



St. John Lutheran Church

Caring Connections

Pastor's Message

January 2025

Dear Lovers of Jesus,

We are facing a new year again. It will be called 2025. How we value it and how we treat it will bring joys and sorrows. Each day will be new. And each new day will give us a chance to start over. Each day will bring opportunities. We get to observe another Ash Wednesday and celebrate another Easter. We will join our nation to celebrate its independence. We will host another Fall Festival and gather for Thanksgiving worship. But there will be new challenges as well. We will get to invite our neighbors to come to know our Jesus. We will get to demonstrate to our neighbors our commitment to worship and that we are serious about serving the needs of our community through Guiding Grace.

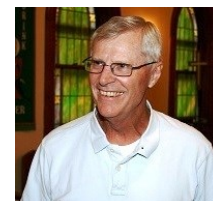
2025 is going to be a *'fun'* New year. We will talk about growing in numbers. We will talk about plans and how to implement those plans. We will look at what God says in His Word about growing in numbers and in faith. We will renew our commitment to the teachings of Holy Scripture. And we will continue to get to know some of the people that have their names written in God's Book.

We will talk about new ways of doing ministry, with new leadership challenges. We will talk about becoming more like Jesus. We will talk about our faith as we study the six Chief Parts of our doctrine. And we will pray for God's direction.

We will get to join the churches in our circuit to support IMMPACT Immigrant Ministry in the northern Omaha area. That will enable us to meet people from a different culture and a different country, and to show them who Jesus is.

2025 is going to be not only a new year but an exciting year! We can look forward to it TOGETHER! BLESSED NEW YEAR!

See you in Worship,
Pastor Holling



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STEWARDSHIP NOTES FOR JANUARY, 2025:

2025 will be a year of challenges. If you attended the November Voters' Meeting you heard the assembly adopt the same budget for 2025 as it had for 2024. That budget may sound doable, but it meant that we removed some items from funding. We removed a contribution of \$700 to Concordia Schools. We removed \$1000 contribution to Project Hope. And we removed a \$500 to the Health Clinic. In this case it would seem that maintaining the status quo means going backward. And that means a challenge to our members to pray and work towards increasing their support to our church.

PRAYER NOTES FOR JANUARY 2025:

2025 will be a year of challenges in our prayer life. There have always been items to include in our prayers. But it seems like this year the list has become even longer than normal. Included in our normal prayers was the growth of our congregation and its members, the health of our members, and the commitment of our members. But now add to that the growth of our numbers, the greater faithfulness of our members and the deeper awareness of our need to become more like Jesus every day. Pray that as we review the teachings in the Bible those doctrines become more a part of our way of life here.

What does New Year mean?

Not many people realize that New Year is a Christian Festival. **1st Jan marks the Day that Jesus was presented in the Temple, formally received the name "Jesus," and was circumcised.** Time is divided between BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini; the year of the Lord.)

The Pastor and Staff of St. John's hope that the New Year brings much love and happiness and an open heart to all of God's Blessings for 2025 and beyond.



Thank You!

Pastor Holling, Josh and Dan would like to Thank you all for the Christmas Gifts and many kindnesses you have shown us over the year. We appreciate your acts of love, care and concern. We look forward to serving you and God's kingdom in the New Year.

Installation of Officers:

The installation of the 2025 Officers of St. John's will be Sunday, **January 5th** during the Worship Service. All Elected Officers, Committee Chairs and Committee Members are encouraged to be present at this important ceremony to prepare for the upcoming years work of the Church.

Notice:

-The **2024** Financial Statements will be distributed at Church on 2 Sundays: January 5th and January 12th. Those not picked up at Church will be mailed on January 13th.



-The **2025** Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the Church Narthex. If anyone would like to use offering envelopes in 2025 please let the Financial Secretary know.

Thanks! Dan Lindblad, Financial Secretary

You Might Be a Lutheran if. . . .

- It takes 10 minutes to say goodbye.
- If the church is on fire and you rush in to save the coffee pot.
- the church library has 3 Jell-O cookbooks.
- you have an uncontrollable urge to sit in the back of any room
- your house is a mess because you are saved by grace, not by works.





Weather Cancellation Policy for 2025:

The Cancellation of Worship and/or Church Events will be determined by the Pastor and the Head Elder. If it is determined that Worship/Event should be cancelled due to inclement weather EVERY MEMBER will receive a phone call from Dan and/or Susie Lindblad. Please make sure that your phone number is up to date with the church secretary if necessary.

This method of notification seems to work the best to get the word out quickly and accurately. The last time it happened all members were notified within 15 minutes of the decision to cancel being made.



January Celebrations

<u>BIRTHDAY</u>		<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>		<u>BAPTISM</u>	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Florence Schooler	4	NONE THIS MONTH		Pam Chadwick	06
Blanche Ferree	9				
Lisa Givens	11				
Charlotte Matthev	14				
Oliver Steyskal	14				
Mark Swinarski	16				
Sue Ketzler	19				
Judith Holling	28				

Listing of ALL Meetings & Study Groups, Events,etc

January 5th, Sunday-9:00am Worship w/Communion; ABS @ 10:15am

January 5th, Sunday during Worship ***Installation of Officers**

January 12th, Sunday-9:00am Worship;_Adult Bible Study @ 10:15am

January 14th, Tuesday **Elders Meeting**; 5:00pm @ 9910 Conference Room

January 19th, Sunday-9:00am Worship w/Communion; Adult Bible Study @ 10:15am.

