



224 Mary Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 • Phone: (507) 723-5397 • www.sjlcmc.org • Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9am - 2pm CST

Christmas has come and gone. Now it's the mad rush to the store to return presents that don't fit, gifts that you don't need or want and for some looking out for presents to put away for next year. We just have to remember where we put them. When we put away the nativity sets, I ask that you leave the baby Jesus out for the year.

No one gave us what our Lord Jesus gave us this Christmas. We remember he came into the world as an infant, vulnerable to all the childhood sickness, dependent on others to eat, grow and give his life for us on calvary, not for his sins but for ours.

God asks us to be his children to depend on him to nourish us, provide for us, and rely on him for all of our needs. How often do we turn to him or do we just try to do it by ourselves.

The saying "If it's got to be its up to me" needs to have an additional. "If it's got to be its up to me, *with your help Lord Jesus.*"

Do we take the vows of the baptism serious. We were charged in the baptism of our children to vow to bring our children to church. Teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed. We also were told to set an example of how a child of God should act.

O'Hara Field in Chicago was named after Butch O'Hara a fighter pilot who was killed, the first naval recipient of the medal of honor in World War II. His father was the head lawyer for Al Capone, East Eddy O'Hara tried to right the wrongs of his life and give Butch integrity. He testified against Al Capone, knowing the cost was high.

We need to ask ourselves every day.

If we were accused of being a Christian in a court of law would there be enough evidence to convict us?

Are we setting a good example for our kids, our relatives, our community.

Pray "Lord Jesus, make me a better person today then I was yesterday. Amen"

Our values make the people around us know what we stand for.

Leave baby Jesus out for the year. When visitors ask why? It starts the conversation, invite them to church, care for them like God through the sacrifice of his son did for us.

In the Lord's Prayer we say "Thy will be done" It's not our will but God's will.

Have a Blessed New Year,

Pastor Roger Godfredsen, Interim
St Johns Lutheran Church

Pastor Roger lives in Milford, Iowa with his wife, Vickie. They have 5 daughters and 2 sons. They also have 24 grandchildren.

January Church Calendar

Jan 1, Monday

Offices Closed

Jan 2, Tuesday

9:00 AM Quilting

Jan 3, Wednesday

5:15 PM - 6:45 PM Kitchen Table Ministry

6:00 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Jan 4, Thursday

9:00 AM Bible Study

10:15 AM Prayer Time

January 7, Sunday

9:00 AM Worship Service

10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Jan 9, Tuesday

9:00 AM Quilting

Jan 10, Wednesday

5:15 PM - 6:45 PM Kitchen Table Ministry

6:00 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Choir Practice

7:30 PM Council Mtg.

Jan 11, Thursday

9:00 AM Bible Study

10:15 AM Prayer Time

Jan 14, Sunday

9:00 AM Worship Service

10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Jan 16, Tuesday

9:00 AM Quilting

Jan 17, Wednesday

5:15 PM - 6:45 PM Kitchen Table Ministry

6:00 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Jan 18, Thursday

9:00 AM Bible Study

10:15 AM Prayer Time

6:30 PM WOW

Jan 19, Friday

2:00 PM Bingo @ St. John's

Jan 21, Sunday

9:00 AM Worship Service

10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship

10:15 AM Sunday School

Jan 23, Tuesday

9:00 AM Quilting

Jan 24, Wednesday

5:15 PM - 6:45 PM Kitchen Table Ministry

6:00 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Jan 25, Thursday

Newsletter Deadline

9:00 AM Bible Study

10:15 AM Prayer Time

Jan 28, Sunday

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:05 AM Annual Meeting

Jan 30, Tuesday

9:00 AM Quilting

6:30 PM Worship/Music Planning Mtg.

Jan 31, Wednesday

5:15 PM - 6:45 PM Kitchen Table Ministry

6:00 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM Choir Practice

PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor Godfredsen is on Vacation from Dec 25, 2023 through Jan 8, 2024.

