

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LCMS  
11400 WEST PANAMA ROAD, CRETE, NE 68333



Come to the cross and learn of God's great love for all His people. There is friendship, fellowship, and the gift of God's word of forgiveness.

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2021

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP



*Advent  
Sermon  
Series*

The Advent Midweek theme will consider the stories of four of God's servants. We invite you to worship with us for these four midweek Advent services. As we hear their stories it gives us an opportunity to consider themes associated with each. God grant us a season of preparation and peace as we gather to hear His Word.

10:30am Matins  
7:30pm Vespers

### **The Stories of Advent: Silence, Expectation, Faith, and Action**

**December 1:** Advent Silence – Zechariah's Story (Luke 1:5–24a, 57–64)

**December 8:** Advent Expectation – Elizabeth's Story (Luke 1:13–15a, 18, 24–25, 57)

**December 15:** Advent Faith – Mary's Story (Luke 1:26–38)

**December 22:** Advent Action – Joseph's Story (Matthew 1:18–25)

### **Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols**

**December 24 at 6:00 pm**

CHRISTMAS EVE



### **Christmas Day Worship Service with**

### **Holy Communion**

**December 25 at 9:00 am**

CHRISTMAS DAY



## FROM THE ELDERS

**She who has believed is blessed because what was spoken to her by the Lord will be fulfilled.  
Luke 1:45**

In the kingdom of God, believing is a prerequisite to receiving. God spoke to Mary and gave the assurances He always gave when He assigns the impossible to His people. Everything was in place for God to act. Everything waited on Mary to believe Him. Once she believed, it was done! It takes an undivided heart to believe under such circumstances and a pure heart to see God (Matt. 5:8; Heb. 12:14).

This has always been God's way with His people. Mary could not see all that had been arranged and assembled in the courts of heaven. She could not see the legions of angels prepared to protect her and her baby. She was unaware of the future and all that she and her child would face. All she knew was that God had spoken to her, and that was enough. So she responded "I am the Lord's slave. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

When God speaks about His plan, He does so with everything already in place to fulfill His Word. God never speaks hypothetically. He knows exactly what will come to pass. He simply asks you to believe Him. You will experience great blessing when you place your absolute trust in Him. Mary could not have dreamed all that would result from her faithful obedience. Likewise, you cannot possibly imagine all that God has in store for you when you trust Him. He knows exactly what He will do to bring salvation to someone you have prayed for or to heal your friend or provide for your needs. God has everything in place. Will you believe Him!

May you have a blessed Christmas

The Elders

*Experiencing God Day by Day, Henry & Richard Blackaby*



### BIRTHDAYS

1 Tim Reetz  
4 Deanna Eggert  
5 Austin Adams  
9 Irelynn Kirkpatrick  
10 Rylee Pospichal  
11 Gloria McDermott  
13 Lydia Lee, Janice Mehl, Aaron Meinke, Travis Shore  
15 Melissa Gash, Justin Hollman  
16 Kade Nelson, Barb Shore  
18 Doug Kattau  
19 Lynette Reetz June  
20 Andrew Munro  
21 Ryan Lee, Dan Meinke  
22 Rev. Art Brinkmeyer,

Tanna Nitzel, Liam Lee  
23 Jerome Kalkwarf  
28 Kent Nelson  
29 Glen Louch  
30 James Samples  
31 Troy Henning, Scott Murphy, Titan Wagner  
**BAPTISMS**  
4 Heather Wendelin  
6 Lewis Clark  
7 Carol Brinkmeyer  
8 Nathan Patak, Alayna Poole  
9 Ed Skillett  
10 Cathy Hollman  
11 Darren Weber

12 Brad Hestermann, Kristine Muff,  
Dave Musil  
15 Tim Reetz  
17 Kasey Murphy  
18 Charles Slama  
19 James Walker  
20 Bryce Kalkwarf  
22 Alexandra Tremblay  
23 Teagan Kalkwarf  
24 Madison Hestermann  
25 Kasen Wagner  
26 Judi Korte  
29 Knox Korbel

