



THE INFORMER



December 2021

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 64, Issue 4

From Pastor's Pen:



"No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known." Jn. 1:18

I wish the greatest of Christmas blessings to all my St. John's family!

Truly, Christmas is filled with many blessings: beautiful decorations and heart-warming songs, family gatherings and gifts of love, exciting worship and the message of angels bringing good tidings of great joy for all people. Perhaps the greatest blessing of all is that God makes Himself known to us through His Son, Jesus.

There was once a little boy who was afraid of the dark when he went to bed at night. One evening his father went up to his room to talk to him. He told the little boy that there was no reason to be afraid because God was with him. The little boy replied, "I know daddy, but I want someone with skin on."

That is exactly what God gave us on that first Christmas: God with skin on. That is when the Word, who was with God and was God from the beginning, became flesh and dwelt among us. From that time, until the end of the ages, Jesus is our Immanuel, God with us.

One of the great pleasures that Adam and Eve had been given was to truly know God and to see Him as He was, full of grace and truth. Oh, how they cherished their visits with God in the garden as He revealed His love to them. In His presence there was no fear or shame, only peace and security. We know, however, that all of that changed when they fell into sin. Their knowledge of God was corrupted as they ran away from Him. Instead of seeing Him full of grace and truth, they saw Him as a God who hated them and as One they could no longer trust. From that time on it could rightly be said that no one could see God. No one could know Him as they should, and where there is no right knowledge of God there can only be fear and dread. This is not the kind of relationship that the Heavenly Father ever wanted between Himself and the children of His creation. So He set in motion a plan to reveal Himself to us in a way that would again show us that He is full of grace and truth.

In the humble child of Bethlehem we see God with skin on for us. In innocent suffering and death of that same man on the cross we see God with skin on for us. In the glorious resurrection of that same man who then ascends to the Father's side we again see God with skin of for us. The greatest blessing of this Christmas is that God, in Christ, comes to us with skin on to be with us. Knowing Him again as we should and seeing Him full of grace and truth we have no reason to be afraid. We, like Adam and Eve, can enjoy our visits with God as He reveals His love to us in worship. We can again be delivered from all fear and shame to enjoy the peace and security that comes through the Holy Spirit. This is God's Christmas gift to you this year, so enter into His presence. Come, to our Advent and Christmas celebrations as the only God, Jesus Christ, who is at the Father's side makes God known to you and gives you peace.

In the name of God in the flesh, Jesus,

Pastor Ymbarger



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See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website

www.stjohnsem.org

Vicar's View

Dear Saints in Christ,

A great devotional resource is the Psalms. These wonderful verses were written for use during worship and devotion, and they contain both the lowest and highest points of a believer's life. Psalms 22, 23, and 24 are particularly interesting. Psalm 22 is one of the most gut wrenching depictions of forsakenness and suffering ever written. Indeed, it was so spot on that Christ recited the first line of it from the cross while he was dying (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34.) But this hard to read, unapologetic profile of human suffering is followed up by the most comforting psalm, that you are undoubtedly familiar with in some way, that is, Psalm 23. Psalm 23 is then followed up by Psalm 24, a depiction of the Lord God as a mighty force to be reckoned with. This order is not a mere chance. It encapsulates the whole of the Christian life. Romans 6:3 tells us that we were baptized into Christ's death. Therefore, in times of hardship, we may absolutely pray in the way that the psalmist prays in Psalm 22. And in Psalm 23, we see the Lord himself taking care of his sheep, protecting them from enemies (exactly as a real shepherd would) and feeding them. He feeds us too, with his body and blood. And then, there is Psalm 24, describing the mighty Lord, the one who reigns over all creation. Verses 7-10 show our prayers now, as we await the return of Christ, who will come to judge the living and the dead. A blessed Advent to you all!

