



The St John Lutheran Newsletter is a monthly publication of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Volume 1 Issue 1

### Weekly Schedule:

- Service 9:00 am
- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:15am
- Confirmation 1:45pm
- Wednesday Ecclesiastes Study Meal 5:30pm Study 6pm
- Wednesday Scripture Study Coffee time 8:30am Study 9am
- Thursday every other week Fraternal Friends of Marty @ 7:00 pm

### Special Activities:

- Board of Elders January 1 @ following Church
- Church Council January 5 @ 6:00pm
- LWML January 7 @ 9:00am
- Quarterly Voter Meeting January 8 following Church Service

## From Pastor Beltz's Desk

### The American Mind Meets the Mind of Christ: The New Year and its Resolutions

*“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”*  
Titus 2.11-15

One great criticism of the Lutheran Church is that we are not concerned about the moral life of our people. This isn't true. We are concerned about our moral lives. We just do not believe that a moral transformation takes place because of the harping, nagging, and bludgeoning of the law. We believe that the heart and conscience must be changed. This change only happens by the Word of God—Jesus and his Gospel. First Christ must be our Savior and Redeemer, then he is our brother, helper and example.

In Titus we see St. Paul use this two-aspect relational image. First, the grace of God appears (Jesus

Christ). Jesus brings us salvation and life. Jesus (by His Word) then comes to train us in the renunciation of various thoughts, words and deeds. St. Paul summarizes these thoughts, words and deeds as ungodliness and worldly passions. This text gives us a great transition between Christmas and the New Year.

Goals and Resolutions are a part of our new year. Usually, we make these goals and resolutions with an American mind rather than the mind of Christ. To use the language of the passage, we often don't make a resolution to be *less ungodly*. What does that even mean? What might it look like? Ungodliness is anything working against faith in Jesus Christ. Ungodliness is anything that works against the proper use of God's name. Ungodliness looks like us not praying, or believing prayer is useless and fruitless. It looks like us not making the most use of the Word of God, or the Preaching of the Preacher.

We don't make many resolutions intended to destroy Worldly Passions. Worldly Passions are any things pushing us toward self-centered navel-gazing rather than the love and service to our neighbors. Worldly Passion pushes us away from our parents and Church. Worldly Passions

push us away from a Christian care for the neighbor's body, away from a Christian sexual ethic, away from a Christian economy, away from protecting the reputations of our neighbor, away from contentedness.

If we are going to make resolutions let's be serious and make them count. If you are going to make a resolution against ungodliness for you (or your family), it might look like coming to church more often, or a study, or seeing if a new one might be formed. It might mean you begin a little devotion as a family. Or any other various things like that. If you are making a resolution against Worldly Passions, it might be a child resolving to obey your parents a little more and talk with them about what that might look like. It might be a husband/wife talking to your spouse about how you might honor, love, serve the other a little more (or in a completely new way). It might look like patching up relations broken by your greed or destruction of reputation. It might mean turning away from a broken sexual ethic or thinking about your own body in a Christian way. We aren't against resolutions as Christians. Let's just make them as Christians, with Christian intents, and a Christian heart and mind.

*Pastor Beltz*

## January Duties:

### **Elders**

Jim Roach

### **Altar Guild**

Evie McKain

Regina Hoy

### **Acolyte**

Jaelyn Kitzman

Processional Cross

12/29 Brooklyn Vanderwilt

### **Hospitality**

1/1 John & Lisa Haack

1/8 Voter's Meeting

1/15 Cassie & Charlotte  
Beltz

1/22 Luran McKain &  
Tamra Knox

1/29 Carol Fynaardt

### **Cleaning**

Beltz Family

A big THANK YOU to all members who served as organists, Hospitality servers, and cleaning crew last month. This is just another part of STEWARDSHIP in action at St. John.



## Serving the Lord in Latvia — IT Project Manager

### Cody and Aurelie Mock

#### **Bio**

Cody and Aurelie Mock serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Riga, Latvia. As IT project manager, Cody works alongside the Luther Academy in Riga and the mission team in Eurasia to provide support for various IT systems and services. He also helps identify and implement new technology solutions within the region's projects and provides training for staff on how to use those technologies.

Cody is from Pella, Iowa, and his home congregation is St. John Lutheran Church in Oskaaloosa, Iowa. He attended Iowa State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems. Before becoming a missionary, he held several roles in the industry, including help desk technician, web developer, assistant programmer and systems administrator. In his free time, he enjoys tinkering with electronics, fixing and restoring things, and brewing his own beer.