January Worship Helpers

The New Lay Reader sign up sheet is available in the fellowship hall.

January 7 (Holy Communion)

Lay Readers..... Laurie Krueger

Com Asst..... Lucas Milbrath, Emma Hauger

Acolytes Cole Paplow, Olivia Milbrath

Birthday Reader..... Lucas Milbrath

January 14

Lay Reader..... Sue Anderson

Acolytes Tyler Petersen, Cameron Halvorson

Birthday Reader..... Tyler Petersen

January 21 (Holy Communion)

Lay Reader TBD

Com Asst Jackson Hillesheim, Gabby Anderson

Acolytes Amaira Brown, Jalyn Louwagie

Birthday Reader..... Jackson Hillesheim

January 28

Lay Reader TBD

Acolytes August Saffert, Preston Anderson

Birthday Reader..... Preston Anderson

January Ushers: TBD



Happy Birthday!



January 1
Mason Fredin

January 2
Maggie Meyer
April Beyer

January 3
Susan Dalsgaard
Elizabeth Krueger
Chris Scholtz
Lillian Sjong

January 4
Phlayne Gill
Val Graff

January 8
Mitch Fredin

January 10
Roger Schueler

January 11
Bethany Anderson

January 12
Gilbert Anderson
Jessica Moe

January 13
Cindy Schnobrich

January 14
Betty Trudeau
Chelsea Ahlness
January 15
Brittany Louwinski

January 16
Casey Wahl

January 17
Amanda Petersen
Dillon Imker
Hilary Paplow

January 18
Lois Mattson

January 19
Nora Kieper

January 20
Kemo Anderson
Joshua Ellefson

January 22
Bruce Ahlness
Jean Krigbaum
Ragan Walker
Brian Schwarzrock

January 23
Dana Youngerberg

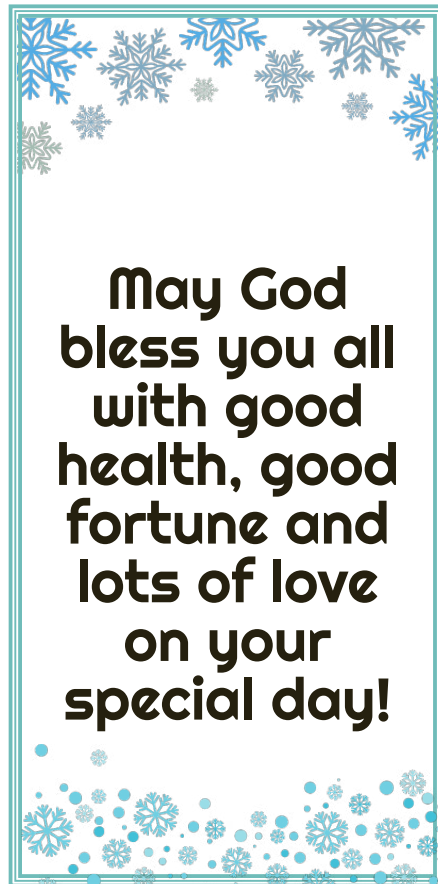
January 24
Benjamin Luckman

January 27
Phil Gill
Nicholas Mathis
Curt Thram

January 29
Dillon Balbach

January 30
Dennis Anderson
Nick Anderson
Owen Luckman

January 31
Jerome Jensen
Zach Wells



Happy Anniversary!

January 6
Jim & Sue Anderson

January 8
Delbert & Kay Pingeon

January 12
Dillon & Miranda Balbach

January 17
Jerry & Becky Peters

January 20
John & Heather Holles

January 25
Scott & Mary Hesse

Please check your mailbox...



There are many unclaimed items.


rightnow
MEDIA

St. Johns church offers free access to RIGHT NOW MEDIA for all our members. Call or email for a link to start exploring the amazing resource library. Sign up today and grow in faith and knowledge in your walk with God.

Church email:
sjlcspringfieldmn@gmail.com

THANK YOU...

