



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

Volume 3 Issue 12

### From the Desk of President Saunders

## President's Piece for Peace

On the 27th of this November I will most likely be sitting at my table with a thankful heart. There on my plate will be a slice of turkey breast (not my favorite), mashed potatoes smothered in gravy (I like it), as well as green beans and cranberries with a warm bun in my hands. Awaiting the end of the meal will be a large (and I mean LARGE) slice of pumpkin pie covered in whipped topping sprayed from a can (that I like).

Around the table will most likely be some of my children along with my grandchildren. Even though it will be noisy I will be glad to hear the tiny voices suggesting we eat the pumpkin shaped cookies first, just in case there isn't enough room left for the other foods.

The television will be in eye shot so I can watch the football game. Yep, good food, family, and football. All of which give me reason to be thankful on Thanksgiving Day. How American of me, to give thanks for the things I like and the things I want. What if the situation was different? What if there was little food, no family, and no entertainment on the tube? Would I then be able to give thanks?

The Apostle Paul writes to the congregation in Philippi these words, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:6-7)

It is interesting to note that Paul writes this epistle while being held in house arrest in the city of Rome. He would have had very little to be thankful for, yet he gives thanks. He could not work, he could not earn a wage. Food, clothing, and supplies would have come from those who came to visit him, and many did just that. Paul was thankful for the fact his imprisonment gave him opportunity to preach and teach many a listener the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul was not giving thanks so much for the material things he had so little of, although he certainly was grateful for whatever was brought to him. He was thankful for the blessing of preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ, God's Son, man's Savior.

Preaching and teaching is what I will be receiving prior to sitting down at my table for dinner. I can, as you can, always give thanks during any circumstance, because the grace of God through Jesus' victorious atonement has set us free from the prison of sin, death, and the Devil. The meal we receive at the chancel is better than any pumpkin pie desert. The Body and Blood of Jesus is given us to eat and to drink granting the forgiveness of our sins and the certainty of eternal life. Paul gave thanks wherever he was, in all situations, pleasant and unpleasant. He had the promise of life in Christ now and of Life Eternal.

There is nothing topping that. It is true for Paul, and it is true for you and me as well. God bless you this Thanksgiving Day with thankful hearts. May you be thankful for the privilege to preach and to teach the Gospel, and thankful for what we have been given by the gracious open hand of our Lord.

*Rev Dr. Brian Saunders*

#### Weekly Schedule:

- Service 9:00 am
- Adult Bible Study/  
Sunday School  
10:15am
- Confirmation 12:00pm
- Monday Night Bible  
Study 6:00pm
- Wednesday Coffee  
Time 8:30am
- Wednesday Scripture  
Study 9 am
- Wednesday Night  
Senior High Youth  
Group 5:30pm

#### Special Activities:

- LWML December 4 @  
11am
- Elders December 4 @  
6pm

**December Duties:**

**Elder**

Brad Sickels

**Altar Guild**

Betty McWilliams &  
Myrna Anthony

**Acolyte**

12/7 Jackson Fynaardt  
12/14 Beckett Vanderwilt  
12/21 Gabe Hoy  
12/24 Jill Hoy  
12/25 Abram Beltz  
12/28 Lincoln Duffy

**Processional Cross**

12/25 Gabe Hoy  
12/28 Bristol Duffy

**Greeter**

Fran Katko

**Hospitality**

12/7 Brooklyn Vanderwilt &  
Lauren McKain  
12/14 Tamra VanHaaften &  
Sue George  
12/21 Happy Birthday Jesus  
12/28 Cassie Beltz &  
Rebecca Duffy

**Cleaning**

Need Someone

**Ushers**

12/7 Malachi Schauer &  
Toni Karavitis  
12/ 14 Curt Jager &  
Gabe Hoy  
12/21 Alan Pickett &  
Lawrence Smith  
11/23 Marty George &  
James Horn

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.

**LWML NEWS**

LWML ladies will having a Business meeting on December 4 @ 11am. Business Meeting. Theme: Plea for Grace, Karen Westercamp will present Devotions. We will have a potluck lunch.

Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of the Month. Please remember to bring your mites and put in the LWML box.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<b>Alfred Carr</b>	<b>12-06</b>
<b>Mathew Bowie</b>	<b>12-11</b>
<b>David Fenton</b>	<b>12-11</b>
<b>Hannah King</b>	<b>12-15</b>
<b>Monica Pickett</b>	<b>12-23</b>
<b>Regina Hoy</b>	<b>12-26</b>
<b>Carla Malloy</b>	<b>12-26</b>

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

**Mike & Lisa Forschler**  
**12-18-2021**  
**Austin and Hannah King**  
**12-20-2014**

**LWML Other News**

We received a Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 for Disaster Cleaning buckets for Orphan Grain Train. Thanks to Sunday School students for their assistance filling the 9 buckets. They will be delivered to the OGT Clemons Warehouse.