Aurelie was born in Tacoma, Wash. She holds a bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of Nebraska Kearney. She worked for libraries in Kansas for several years before becoming a stay-at-home mother and homeschool teacher for their two daughters, Eva and Moriah. In her free time, Aurelie enjoys taking long walks, gardening, reading, learning languages and collecting books.

#### **Prayers**

Pray for the Mock family as they serve in Riga. Ask God to help them successfully integrate into the community and serve Him to the best of their ability. Pray that God would give Cody wisdom to leverage technology in ways that help the mission team clearly communicate the Gospel throughout the region. Let us give thanks that the Mocks are

LWML would like to thank everyone who attended the potato bar and donated money for the Mock's missionary work. We raised a total of \$356 and on Sunday \$305. Total raised that will be sent to LCMS Global Missions for the Mock's \$1,349.

January 1 @ 10:15am

Cody & Aurelie Mock  
Latvia Presentation

As a congregation let's show our support to Cody & Aurelie by all taking the time to listen to their presentation and say our farewells

**LWML NEWS**

LWML will be holding a Holiday Brunch, on January 7th @ 9:00am. This is for all ladies of the Church. Hostesses will supply the meal. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to come. At this time we will also be planning the calendar for the 2023 year. The following will be serving as officer for 2023. President– Marjorie Roach, Vice President– Tamara Knox, Treasure– Carol Fynaardt and Secretary– Karen Westercamp. We would like to give a **big thank you** to Beth Stout for being secretary for 15 years.



**Youth News**

The Youth will be playing Laser tag. On Friday, January 27th 6-8pm In the church basement



Will be offering two conferences this year. One in Carbondale, IL July 18-21 or San Antonio, TX July 25-28. This Conference is for youth heading into high school or high school students. If you would like information see Pastor Beltz or go to [www.higherthings.org](http://www.higherthings.org). This is a great opportunity for youth to meet other youth growing up Lutheran as well.

**INTAKE FORMS**

We are working on updating church files. There is intake forms in the narthex to fill out. Please fill on out an intake form for each family member, including children. Please return all intake forms in the basket marked intake forms. My Goal is to have things update so I can do birthday and anniversaries again. This will also help the office update addresses and phone numbers. Thank you for your help



January 27-28 will be the winter Olympics at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are wanting to go.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Nolan McKain	1-02
Roxanne Stout	1-06
Jim Westercamp	1-14
Jackson Fynaardt	1-14
Abram Beltz	1-14
Jami Sickels	1-15
Adam Duffy	1-17
Samuel Beltz	1-21
Ray Blessum	1-21
Shari Barnhart	1-26
Rod Hacker	1-27
Jennifer Fynaardt	1-29
Kolby Kitzman	1-31

These may not be up to date at this time.

**Free Babysitting**

January 28th  
4-9pm

Meal and snacks will be provided. Free will donations. Questions please contact Sue George or Lisa Haack



**Please include in your prayers daily**

- Betty Blessum, Betty Loftsgard, Henry & Dolores Fynaardt, Lynn Karavitas and Ann Ohms’;
- For those in Ukraine, Russia, Uvalde and other places suffering from acts of senseless violence;
- For those serving in our Armed Forces and for our Police Officers and Fire Fighters; may they remain safe in their service;
- For the many that continue to struggle with isolation and loneliness; For those directly and in directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine; For the many who continue to struggle with natural disasters and bad storms;
- For our Church, that God would continue to grant us new members and make us a good gift to each other and our community;
- For us as a congregation to faithfully receive God’s gifts this day.



## **Myrna J. Anthony**

I was born 1941 at a farm in SW Iowa-Kimballton Ia. It was a very Danish community-all Lutherans and Catholic! Graduated from Elk Horn in Kimballton High School -1960 and went to Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, Mo. and got my BS in Education . Met my husband Fred Anthony at NWMSU and married in 1964. Fred had a BS in education- social studies major. I got a teaching job in Des Moines School- 2nd grade teacher. Fred got Master-Drake University. Teaching jobs in Guthrie Center. In 1969-Fred got head track coach and history teaching at Pella, Ia. and Myrna got a library job. We have 3 children: Toni Larson now 55, Teaches in Atchison, KS-Spanish she has 3 children, Jennifer, Ethan and Meghan from them I have 5 grandchildren. Mark Anthony is now 53 with wife Angie. Lives in Pella, Ia. Works for Pella Schools out door maintenance. They have 2 children Mackenzie and Cale. From them I have 4 grandchildren. Heather DeJong 47 with husband Craig who live in Pella, Ia. Heather is a Paid Caregiver. They have 3 children Cole who has spina bifida, Wyatt and Sarah. Joined St. John Lutheran Church in Oskaloosa 1969. No Lutheran church in Pella. Kids were confirmed at St. John. Two daughters' weddings, 1 child baptized, 5 grand kids baptized at St. John. I've been in LWML, Sunday School teacher, Youth group leader, finance committee, greeter and altar guild. My hobbies are reading, baking, walking, nature trails, puzzles and helping out with handicapped grandson. Fred retired in 2002 and I followed in 2004. Fred died in 2014. I moved to a duplex -410 University, Pella, IA

