

December 2021 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Hurry up and wait!" Isn't that the story of our lives at times? While we hurry towards Christmas, we're also waiting for the coming of Christ! While we wait, consider how the birth of Jesus was good news for all people: It was good news to shepherds (the blue collar people of the day). It was good news to wise men (the seekers and sojourners of the day). It was good news to Mary & Joseph-that what the angels had told them was true! It was a thrill for old Anna and Simeon, getting to hold the baby in the Temple. It was only bad news to a paranoid king, who felt threatened...threatened enough to make some brutal and terrible choices.

Now consider how the birth of Jesus is still good news for all people: For those feeling overwhelmed, he arrives gently. For those who have felt abandoned, he comes to dwell with us. For those who thought God was far away, he shows God to be near. For the mighty and proud, he challenges them not to be so full of themselves. For the homeless, we remember at times that Jesus had "nowhere to lay his head". For migrants and refugees, the holy family's need to flee for safety might inspire hope and courage. For us who are comfortable in the suburbs, in our relationships, in our work, Jesus' coming is a reminder of how with great blessings come great responsibility.

Part of our job in this Advent and Christmas season is to wait expectantly. Part of our job is to open our hearts and minds for Christ to come in and make us new. And part of our job is to make sure the good news still gets to all people! Word of mouth, deeds of kindness, generous contributions, caring connections, fearless advocacy will all help. We wait. And while we wait, we pray "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Pastor Paul

Opportunities this month!

December 19 at 9:45 worship, we'll welcome readers and gifts of music (in lieu of a separate Christmas Program this year.) We'll welcome students and families to volunteer!

Christmas Eve services: 1:00 Drive-in Service (you can stay in your car and tune the service in on your radio!) 3:00, 5:00, services-consider wearing a mask. 7:00 service-mask required. We look forward to gathering and celebrating as safely as we can! (We'll be on Facebook Live also.)

Christmas Day service with Holy Communion at 9:45. (And then on Sunday, Dec. 26, we'll have just one service at 9:45.)

Gift shopping or giving? Remember our ELCA Good Gifts Catalog, that can make a huge difference in someone's life with a variety of gifts through our ELCA Hunger Appeal. Also online at <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

When you shop on Amazon Smile, you can designate Crossways Camping Ministry as your 'charity'. It's only like a penny a purchase, but if we all did that, our camps would gain a little extra help!

October 2021 - Year to Date

+YTD General Fund

Receipts: \$ 185,001

Expenses: \$ 170,999

Thank you for your regular offerings and to those who have signed up for electronic giving.

+YTD Building Fund:

Receipts: \$ 97,288 Expenses: \$ 88,025

+YTD Missionary Sponsorship:

\$ 5,310 Goal for 2021: \$6,000

+YTD ELCA Benevolence:

\$ 15,200 Goal for 2021: \$15,000

Building Loan Balance: \$ 62,011

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Login to your Thrivent account and direct your Choice Dollars to St. John's before the end of the year. Your Choice Dollars do not carry over.

Christian Education

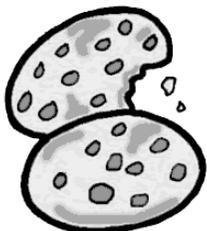
December 5th we will have in person Sunday school as well as a simple supper and "Sunday" school on Wednesday, December 8th at 6 pm if you can't make it Sunday. Or come to both! On Sunday, December 19th we have our Christmas Program. It will be a sing-a-long and readings. Please contact Staci Bohling if you, or you and your family would like to read. (stacibohling@gmail.com) Then mark your calendar for a Friday Fun Night on January 7th. This is for all 3rd to 6th graders from 6-10 pm. We need some help from parents from each grade. Contact Staci if you can help!

Chili Cook-off & Pie Sale Thanks!

Thank you to all who organized and participated in our 1st Annual Chili Cookoff and Pie Sale! We had 10 different chili makers and a counter full of pies! Ann Radloff won best in Chili with her delicious chili over rice. She said that's the way they served them chili when they were in Hawaii! All the chili was delicious and enjoyed by many! Our next event will be "Fat Sunday" on February 27th! We'll have a pancake breakfast, and invite someone to church day!

Poinsettia Orders

It's time to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. You can order a red or white poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, then you can take them home to decorate. Sign up in the Gathering Space. **December 5th will be the last day to order.** The cost is \$8 each.



Ruth Circle Bake Sale – December 11th and 12th

Ruth Circle are working on is their annual bake sale. The sale will be Saturday, December 11th after the 5:00 service and Sunday morning December 12th before and after services. Donations of baked goods (cookies, bars, cakes, candy...) are appreciated. Sign-up & get more information in the Gathering Space or talk to Wendy Heidtke, Beth Mittermaier, or Susan Heidtke.

Getting to Know You!

Each month we'll feature a St. John's member so we can get to know each other better.

Getting to Know You: New Members!

Scott & Mary Moschea transferred from Holy Cross Lutheran in Menomonee Falls and are coming to St. John's to be with their daughter (Kim Guslick) and granddaughters (Addy and Emma). Scott will be retiring in the near future from We-Energies, and Mary retired from the Germantown School District in 2017. They both enjoy the outdoors which includes spending time in Door County. Their hobbies include sewing, and woodworking. Their adult kids and grandkids also keep them busy with a variety of activities! They look forward to being new members of this friendly congregation.

Del & Sue Worden are both retired from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs. They are history buffs and enjoy visiting museums and historical sites. In particular, Del is interested in the history of the brewing industry, and collects vintage beer advertising items. Sue is working on her (and Del's) family history, and also does scrapbooking and other crafts.