They will be sent to flooded areas enabling residents to clean their homes prior to returning. Four quilts will be donated at the same time. Please let us know if you have any donations you would like to send along to OGT

**On December 7, our ladies invite the Sunday School students to decorate Christmas cookies after their Christmas program practice.**

On December 10, our ladies will sponsor n Baked Potato Meal after the Advent Service. Hats, mittens/gloves & scarves are requested as an offering to be donated to local organizations.



**Please include in your prayers daily**

-  Sean Strothman, Luke Letzring, Rod Hacker, Karen Westercamp; Tamra Van Haaften 
-  **Prayers for the Mocks for: strengthening of relationships** at our local church with both existing and newcomers, **wise technology decisions** the improve effectiveness of both Luther Academy and the Eurasia Region, **language learning, activities and friendships** for Eva and Moriah 
-  For those in Isreal, 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 good gifts this day. 



## Altar Guild

Would like that thank everyone for helping this past year. As we look to the new year if you would like to be taken off of Altar Guild or add to the list to help with Altar Guild please let Judy Webb or the office know.  
Thank you

## Prayer Requests for Advent

As we enter the Advent season, we will be updating our prayer list. If you have names you would like to remain on the list, or if there are others who should be added, please contact the church office.

## Help Us Deck the Sanctuary with Poinsettias!

Would you like to add beauty to our sanctuary this Christmas season? You can help by ordering a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one—or simply to brighten our worship space!

### Available Sizes & Prices (tax included):

- **Small** – \$7.50
- **Medium** – \$14.00
- **Large** – \$26.75

**Color Choices:** Red • White • Jingle Bells

To order, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board as you enter the church. Then place your payment in the *marked envelope* located at the back of the church and put it in the offering plate. If paying with cash, please be sure to use an envelope with **your name** on it.

### Order deadline: December 14

If you have any questions, please contact **Karen Westercamp** or the church office.

Let's fill our sanctuary with the joy and color of Christmas!

## Children's Christmas program December 21st @ 9am



## Ushers

Marty would like to thank everyone that served as an usher this past year. As we look to the new year if you would like to be added to the Ushers schedule please let the office know. Also if you would no longer like to be an Usher please let the office know.  
Thank you

## Special Services in December

- Advent Service 12/3 @ 5:30pm
- Advent Service 12/10 @ 5:30pm
- Advent Service 12/17 @ 5:30pm
- Children's Christmas Program 12/21 @ 9am
- Christmas Eve Lessons & Carol 12/24 @ 5:30pm
- Christmas Eve Divine Service 12/24 @ 11pm
- Christmas Morning Divine Service 12/25 @ 10am



## Mock Care Package

We are sending a Christmas care package as a church to the Mock Family. If you haven't met Cody and Aurelie, they have to your girls and are member of St John before they left for mission work in 2023.

**Cody and Aurélie Mock** serve the Lord through the LCMS in the Czech Republic. As IT project manager, Cody works alongside the Luther Academy in Riga, Latvia and the mission team in Eurasia to provide support for various IT systems and services.

These are Funds St. John has set aside for sending the package, but if you'd like to give monetary support designate your giving as "Mock Care Package" in the offering. Additionally, if you would like to give specific gifts to include the package, please ask Hannah King as she has a list of what they would like/need. We will need all items to the church by December 7 to send in time for Christmas! Thank you!

St John' Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reverend Samuel Beltz

2370 Merino Ave.

Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

641-673-6546

office@stjohnosky.org

# December 2025

[www.stjohnosky.org](http://www.stjohnosky.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00 Monday Night Bible Study	2	3 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study 5:30pm Advent Service 6pm Advent Meal	4 11am LWML Potluck  6pm Elders Meeting	5	6
7 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Sunday/ Christmas Program Practice S.S. Decorate Cookies w/LWML  12:00 pm Confirmation	8 6:00 Monday Night Bible Study	9	10 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study 5:30pm Advent Service 6pm Advent Meal <b>Bulletin items due</b>	11	12	13
14 9am Divine Service with Communion  10:15am Sunday/ Christmas Program Practice  12:00 pm Confirmation	15 6:00 Monday Night Bible Study	16	17 8:30am Coffee Hour 9:00am Scripture Study 5:30pm Advent Service 6pm Advent Meal <b>Bulletin items due</b>	18	19	20
21 9am Divine Service with Communion <b>Christmas Program</b>	22 6:00 Monday Night Bible Study	23	24 5:30pm Candle Light with Evening Prayer  11:00pm Divine Service with Candle Light  <b>Bulletin items due</b>	25 10am Christmas Morning Divine Service	26	27
28 9am Divine Service with Communion	29	30	31	1	2	3