## **Marty & Sue George**

Marty was born in Keokuk, IA and grew up in Hamilton, IL. Marty had three wonderful children from his first marriage; Hannah Caleb, and Lauren. Sue was born in Fairbury, NE. We met on a Lutheran singles website and were united in marriage on September 16, 2006. Marty currently works as an application draftsman for Cablevey Conveyors in Oskaloosa. Marty has been doing CAD design work since 1990. He started work at Heatilator designing fireplaces. He then moved on to designing bulldozers. Later he designed Ceco buildings and now conveyors systems. Marty has been a youth group leader, sang in the choir, an elders and an usher at our previous church. Marty's hobbies are woodworking, gardening and fishing. In his leisure time he enjoys listening to Christian comedy, spending time with his kids and traveling. Sue is currently working as the secretary for St John Lutheran Church. Sue started on dialysis in 1997. She had one transplant in July of 1999 and lost it in 2000. She is currently listed on the transplant list in Des Moines, IA. Sue has a degree in Accounting. She studied in Salina, KS at Brown Mackie College. Sue has worked at the chamber of commerce in Fairbury. Upon moving to Iowa. Sue worked as a preschool teacher for 12 years at Son Shine Academy in Mt Pleasant, IA. At that time she was also working as the administrative assistant at Faith Lutheran Church. Before coming to St John, Sue has been a Youth group leader, Sunday school teacher, sang in the choir, and part of the Old Threshers committee. Sue's hobbies are doing talks on dialysis, reading books, baking, gardening and cross stitch. In her leisure time she enjoys watching medical shows, sitting by the water, spending time with her dog and cat and traveling.

# January 2023

St John' Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Reverend Samuel Beltz  
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 Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577  
 641-673-6546  
 office@stjohnosky.com

www.faithsonshine.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Divine Service with Communion <b>10:15 Cody &amp; Aurelie Mission Talk</b> Elders Meeting 1:45pm Confirmation	2	3	4 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study  <b>Bulletin items due</b>	5 Church Council 6:00pm	6	7 LWML Holiday brunch 9-2pm
8 9am Prayers and Preaching Service <b>10:15 Quarterly Voters Meeting</b> 1:45pm Confirmation	9 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Bible Study	10	11 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study  <b>Bulletin items due</b>	12 Friends of Marty 7pm	13	14
15 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15 Bible Study/ Sunday School	16 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Bible Study	17	18 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study  <b>Bulletin items due</b>	19	20	21  <b>Newsletter Items Due</b>
22 9am Prayers and Preaching Service 10:15 Bible Study/ Sunday School 1:45pm Confirmation	23 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Bible Study	24	25 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study  <b>Bulletin items due</b>	26 Friends of Marty 7pm	27 Youth -Laser Tag 6-8pm	28 Free Babysitting 4-9pm
29 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15 Bible Study/ Sunday School 1:45pm Confirmation	30 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Bible Study	31				

# Intake Form

We are in the process of updating all our Church Records.  
Please fill out this form to the best of your ability and turn it in to the Church Office.  
*All church Records are kept in strict confidence.*  
Please fill out one form for **each member** in your household

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Talents/ Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City/St./Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date M/D/YR \_\_\_\_\_

Hm Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Where born \_\_\_\_\_

Wk Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Baptized \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Where Baptized \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Family Position \_\_\_\_\_ Where confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

1 Head of Household

2 Spouse

3 Child

4 Other

Confirmation verse \_\_\_\_\_

Date Married M/D/YR \_\_\_\_\_

Military Service \_\_\_\_\_

Where married \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status

Married  Divorced  Widow/Widower

Single  Separated

School Status \_\_\_\_\_ (Elem, Middle, High, Grad, etc.)

Yr. of High School Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Grade now \_\_\_\_\_