

December 2024 Newsletter

Pastor's Message:

Greetings, Advent People!

I say "Advent People" because Advent helps us ponder "Who we are waiting for?" "What kind of Savior do we/the world need?" And "What do we do while we wait?" The commercial world doesn't understand Advent. Christmas is on the agenda for several months, and then is gone in a flash! "Buy-Hurry-Get it over with!"

But we welcome Advent, as a time of anticipation and a time for preparation. We prepare our hearts! How cluttered up are they, with devotion to things that can't save us? Or with heartbreak? Or just with hardness and coldness? Do we let the Spirit open them? Warm them?

Would we allow God to put new hearts within us? Like God promised in the time of Jeremiah? In Advent, we prepare our minds as well! The idea that God would come to us and dwell with us is mind-blowing! The possibilities for real peace and for real joy and for really Good News for all people are not easy for us to imagine! We can agree, our imaginations can use some expanding!

In Advent, we also pray and listen so we can figure out what to do while we wait! We don't sit on our hands waiting for God to wave some magic wand and straighten out everything that's wrong. We look for people who we can partner with in seeking to know God's will. We pay attention to people who are lonely, hungry, grieving, lost, or hurting. We offer what we can of ourselves, and our time, and our possessions.

And then we rejoice! We give thanks for the baby in the manger, and for the family around the table. We celebrate the grown-up Jesus who still challenges us, and still calls us to follow, and still promises to be with us! And we sing! We let our spirits sing. We let our voices sing! We join with the heavenly chorus, because God comes to us again...the God who saves!

Blessings in Advent-wherever your heart, or mind, or life happens to be, right now. God comes!

-Pastor Paul

+Christmas Eve/Christmas Day schedule: Last year, Christmas Eve fell on Sunday, and we tried a morning service, with two late afternoon services. That morning service proved to be so popular, that we want to try that again-even with Christmas Eve on Tuesday! So, mark your calendar for 10am, 3pm & 5pm on the 24th; and then also 9am Holy Communion on Christmas Day. And now is the time to invite a friend or neighbor to come and worship with you!

+The Sunday School Christmas Program will happen with our 9am worship on December 15. (and there will be room for all of you, and grandparents, too.) Christy Abt is in touch with you parents on rehearsal schedules.

+The Giving Tree & Winter Warmth Tree are up, and we need those items back no later than the morning of Dec. 8. Thank you for your generous spirits!

+Our ELCA World Hunger "Good Gifts" catalog is available (we have some print copies), and it's online at: goodgifts.elca.org Once the Giving Tree is done, we'll swap in some ornaments and cards for Good Gifts. You may want to honor that someone "who needs nothing" with a hive of bees, or a flock of chickens, or a goat, or a water filter system or a latrine!

+Our General Fund is normally a little "in the red" by fall, and we make it into "the black" by the end of the year. October was a deficit month, as we paid our growing insurance bill in one lump sum. Thanks for helping out as you can! The Building Fund is in good shape. Our ELCA Benevolence/Mission Support could use some shoring up, too.

+Our Grief Support Group is here, for anyone who is grieving! We meet the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 6:30, and someone new attends almost every time we gather! We have some good "Care Notes" for all sorts of losses, and here are Ten Tips for dealing with grief through the holiday season:

1. Acknowledge that the holidays will be different and hard.
2. Decide which traditions you want to keep or change.
3. Light a candle in your home in memory of the person you've lost.
4. Include one of your loved one's favorite holiday dishes in your meal.
5. Don't feel guilty of skipping holiday events if you are feeling holiday overload!
6. Talk to kids about the holidays. Let them know it's okay to enjoy the holiday and to be sad.
7. Leave an empty seat at the holiday table in memory of your loved one.
8. Have a moment of silence during your holiday prayer or toast in memory of your loved one.
9. Identify the people who will help and support you during the holidays- spend time with them.
10. Enjoy yourself! The holidays will be tough, but there will also be love and joy.

Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge needs men's winter coats in all sizes, new or in good condition, men's pants sizes 32 to 40, XL 2XL and 3XL, gender neutral sweatshirts, flannel shirts. and bedding in all sizes. Your donations may be left in the bin at the top of the stairs.

The deadline for Ordering poinsettias is Sunday December 8th. Place your order in the gathering space.

Mark your calendars for the Ruth Circle bake sale on Saturday Dec. 14 & Sunday Dec. 15. A sign-up sheet to donate treats for the sale is in the gathering space.

St. John's next Family Promise week is from Monday Dec. 30th through Sunday January 5th. Email reminders will be sent to the Family Promise cooks team in mid-December. Anyone interested in information or helping provide food for our December 30th Family Promise food week is welcome. Please call or email Nancy in the church office.

Additional serving volunteers will be needed for Christmas services. A sign-up sheet for Christmas Eve Christmas Day opportunities will be in the gathering space soon.

Year to Date as of October 31

+YTD General Fund		Receipts: \$ 175,578	Expenses: \$ 196,917
+YTD Building & Grounds Fund:		+YTD Missionary Sponsors	
Receipts: \$ 19,252	Expenses: \$ 5778	Receipts: \$ 8589	Goal for 2024 \$8,000
+YTD ELCA Benevolence:		+YTD Good Samaritan	
Receipts: \$ 10,157	Goal for 2024: \$ 18,00 0	Receipts: \$ 10, 707	

Those Who Serve December 2024						
		Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
Reader	9:00	Joel Wolf	Reuben Heidtke	Scott DeChant	Amy Reid	Kim Guslick
Communion Assistants	9:00	Sarah Stoecker	George Liberatore	Brennan Family	Staci Bohling	Steve Kusch
		Peter Uhlig	Dianne Liberatore	Pete Kutzora	Eileen Mack	Scott Kinter
Ushers	9:00	Staci Benz	Jayce Liberatore	Joel Heidtke	Bukovics	Kelly Strnad
		Judy Henrichs	Joe Liberatore	Keith Heidtke	Bukovics	Will Strnad
Greeters	9:00	Nancy Kinter	Renee Liberatore	Brennan Family	Klayton Bohling	Darlene Wanta
Power Point	9:00	Wendy Wolf	Sam/Ed	Wendy Heidtke	Scott DeChant	Sharon Kiernan
Facebook	9:00	Jenny	Sam/Ed	Scott Kinter	Jenny	TBD

Helpers scheduled in December, please contact Nancy in the church office if you are unable to serve in December as scheduled, and check your weekly server's email to confirm your schedule, as revisions may be needed to accommodate December programs and special music.

Happy December Anniversaries!

Dec. 1	Irv & Jenny Brandt	18 years
Dec. 8	Scott & Nancy Kinter	25 years
Dec. 10	Don & Cheryl Roth	47 years
Dec. 20	Juergen & Correen Oestreich	27 year
Dec. 22	Scott & Amy Reid	24 years

Happy December Birthdays!

Dec. 1	Lisa Kasubaski	Dec. 7	Delaney Kiel	Dec. 14	Michael Novotny	Dec. 23	Scott Christianson
Dec. 2	Larry Eder	Dec. 8	Noelle Corwin	Dec. 14	Zack Reinemann	Dec. 23	Kathy Williams
Dec. 3	Bonnie Gierach	Dec. 8	Jeffrey Matthews	Dec. 14	Joan Sylvester	Dec. 24	Don Schroeder
Dec. 4	Luke Muller	Dec. 10	Jon Olafsson	Dec. 16	Kylie Schneider	Dec. 26	Diana Stella
Dec. 5	Tay Becker	Dec. 11	Skip Bartelt	Dec. 18	Carol Jacobs	Dec. 27	Kolby Bohling
Dec. 5	Carlynn Benson	Dec. 11	Jim Kurtz	Dec. 19	Doralee Piering	Dec. 27	Dave Williams
Dec. 5	Parker Benz	Dec. 12	Nicholas Friess	Dec. 20	Kayla Belongia	Dec. 28	Ken Ziegelbauer
Dec. 5	Jim Hanke	Dec. 12	Matt Troester	Dec. 20	Simon Bins	Dec. 29	Piper Goniu
Dec. 6	Paul Ziemer	Dec. 14	Klayton Bohling	Dec. 21	Bob Jones	Dec. 30	Lorre Pietenpol
Dec. 7	Brett Cameron	Dec. 14	Ryan Guslick	Dec. 21	Beth Mittermaier	Dec. 31	Zachary Byrne
						Dec. 31	Susan Heidtke



