in Mark 6:31: Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat.

Prayer for 2024: Spend time with God, ask for direction, and heed the warning of burn-out. Remember who you are serving-the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He knows what he wants in your life, in the life of others and how you will share to glorify His Holy Name.

Diane Thiese



From the CHURCH COUNCIL

St. John's American Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 14th, 2023

Members present: Craig Tuecke, Deb Preston, Lorna Moser, Michele Von Handorf, Diane Thiese, Forest Brown, Sherry Oliver, Brian Rodenberg, Mary Streich, Penny Rausch

Members Absent: Frank Davis, Chuck Hemann

Staff Present: Pastor Ashman

Call to Order: President Rodenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Devotions & Prayers: Pastor Ashman led with a brief reflection and prayer.

Secretary's Report: The Council reviewed minutes of the November council meeting. No additions or corrections were noted. Craig made a motion to approve the minutes as published. Michele made a second to that motion.

Treasurer's Report: Craig reviewed the November income and expenses. Mary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Diane made a second to the motion.

General Fund:	\$ 9,681.63
Benevolence:	\$30,417.93
Improvement:	\$33,016.26
Memorial Fund:	\$16,590.13
Benevolence Savings:	\$15,781.99
Sunday School:	\$ 1,071.72
Organ Fund:	\$ 1,078.51
Scrip:	\$ 2,120.56
Luther League:	\$ 5,673.59
Ending Balance:	\$ 115,432.50

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ashman provided the highlights of his written report. Rejoicing Spirits held their first service on 12/14 with 20 participants. A cookie decorating party along with games and crafts will be held this coming Saturday for grades 3-6.

Outreach Ministries: Diane reported that the Thanksgiving meal went well with over 172 meals served. The new space served well for the event. She also provided a comparison report for the past two years.

Educational Ministries: Penny reported that the Sunday School Christmas program is scheduled for Dec 17th. A Thrivent card was used to purchase new costumes. She also continues to prepare for this summer's VBS. As a reminder, there is no Sunday School on Dec. 24th or Dec. 31st.

Children & Youth Ministries: Jessica Hillers will be taking over Forest's group in January. He continues to work on the details of a trivia night with the confirmation youth.

Public Relations: No report. A brief discussion was held regarding the sign in front of church and the need for a replacement.

Stewardship Ministries: Sherry provided a report which included the Advent food drive which is occurring at this time. The committee will meet Jan. 3rd to sort and deliver the food to the FRC.

Worship & Music Ministries: Mary reported that arrangements for the Christmas services have been finalized.

Property Ministries: Brian reported that an issue with the furnace has been resolved. Brian is working with the city for use of their lift truck to change a light bulb within one of the windows.

Parish Fellowship: Lorna is working with Linda to assume her committee responsibilities in January. Weekly fellowship continues. February 11th is the soup dinner.

V.P. Report: No report.

Old Business:

Committee budgets are due for the Annual Meeting which is set for January 21st, 2024. Craig reviewed the proposed 2024 Budget of the General Fund.

New Business:

Designations of offering:

The Thanksgiving meal free will donation of \$1615 will benefit the Family Resource Building Fund.

Sherry made a motion and Lorna made a second to the motion that offerings from the Thanksgiving Eve service, mid-week Advent services, and Christmas services be transferred to the General fund.

The current lease has expired with Access Systems. A motion was made by Michele and a second by Mary to proceed with a new 5 year lease with Access Systems for a new copier in the church office.

Sherry made a motion and Michele made a second to the motion to increase Benevolence giving to the Northeastern Iowa Synod from \$15,000 to \$18,000. The motion also included a \$1000 gift to the Lay Ministry Training program in our area.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next regular council meeting: Thursday, Jan 11th at 7:00.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Preston



ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Please submit your Annual Reports for 2023 to the church office by Dec. 31st!

Monthly Stewardship Report

Amount Needed Weekly \$3,774

Offering	Nov. 28	\$ 6,352
	Dec. 3	\$ 3,310
	Dec. 10	\$ 3,958
	Dec. 17	\$ 2,852



Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Individuals struggle without access to critical healthcare and family support services. Human service providers are overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants strive to build new lives in the U.S.

These are all issues faced by Iowans from all different walks of life. Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) to advocate for our community members at Lutheran Day on the Hill (LDH) on Monday, February 19, 2024.

In partnership with the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, LDH is LSI's biggest day of advocacy. Over 150 participants gather at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines to learn about critical issues Iowa children, adults, and families are facing. You'll learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices.

After learning how to advocate for our neighbors, the group heads to the Iowa State Capitol to talk directly with legislators.

For more information and to register for this year's Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit LSIowa.org/LDH.



Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa



JANUARY CALENDAR

Tues. Jan. 2	5:30 PM	(SP) Council Meeting
Wed. Jan. 3	1:00 pm	(SJ) Sarah Circle
Sat. Jan. 6	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Jan. 7	8:00 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship
Tues. Jan. 9	9:00 am	(SJ) Quilts of Grace
	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Jan. 10	2:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	5:30 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	6:30 pm	(SJ) Bell Choir Practice
Thur. Jan. 11	11:00 am	(SJ) Rejoicing Spirits Worship
	7:00 pm	(SJ) Council Meeting
Sat. Jan. 13	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Jan. 14	8:00 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship / New Members
Tues. Jan. 16	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Jan. 17	2:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	5:00 pm	(SJ) Mobile Food Pantry
	5:30 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
Thurs. Jan. 18	Noon - 5 pm	(SJ) Red Cross Blood Drive
	1:00 pm	(SJ) Adult Bible Study
Sat. Jan. 20	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Jan. 21	8:00 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship
	11:15 am	(SJ) Annual Congregation Meeting
Tues. Jan. 23	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
	7:00 pm	(SJ) First Communion Meeting
Thur. Jan. 24	4:30 pm	(SJ) Stewardship
Sat. Jan. 26	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Jan. 27	8:00 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship
Tues. Jan. 30	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Jan. 31	2:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is Open:

Tues: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

Wed: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm

Thurs: 12:30 - 3:30 pm

Fri: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm



NORTHEAST IOWA

FOOD BANK

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the mobile food pantry, both pre-packing and distributing.

Mobile Food Pantry is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Truck from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank is scheduled to arrive at 4:30 pm, with distribution from 5 - 6 pm.

The next event will be a drive through event at 5 pm on Wed. Jan. 17th –volunteers needed at 4:30 to unload the truck

THANK YOU to all who assisted with the December Mobile Food Pantry.

Please Note:

2023 monetary contributions
to St. John's Church

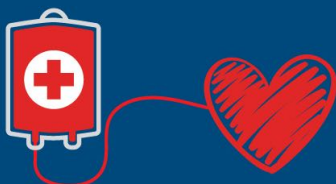
must be in the church office no later than

Jan. 3, 2024.

All monies received after this date will count
towards 2024.

Thank you.

Kindness
is in your blood.

American
Red CrossGuttenberg
Blood Drive

**St. John's Lutheran
Church**

Fellowship Hall
203 Pearl Street
Guttenberg, IA 52052

**Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024
Noon - 5 PM**

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2024

JANUARY Baptisms

<u>Jan. 4</u> Steph Radabaugh	<u>Jan. 21</u> Becky Kelly Roger Rodenberg
<u>Jan. 7</u> Jett White	<u>Jan. 22</u> Hayden Barnhart
<u>Jan. 9</u> Caden Strader	<u>Jan. 24</u> Breyer Witham
<u>Jan. 10</u> Coleman Meyer Madilyn Thomas	<u>Jan. 25</u> Mary Carrier
<u>Jan. 11</u> Pat Rodenberg	<u>Jan. 26</u> Margo Friedlein
<u>Jan. 14</u> Lynda Schaefer	<u>Jan. 27</u> Mary Abbott
<u>Jan. 15</u> Adeline Meyer Callista Zinnel	<u>Jan. 28</u> Sharon Radabaugh Lola Reimer
<u>Jan. 18</u> Dawn Herrmann	<u>Jan. 29</u> Delaney Brown Ginger Sakas
<u>Jan. 19</u> Sandy Barron	<u>Jan. 30</u> Terry Meyer
<u>Jan. 20</u> Levi Chase Jake Myer	<u>Jan. 31</u> Donald Bries Nash Reimer

JANUARY Birthdays

<u>Jan. 2</u> Tina Brown Courtney Finnegan Todd Moser	<u>Jan. 16</u> Emily Finnegan Vicki Rodenberg
<u>Jan. 3</u> Bob Ferguson Sara Noack	<u>Jan. 18</u> Jerel Holohan Hayden Barnart
<u>Jan. 4</u> Ke'Andre Armstrong Travis Garlow	<u>Jan. 19</u> Dirx Reimer
<u>Jan. 5</u> Brandon Duwe	<u>Jan. 20</u> Jason Reimer
<u>Jan. 6</u> Mason Hinzman Ginger Sakas Everd Tuecke	<u>Jan. 21</u> Andrew Kraus Allison Troester
<u>Jan. 7</u> Carol Tomkins	<u>Jan. 22</u> Dan Meyer Violet Zittergruen
<u>Jan. 8</u> Steph Radabaugh Sam Thein	<u>Jan. 25</u> Don Bries
<u>Jan. 11</u> Mary Abbott Sandy Tielbar Desiree Walke	<u>Jan. 26</u> Weston Judkins Brian Rodenberg
<u>Jan. 12</u> Brandon Friedlein Kari Harbaugh	<u>Jan. 27</u> Courtney Severson Janice Thiese
<u>Jan. 14</u> Dennis Hanna Brayden Niesman Thomas Anderson	<u>Jan. 28</u> Carl Pensel Tim Severson
	<u>Jan. 29</u> Randy Backes Kari Friedlein Brooklyn Schroeder
	<u>Jan. 30</u> Abi Jostand

JANUARY

Wedding

Anniversaries

<u>Jan. 16</u> Wayne & Janice Thiese
<u>Jan. 18</u> Bill & Sandy Tielbar
<u>Jan. 23</u> Bill & Elaine Blanchard
<u>Jan. 31</u> Matt & Shelby Preston