## ST JOHN LUTHERAN INFORMATION UPDATE

We are updating our membership system contact information. In 2019, a St John Membership Directory was completed. The Elders at St John plan to put together a new directory (**minus the pictures**) in January 2022. Emergency notifications, such as cancellation of services, require updated church membership information to be effective. Many families have cancelled their land lines in favor of cell phones, have a new email address, or have moved to a new address. I am sending with the Newsletter email an attachment for information update, which can be forwarded to Chris at [secretarystjohn@hotmail.com](mailto:secretarystjohn@hotmail.com). The paper copies of this newsletter are available and there are gold copies of the information update on the table in the Narthex. Please complete the form and put in the manila envelope. Thank you for your assistance.



## LADIES AID MINUTES

St. John Ladies Aid met on November 17, 2021, with Diane Kahle as hostess. We sang hymn #577 "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast" and then Pastor Toensing led us in a Bible study on "The Sower" from Mark 4 and a prayer.

Roll call was taken with 8 members present. The minutes of the October 2021 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

Carol Brinkmeyer handed out information on what will need to be done for our 100th anniversary celebration including the different sub-committees and the duties of each. In January, Ladies Aid members will sign up for the sub-committees they would like to help with. A motion was made to celebrate the Ladies Aid 100th Anniversary in 2023. Seconded and passed.

The cookbook committee met and came up with some questions that will need to be answered by the cookbook publisher.

A motion was made for the Ladies Aid to decorate the bulletin board in the Narthex for January 2022 and January 2023. Seconded and passed. Diane Kahle and Ellie Koch will decorate the bulletin board.

A motion was made for the President (Diane Kahle), Treasurer (Janice Reetz), Secretary (Deb Walker) and the Altar Committee (Bonnie Bleich, Deanna Eggert & Linda Eggert) to continue their jobs for another year. Seconded and passed. A motion was made to accept Dianne Kouba as the Vice-President without an election. Seconded and passed. Dianne will be installed at the December meeting. We thank Carol Brinkmeyer for her service as the Vice-President the last several years.

A motion was made to host a covered dish dinner after the morning Advent worship service on December 15 for all attending that morning service. Seconded and passed. We will hold a short meeting after the dinner.

A motion was made to buy Christmas presents for our shut-ins and a few others: Albert Vosika, August Wendelin, Olga & Fred Weidner, Del Reiss and Verna Schultz. Seconded and passed.

A motion was made to give Christmas donations to the same groups as we did in 2020. Seconded and passed.

The hostess list was passed around.

Carol Brinkmeyer and Olga Weidner celebrated birthdays in November. We sang the birthday song.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer and the common Table Prayer.

Deb Walker, Secretary



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH –LCMS**

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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH**

Worship Service (Sundays)	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/LYF	10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (Sundays)	10:30 a.m.
Midweek Classes (4-6 grades on Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
Evangelism Board Meeting (Dec 6)	1:30 p.m.
Elders' Meeting (Dec 6)	6:30 p.m.
Quilting Group (Dec 7)	9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Ladies Morning Bible Study (Dec 11)	10:00 a.m.
Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon (Dec 15) following Worship Service	10:30 a.m. Advent

**ST JOHN CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.**



# Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the ✨ path that leads to baby Jesus.

Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

LD OG    NCAKNRIENFSE    RYHMR

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh

# Puzzle!

Use the code to complete Isaiah's prophecy about Jesus, our Savior.



CODE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q

10 23 13      17 14      6 18 21 21

11 14      12 10 21 21 14 13

6 24 23 13 14 1 15 4 21

12 24 4 23 2 14 21 24 1

22 18 16 17 3 8      16 24 13

14 5 14 1 21 10 2 3 18 23 16

15 10 3 17 14 1      25 1 18 23 12 14

24 15      25 14 10 12 14

I S A I A H 9 : 6 , N I V

Answer: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6, NIV



Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!