In the Trinity,

Vicar Lackey



Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

Sat. Dec. 4: Chuck Brokaw, Larry Ripka, & Rick Newlon
Sun. Dec. 5: Brian Nielson, Evan Antolik, Jeff Belan, & Kevin Rossmiller

Sat. Dec. 11: Chuck Brokaw, Larry Ripka, & Rick Newlon
Sun. Dec. 12: Brian Nielson, Evan Antolik, Jeff Belan, & Kevin Rossmiller

Sat. Dec. 18: Chuck Brokaw, Larry Ripka, & Rick Newlon
Sun. Dec. 19: Brian Nielson, Evan Antolik, Jeff Belan, & Kevin Rossmiller

Fri. Dec. 24, 6:30pm: Brian Nielson, Evan Antolik, Jeff Belan, & Kevin Rossmiller

Sat. Dec. 25, 9:00am:

Sun. Dec. 26: Brian Nielson, Evan Antolik, Jeff Belan, & Kevin Rossmiller

Fri. Dec. 31, 6:30pm: Brian Nielson, Evan Antolik, Jeff Belan, & Kevin Rossmiller

Communion Assistants

Dec. 5: Glen McMillin
Dec. 19: Ralph Grotelueschen

Greeters

Wed. Dec. 1: LouAnn DeRammelaere
Sat. Dec. 4: Orene Antolik & LouAnn DeRammelaere
Sun. Dec. 5: Kris & Alyssa McAnally

Wed. Dec. 8: Norm & Orene Antolik
Sat. Dec. 11: Orene Antolik & LouAnn DeRammelaere
Sun. Dec. 12: Bill & Donna Green

Wed. Dec. 15: Norm & Orene Antolik
Sat. Dec. 18: Helen Carter & Ruby Pancrazio
Sun. Dec. 19: Marsha Boarts & Molly Lackey

Wed. Dec. 22: George & Marlene Fellows
Fri. Dec. 24, 6:30pm: Dennis & Marsha Boarts
Sat. Dec. 25, 9:00am: Dennis & Marsha Boarts
Sun. Dec. 26: Carol Krouth & Margie Schaefer

Fri. Dec. 31, 6:30pm:

Acolytes

Wed. Dec. 1: Brayden Medinger
Sun. Dec. 5: Kinzlee Antolik

Wed. Dec. 8: Aubree Medinger
Sun. Dec. 12: Lydia Merritt

Wed. Dec. 15: Bennett Johnson
Sun. Dec. 19: Payton Braddy

Wed. Dec. 22: Stratton Churchill
Fri. Dec. 24: 8:00pm: Alice Schmidt
Sat. Dec. 25: 9:00am:
Sun. Dec. 26: Jackson Merritt

Fri. Dec. 31 6:30pm: Grace Schmidt

Altar Guild

Dec. 4 & 5: Marsha Boarts & Kris McAnally
Dec. 11 & 12: Flo Moore
Dec. 18 & 19: Marsha Boarts, Kathy Herron, & Gail Massey
Dec. 24: Flo Moore & Margie Schaefer
Dec. 25: Margie Schaefer
Dec. 26: Flo Moore
Dec. 31: Kathy Ahrens & Rebecca Hinman



Flower Chart

Dec. 5: Poinsettias
Dec. 12: Poinsettias
Dec. 19: Poinsettias
Dec. 26: Poinsettias



Eternal Candle

Dec. 5: In memory of Jack Passman
Dec. 12: In memory of Terry Dugan
Dec. 19: Parker Myers' baptism birthday
Dec. 26: Karen Schmidt

Church News

Birthdays

3-Blake Buck, Janet Hill & Elliott Stone
 4-Beverly Brokaw & Jared Sountris
 6-Susanne Soyke & Jaydin Medina
 8- Craig Johanson
 11-Hailee Fischer & Lisa Foehrkolb
 12- Cindy Hart
 14- Carlee Budny
 15-Brian Kern & Michael Pierce
 17-Shirley Gillies, Jack Heino & Suzannah Weber
 19- Wanda Cass
 20-Louis Hill



21- Holly Belan, James Hanerhoff
 22-Chris Chaffee, Brian Newlon & Alice Schmidt
 24- Kay Iwen, Scott Park, Charles Porter, Candace Sountris & Craig Wenzel
 25-Carole Vrban
 26-Dennis Kelly & Wendy Rossmiller
 28-Owen Braddy & Kenneth Weidenbach
 30-Jackie Keogh
 31-Brenda Roggendorf

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>THIS YEAR</u> | <u>LAST YEAR</u> | <u>SUN. SCHOOL</u> | <u>RECEIVED</u> |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 10/24/21 | 156 | 112 | | |
| 10/31/21 | 153 | 128 | | |
| 11/7/21 | 153 | 78 | | |
| 11/14/21 | 143 | 83 | | |
| 11/21/21 | 170 | 76 | | |

Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership: 24% Simply Giving Totals \$ _____

Membership Report

Deaths:
 Larry Newlon 11/23/2021

ALL BOARDS MEET ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2ND AT 6:30PM. Parish planning is on Thursday, December 9th at 6:30pm, and there is a Voter's Meeting on Sunday, December 12th at 10:15am.