Getting to know you!

Scott and Pam Adams

Remembering the past and living in the present while looking forward is kind of a tricky thing to do, but Pam and Scott Adams make it look easy. With each turn of the calendar page, they're reminded of their passions in life and how to make the most of them.

Scott and Pam were born and raised in Brown Deer, and met in high school in 1979. They were married in 1983, and lived and worked in Milwaukee. Five years later, they purchased a small farm in the town of Jackson to be able to raise a family, and

following shortly after was the birth of Jake (Samie; Carter, 13 yrs, and Cole, 8 yrs), then Nick, and finally Abigail (Donavon; Quinn, 20 months).

Jackson Elementary School was blessed to have Pam as a teacher's aide for 21 years. She retired from the district in June 2023, and now with her new title of nana provides childcare for Quinn, including plenty of one-on-one learning *and* fun.

Scott has been a product manager for Mixer Systems, Inc. for 31 years. He travels across the U.S. and worldwide for his job. Both he and Pam are looking forward to Scott retiring in the next few years, so any traveling he does can be purely for enjoyment.

They joined St. John's in 1990, and the whole family ended up being involved. Pam immediately joined choir, and Scott became a dartball team member. Serving on committees, and being lay readers, communion assistants, Youth Group advisors, Sunday School teacher, and usher kept the family calendar FULL. Pam even traveled with Youth Group: twice to Sky Ranch in CO and on a servant trip to rehab homes in the Appalachia area of WV. Nick and Abigail were baptized at St. John's, and all 3 kids were confirmed and in Youth Group.

They "herd" what they needed to know about raising beef steer from fellow church member Dave Robles, and it served their small hobby farm well for over 20 years, which everyone in the family enjoyed being a part of. And it held such a special place in their hearts that in 2019 Scott spent many hours repairing and cleaning the barn for Abigail and Donavon's wedding in 2020, which Pastor Paul officiated.

Scott and Pam's travel bucket list includes visiting all 60+ National Parks in the U.S. and its territories—of which they've hit 42, some several times. It's hard for them to have a fave, but three in AK top their list! When the kids were younger, the family would road trip for many summer vacations and camp in National Parks. The longest was to Northern CA and back, hitting Redwood, Crater Lake, Mt. Ranier, Yellowstone, and Grand Tetons National Parks. Pam's love for photographing nature has made both she and Scott avid birders. Their cabin near Minocqua provides plenty of opportunity to hear, watch, and photograph loons on the lakes, and listen for owls in the evenings, as well as feeds their family's enjoyment of fishing, hiking, kayaking, hunting, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling in the Northwoods.

Fun Facts: Answering the call: The rarest bird Scott and Pam have seen in WI is the black-billed cuckoo, and their most exciting find was the great grey owl in MN.

Always a high! Pam and Scott's most visited National Park is Rocky Mountain. Creature features: For the past five years, Pam has submitted photos for a calendar in Northern WI, and her work has been shown almost every year. She also creates and sells her own calendar each year. 2025 will be here with the turn of a page! ...

St. John's Lutheran Church
2881 Division Road
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