January 21st, Tuesday-5:00pm **BOARD MEETING**; 9910 Building Conference Room

January 26th, Sunday-9:00am; Worship; ABS @ 10:15am

January 26th, **VOTERS MEETING**; 10:15am in the Sanctuary **No Adult Bible Study*



Thank You Notes:

-Project Hope: Executive Director Veda Keebler sends her most sincere thanks to the members of St. John's for their continued donations and support of Project Hope.

-Lydia House of the Open Door Mission: The volunteers at the donation site were ecstatic to get the toys from St. John's! They indicated that donations were "on par" with last year and "all of the children" will have toys and warm clothes for Christmas!

November 2024 Financial Report

Offerings	
General Offerings	\$8,633.00
Rental Income	\$1,400.00
Other Income	\$1,045.00
	\$11,078.00
Expenses	
General Operating Expenses	\$11,284.00
November Net Operating Income	-206.00

2024 Budget/Monthly Essential Projected:
\$10,000.00 per month
 \$8,633.00 November Offerings & Tithes
\$1,367.00 Budget shortage for November
****The Church Budget is based solely on Offerings & Tithes.**
Doug Murray, Treasurer

Designated Offerings for November '24:

Sunday School: \$126.00

Year to Date: 2024

11 months of 2024 Budget/Essential Projected: \$110,000.00
 11 months of 2024 Offerings & Tithes: \$105,887.00 **YTD Shortage: \$4,113.00**



Attendance for November

Date	Total
11/3	49
11/10	33
11/17	42
11/24	39
11/27 (TE)	26



2024 Sunday Weekly Average: 41
 2023 Sunday Weekly Average: 42
 2022 Sunday Weekly Average: 41
 2021 Sunday Weekly Average: 47



Enjoy Donuts, Coffee and Fellowship After Worship in the Narthex or weather permitting Outside!

Adult Bible Study and Sunday School will also be available after Wordship.

Project Hope Monthly needs:

The greatest food needs for **Right Now:**

- Food: non-expired, non-perishable items, especially cereal and canned beans
- Clothing: in all sizes, from newborn to adult
- Baby needs: diapers, sizes 4,5 & 6, rash cream, tear free shampoo
- Personal Care: shampoo, deodorant, tooth-paste & tooth brushes, soap, conditioner, bar soap, feminine hygiene products
- Paper Products: dish liquid, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex
- Household Items: pots, pans, dishes, books, videos, toys

FYI: A donation of only \$10.00 will feed a family of six for one week.



Those who serve for the month of January

Date	Elder/ Acolyte	Usher/Greeter		Reader	Altar Guild
January 5th 9:00am Communion	Jerry Wilson / TBD	Julie Allen Doug Murray		Susie Lindblad	Tami Wells
January 12th 9:00am	/ Edgar Swinarski	Susie Lindblad Deb Woosley		Deb Woosley	
January 19th 9:00am Communion	Randy Woosley / Lily Swinarski	Jerry Wilson Dan Lindblad		Tim Steyskal	Tami Wells
January 26th 9:00am	/ Sarah Murray	Tim Steyskal Randy Woosley		Sarah Murray	

New 2025 Church Directories

Are now available **for pickup in the Church Narthex**



January Informational Voters Meeting

Sunday, January 26th right after Worship

The President will make a short presentation along with the Pastor and Treasurer

The Fellowship Committee:

2024 was a good year for Fellowship at St. John's. Thanks to the efforts of the special people that coordinated the events, and those that provided support - including delicious deserts that made these events a success. You are appreciated! These social events are a good way to get to know members and reach out to the community. Many of the events have free will offerings that support designated Charities. God has blessed St. John's Fellowship in 2024.



Planning for 2025 Fellowship Events is underway. Lent Begins March 5th with Ash Wednesday Worship and a Fellowship Committee Pre-Service Dinner. We invite all members to participate and support these events. As always, your input and suggestions are welcomed.

-Sue Ketzler & Tami Wells



January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 5 Worship w/ Communion; 9am ABS; 10:15am Installation of Of- ficers during Serv.			1	2	3	4
12 Worship; 9am ABS; 10:15am	6	7	8	9	10	11
19 Worship w/ Communion; 9am ABS; 10:15am	13	14 Elders Meeting 5:00pm @ 9910 Bldg.	15	16	17	18
26 Worship; 9am NO ABS Voters Mtg.	20	21 Board Meeting 5:00pm @ 9910 Bldg.	22	23	24	25
	27	28	29	30	31	



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Forgiven by Christ
Growing in His Grace
Reaching out with HIS LOVE



Coming in February:
February 2nd: Ground Hog Day
February 14th: Valentines Day