Call for Ushers

We have a need for individuals to volunteer to serve as Usher Captains and Ushers.

Usher Captain This is a month long commitment and includes recruiting your team.

Ushers can volunteer to serve one week at a time– it does not require a month long commitment.



Church News

Advent Suppers and Worship Schedule:

Suppers are served at 5:30pm with worship following at 6:30pm.

Wednesday, Dec. 1st– The Antolik Family serving Pulled Pork and Soup

Wednesday, Dec. 8th– Food Pantry serving Chili and Hot Dogs

Wednesday, Dec. 15th– Men’s Bible Study serving Sloppy Joes

Wednesday, Dec. 22nd– Annie Churchill and Family serving Spaghetti with Salad and Garlic Bread

Friday, Dec. 24th

8:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Saturday, Dec. 25th

9:00am Christmas Service with Communion

Friday, Dec. 31st

6:30pm New Year’s Eve Service with Communion



Please note, there will NOT be a Saturday evening service on January 1st.



Church News

2022 Flower Chart & Eternal Candle Instructions

If members wish to give ALTAR FLOWERS or ETERNAL CANDLES in 2022 please sign the charts located on the wall in the Narthex. (coming soon)

CHANCEL FLOWERS are ordered by the Altar Guild at the beginning of each month. Members are asked to write their NAME in the date they wish to give flowers and the OCCASION for giving the flowers. Please make checks (\$25) payable to ALTAR GUILD in advance of the order and write the date you are giving the flowers. Payment may be placed in the offering plate (*in an envelope clearly marked Altar Guild*) or in the Altar Guild mail box in the office. Members who wish to bring in their own flowers are asked to please circle the date. FRESH FLOWERS ONLY, PLEASE. If you wish to have flowers on a date that has already been filled, or if you are signing up for a date in the current month, please contact the church office so they may order the additional bouquet. If you have questions please feel free to call the office (792-0755)

Members are asked to write their NAME and the OCCASION in the ETERNAL CANDLE date. Please make checks (\$6) payable to ALTAR GUILD and write the date you are giving the eternal candle. Payment may be placed in the offering plate (*in an envelope clearly marked Altar Guild*) or in the Altar Guild mail box in the office.

Memorial Tree

MEMORIAL TREE ORNAMENTS

The Memorial Tree will be put up at the end of November. Any ornaments that were left last year will be put back on the tree this year. If you brought your ornament home, you may place it on the tree at any time. If you wish to have an ornament made for your loved one, please contact Carrie Homann. These flat ornaments are wood and the inscriptions can be wood burned or written in color. Each ornament should be inscribed with the name (full name or even a nickname, "Grammy B"). After that you can add what you wish; dates (birth - death), titles (son, husband, father, grandfather, etc), and a special line ("In loving memory of", "Dear Friend", etc).

Contact Carrie at 309-523-3330 or carrie.homann@gmail.com



LWML CHRISTMAS CHEER

St. John's LWML Christmas Cheer Brunch will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 4th. All ladies are invited to join us for Christmas fellowship and service as we fill containers with cookies for the teenagers at Arrowhead Ranch. Cookie donations are appreciated but not mandatory.

Please sign up at the Library Counter so we know how much food to prepare and have adequate seating.

There will be no business meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

Notes from the Balcony

Favorite Christmas Hymns

Four Christmas hymns made it onto St. John's favorite hymn list. Here is a little background on those hymns from *Lutheran Service Book, Companion to the Hymns*, published by CPH, 2019

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, LSB 358

Of the three Christmas hymns of Martin Luther, none is more beloved than "From heaven above to earth I come."...According to legend, Luther wrote it as a kind of Christmas pageant for his own five surviving children and other members of his household for their 1534 family celebration of Christmas...The first stanza is a parody...of a secular 'garland song' (where) a young man would sing the refrain, and then would pose a riddle to one of the girls sitting in a circle. If she could not solve the riddle, she would give him her garland. In the folk song, a traveling ballad singer comes into a marketplace bearing news from afar, which he offers to share with the people in the square. Luther picks up on this picture, using the image of an angel coming in from the "foreign land" of heaven into the circle of shepherds keeping watch, offering to share the good news with them of what has just happened in Bethlehem.