Matthew Troester & Janel Spicer are friends of Lucas & Nicole Lemberger. They recently got engaged in May and plan to be married sometime in spring. Matt works for Sommerfeld Trains & Hobbies, and Janel just started at Costco.

Nicole & Lucas Lemberger, Lacy, Logan and Leah were originally introduced to St. John's while looking for a church to get married in. (Nicole and Staci Bohling work together as nurses!) It has been over 4 years since they joined their families and have been coming to St. John's ever since. They are excited to officially become members! Logan is a sophomore and Leah is in the 8th grade at Berlin. Lacy is a freshman at Whitewater.

Greg & Linda Grosser are Wisconsin natives. Greg is a retired 7th grade science teacher from John Long Middle School in Grafton. Linda is retired from the corporate world. They have 3 adult children and 6 grandchildren. While living in Payson Arizona for 11 years they were looking for a summer church and found St. John's. Now full-time residents of Jackson they have now made St. John's their home church. They enjoy kayaking, fishing, and traveling. Linda is also our newest Choir member!

Jenna & Ryan Olson, McKenzie Staver, and Miles live in West Bend. Ryan is a special ed teacher at the high school. Jenna works for Momentum Daycare in Germantown. McKenzie is in the 7th grade at Badger. Miles is an active 2 year old! Ryan happens to be a cousin to Dawn Seltrecht, and his brother Paul got married here at St. John's 15 years ago! They enjoy hiking and traveling as a family.

Kristen & Tyler Apel and Jack

Tyler grew up in West Bend (at Our Savior's Lutheran), and Kristen grew up in Sussex and attended Zion Lutheran. They got married in 2018 and Jack will turn 1 on Nov. 24. Kristen works in radiology at Froedtert, and Tyler just started a new position at Delta Medical Systems as an accountant. They enjoy vacationing, going for walks, and sporting events. An interesting note: Pastor Paul's brother, Rev. John, officiated at the wedding of Tyler's parents in Menomonie, back in 1980! Small world!

Brittany and Nick Moeller and Ava & Max

Brittany and Nick both grew up in Oak Creek, where she attended Trinity Lutheran/South Milwaukee. They live near the Stahl's in the El Camino subdivision. Ava is 18 months, and Max was born in July! They also have two canine family members, Pebbles and Bear!

We're delighted to welcome more new folks, and we'll feature them next month.

St. John's Veteran's Group

Our next St. John's Vet's Group Meeting will be held on Tuesday December 14th at 9:00am at church. We encourage both St. John's members and non-members to attend our meetings. This is a great way to get together and share our experiences with other Veterans'.

Called to Serve

Readers

(8:00 Service)

12/5 Paul Stahl
12/12 Joel Wolf
12/19 Pete Kutzora
12/26 Joel Heidtke

(9:45 Service)

12/5 Reuben Heidtke
12/12 Dave Williams
12/19 Susan Heidtke
12/26 Sharon Boldt

Ushers

(8:00 Service)

12/5 Paul Stahl
12/12 Joel Wolf
12/19 Jim Kurtz
12/26 Staci Bohling

(9:45 Service)

12/5 Keith Heidtke
12/12 Dave Williams
12/19 Kelly/Will Strnad
12/26 Duane Plath



December Anniversaries!

Dec. 1 Ed & Marion Holcomb – 70 years
Irv & Jenny Brandt – 15 years
Dec. 3 Les & Arliss Steffen – 66 years
Dec. 8 Scott & Nancy Kinter – 22 years
Dec. 10 Don & Cheryl Roth – 44 years
Dec. 20 Juergen & Correen Oestreich – 24 years
Dec. 22 Scott & Amy Reid – 21 years

If we missed your special day please let us know.

December Birthdays

Dec 1 Lisa Kasubaski
Dec 3 Bonnie Gierach
Elliott Goodman
Dec 4 Camdyn Schneider
Luke Muller
Dec 5 Parker Benz
Carlynn Benson
Dec 6 Paul Ziemer
Dec 7 Brett Cameron
Delaney Kiel
Dec 8 Jeffrey Matthews
Jim Schwefel
Noelle Corwin
Dec 10 Jon Olafsson
Robert Starzman
Dec 11 Jim Kurtz
Skip Bartelt
Dec 12 Nicholas Friess
Matt Troester
Dec 14 Joan Sylvester
Klayton Bohling
Matt Driebel
Michael Novotny
Ryan Guslick
Seth Dueno
Zack Reinemann
Dec 16 Kylie Schneider
Dec 18 Carol Jacobs
Karen Uhlig
Dec 19 Doralee Piering
Sydney Kerr
Dec 21 Carol Lauterbach
Beth Mittermaier
Bob Jones
Dec 22 Miranda Garbade
Roswitha Scheunemann
Dec 23 Kathy Williams
Scott Christianson
Dec 24 Don Schroeder
Dec 26 Diana Stella
Dec 27 Dave Williams
Kolby Bohling
Dec. 30 Lorre Pietenpol
Dec 31 Susan Heidtke
Zachary Byrne

St. John's Lutheran Church
2881 Division Rd.
Jackson, WI 53037

At St. John's we're privileged and challenged to *Welcome, Worship, and Witness* in Christ's name. Thank you for being part of this faith community and for the serving you do to the glory of God!

Visit us at www.stjohnsjackson.net

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stjohnsjackson

Pastor Paul Mittermaier – pastorcarguy@gmail.com

Office hours: M-F 9:00am-1:00pm 262-677-3176

officestjohnsjackson@gmail.com

Worship Services: Saturday 5:00 pm & Sunday 8 & 9:45 am with Holy Communion

Facebook Live at 9:45 am on Sunday



ST. JOHN'S
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