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming, LSB 359

This anonymous fifteenth-century German carol was originally a hymn about the Virgin Mary...with Mary represented as the branch that "bears on little flower," Jesus...When Lutheran church musician Michael Praetorius included the hymn in his 1609 collection *Musae Sioniae*,... he, or someone before him, altered the second stanza to downplay the significance of Mary in the story...Jesus, not Mary, is now the rose of the hymn; and the reference to Mary's perpetual virginity is removed...The third stanza in *LSB*, a late addition to the hymn, is by the nineteenth-century German Lutheran pastor and musicologist Fridrich Layriz (1808-59)...The final *LSB* stanza shifts the prayer (originally addressed to Mary as Queen) to Jesus.

Joy to the World, LSB 387

As a young man, so the story goes, Isaac Watts (1674-1748) complained to his father about the way the Psalms were sung at worship in England, The very literal translations were tortured and uninspiring to him. His father challenged him to produce something better. He promptly attempted one himself, which was so well received that he produced many more... "Joy to the world" appears in this book (*The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament*) as one of the two texts inspired by Psalm 98...He saw in this psalm a prophecy of the coming of Christ and the salvation He has won through His death, resurrection, and ascension.

Go Tell it on the Mountain, LSB 388

Folk music traditions often do not allow us to identify with certainty the source of a genre. Such is the case with the African American spiritual. It is safe to say, however, that the words we have in front of us go back to the efforts of John Wesley Work II (1876-1942), who, with his brother, Frederick Jerome Work, contributed much toward the preservation, performance, and study of the spiritual... The Work family had a long and productive association with Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, including the direction of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a touring choir of international reputation...(Work III recalls), "Very early on Christmas morning, long before sunrise, it was then the custom for the students to gather and walk together from building to building (on the campus of Fisk University) singing [this spiritual]."



His Servant,
Christine Engebrecht

Church News

***Lets remember our Shut-Ins
by sending them a Holiday Card!***

Nancy Bonow
1020 38th St.
Moline, 61265

Lois Deal
1800 7th St Apt. 11F
East Moline, IL 61244

MaryAnn Eckert
1455 Hospital Rd #111
Silvis, IL 61282

Angela Fischer
24690 E. 168th St.
Geneseo, IL 61254

Peg Heitzman
8027 N 2300 Ave
Geneseo, IL 61254

Lori Hopkins
325 2nd St. Apt. 705
Silvis, IL 61282

Noreen Hopkins
39 Lilac Ct
Geneseo, IL 61254

Marilyn Kupresin
3752 Thunder Ridge Rd.
#102
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Wanda Dobrinske
105 Julie Ct.
Colona, IL 61241

Alice Heller
221 11th Ave.
Moline, IL 61265

Ingrid Hodshire
4343 Kennedy Dr.
4102 Bed 2
East Moline, IL 61244

Bill Park
1900 10th St. #193
Silvis, IL 61282

June Sutton
1900 10th St.
Silvis, IL 61282

Nancy Smart
4046 9 1/2 St.
E. Moline, IL 61244



How about a card for our former Vicar's...

(If there is a former Vicar you were particularly fond of, Annie would be happy to get you his current address)

Alex & Rachel Lange
3325 22nd Ave SE
Albany, OR 97322

Mark & Rebecca Harriss
9702 Zion Lutheran Church Rd
Hillsboro, MO 63050

Joseph & Kate Warnke
7516 Watson Circle
Long Grove, GA 30248

Ryan & Andie Anderson
2927 George Rd Apt 201
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Julian & Julia LaMie
28054 S Yates Ave
Beecher, IL 60401

Chad & Magdalena Biar
1292 Tommy Trail
Fallon, NV 89406

Michael Wilke
801 Seminary Place
St. Louis, MO 63105

Church News

Children's Christmas Program

This year's Christmas program will take place on December 22nd at 6:30pm during the Advent service.

Anybody interested in participating in the program is asked to contact Cris Braddy at 309-235-7984 by Dec. 1st.

The rehearsals will be held during the Sunday school hour on Dec. 5, 12, and 19.



Food Pantry Christmas Boxes

The food pantry is now preparing to pack their annual Christmas boxes. If you know of a family that would feel blessed to receive a basket, please fill out the slip and return to the office by: Thursday, December 16th at noon. Pick up will be on Monday, Dec. 20 from 10am-12noon.

CHRISTMAS BOX REQUEST

Referring Member Name: _____

Name of Family to Receive: _____ Size of Household: _____

Who will pick up, referring member or family receiving? (please circle)

If the family receiving the basket is picking it up, please provide us with their phone number so they can be reached if needed. _____

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION & RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 12/16/2021
Pick up is Monday, Dec 20 from 10am-12noon.

From the Central Illinois District- News You Can Use

Uplifted Hands

Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword. Exodus 17:12-13 Life can sometimes feel like a battle. This is true especially for Christians who are trying to honor the Lord by serving others and by proclaiming the Gospel. This is also true for pastors and other professional ministers in our Lutheran churches and schools. The world considers Christians to be intolerant, narrow minded, and out of touch with reality. We can become weary from always "swimming upstream" against the currents of popular opinion and world philosophies. It is important to remember that Jesus already fought and won the battle against sin and the devil. All we must do is stand (Eph.6). The devil cannot harm us. Yet, still at times, we need people like Aaron and Hur to hold up our hands and the hands of God's professional workers so they can continue to bless us with God's Word. In Exodus 17 we see the account of when Aaron and Hur stood with Moses while Moses blessed the people of Israel as they fought against the army of Amalek. As long as Moses held his hands up in blessing, the Israelites were winning. If he lowered his hands, they began to lose. So Aaron and Hur stood beside Moses and held up his hands. Are there any "Aarons" and "Hurs" in your congregation? If so, praise God and thank them for their service. If you are an Aaron or a Hur, never forget how important you are! God may be using you to uplift your pastor and other workers so they can continue to bless your congregation with the powerful and life-giving Word of God .

-Rev. Jeff Harter



Bible Bowl

Announcing the 2022 Central Illinois District LC-MS Youth Bible Bowl topic: Romans and 1 Corinthians. We heard requests for the Bible Bowl to cover Luther's *Small Catechism*. *This year's topic is as close to that as it comes. St. Paul discusses the Ten Commandments, the doctrine of God, Christ's atonement, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Paul deals with the church and proclaims the forgiveness of sins (justification by faith), the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Office of the Keys are explained. And prayer is interspersed with these basic Christian doctrines.*



Date (Spring 2022) and location for the District Bible Bowl will be announced later. But now is the time to study these important epistles of the Bible with your youth and to talk within your circuit about holding a circuit Bible Bowl in preparation for the District Bible Bowl. Each circuit may send two teams to Springfield. For more information on how you can hold a Bible Bowl in your circuit, contact Pastor Mark Eddy at Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, Ill. (zionlcms@juno.com).



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year

Church Calendar

December 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | <p>1 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 5:30p Advent Dinner 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Advent Service 7:15p Confirmation Class</p> | <p>2 All Boards Meet in Prep for Parish Planning 6:30p All Boards Meet</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 10:00a LWML Christmas Cheer 5:00p Worship w/ Communion</p> |
| <p>5 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School</p> | <p>6 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion</p> | <p>7 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam</p> | <p>8 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 5:30p Advent Dinner 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Advent Service 7:15p Confirmation Class</p> | <p>9 6:30p Parish Planning Meeting</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship</p> |
| <p>12 9:00a Worship 10:15a Voter's Meeting</p> | <p>13 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion</p> | <p>14 10:00a Food Pantry 2:00p ASL 6:30p Guitar Jam</p> | <p>15 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 5:30p Advent Dinner 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Advent Service 7:15p Confirmation Class</p> | <p>16 11:30a Ladies Luncheon</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship/ Communion</p> |
| <p>19 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School</p> | <p>20 9:00a Informer Deadline Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion</p> | <p>21 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam</p> | <p>22 9:00a TOPS 5:30p Advent Dinner 6:30p Advent Service</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24 8:00p Christmas Eve Worship w/ Comm.</p> | <p>25 9:00a Worship w/ Comm.</p> |
| <p>26 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School</p> | <p>27 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Men's Reunion</p> | <p>28 10:00a Food Pantry 2:00p ASL</p> | <p>29 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31 6:30p Worship w/Comm.</p> | |



St. John's Lutheran Church

1450-30th Avenue
East Moline, IL 61244

Tel: 309-792-0755
Fax: 309-792-0776
E-mail: office@stjohnsem.org

Walking in the Light of Christ!

We're On the Web!!
www.stjohnsem.org



Worship Times

Saturday Service at 5:00pm
Sunday Service at 9:00am
Sunday School/ Bible Study at 10:15am
**Please note, there will NOT be Saturday evening service on January 1.*

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs, 8:30am-12:00pm
Please note, the office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Years Day.