...To Lori Milbrath for providing our birthday and anniversary lists. Your help is very appreciated.

...To all those that participated in the Springfield Area Nativity Theater Association production. Your contribution big or small helped to make this pageant a success and we look forward to you all helping again next year.

...To the Luther League and Adults making and selling the lefse along with the donated Christmas goodies, all funds are used for future Luther League activities.

...To all those that help decorate the Church for Christmas.

...To those that brought presents for the Adopt a Resident at the St Johns Nursing Home.



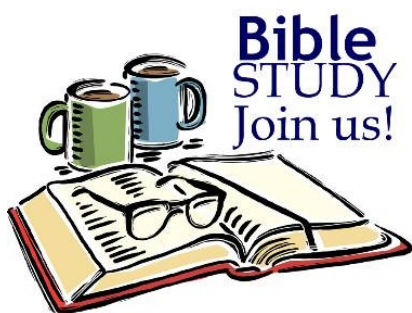
INCLEMENT WEATHER & CANCELLATIONS

Re: Church activities and office hours. If Springfield schools are canceled or dismissed early all activities and the church office will be closed. Church service cancellations will be made as soon as possible then posted on Facebook, and broadcast on KNUJ (AM 860/ 97.3 FM New Ulm) Radio and KLGR (1490 AM Redwood Falls) radio stations.

****When in doubt, or you fear driving because of road conditions please stay safe at home.**



Nursing Home Bingo is the 3rd Friday of every month. Volunteers can sign up on the lists by the offices.



Bible STUDY Join us!

Bible study Thursday mornings is now available via Zoom. Contact the church office, and we will need your email address to get you linked in.



Do you wish your St Johns Newsletter came sooner? Get on our email list! Just email us at sjlcspringfieldmn@gmail.com With the subject line: "I want to have my newsletter emailed to me" and we will subscribe you to

receive the newsletter digitally or you can also sign up at the website.

When the meal ministry started back in January 2023, we had no idea how God was going to use these meals for His good. What we trusted was that when God planted the seed of an idea to reach out to those in need, HE would also provide the place, supplies, helpers and stamina that would be needed to see it through. To Him be the glory!

Over the past year we have seen the attendance numbers ebb and flow but also continue to grow. We started with 10-12 guests and are currently serving around 30 people. We enjoy a lot of laughter but we also support one another when struggles, and grief touch lives. We trust that God will bring us those who need food and the company of others.

At the meal ministry we serve a free meal every Wednesday evening (5:15- 6:45 p.m.) for ANYONE who wants to join us. The meals are open to the public and all are welcome regardless of financial need. Maybe you are a busy parent who just needs to feed your kids. You may drive a Ferrari or walk to the church. You may own hundreds of acres or be homeless. You may have a hundred thousand dollars (or more) in



The Kitchen Table Ministry

your bank account or two pennies (or less) in your pocket. It doesn't matter! We let God bring us who he chooses. We feed them and let Him work in them and through them. We hope you will stop in and join us at least once. Don't be surprised if you want to come back.

In conclusion, we express a sincere thank you to God for all He has provided and done through this ministry. We thank the members of St. Johns, our Church Council and other community friends who

have provided spiritual and financial support for The Kitchen Table meal ministry. We are grateful for, and welcome, monetary donations, volunteers to cook and serve meals, grocery & prepared meal items, donations of time and as always, prayers that God will continue to work in and through this ministry.

Thank You,
The Volunteers & Attendees

If you want to volunteer or have questions about "The Kitchen Table" - please contact Kayla Moe at: kkmoe@nutelecom.net

St. John's Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

In attendance: Andrew Hauger, Rod Smith, Sue Anderson, Tracie Berg, Brenda Anderson, Todd Wells, Pastor Roger Godfredsen, Chad Thram, David Milbrath, Brian Meier & Adam Beers
Absent: Brenda Krieger

Called to order by Andrew Hauger at 7:55 pm.

Pastor Godfredsen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Mission Endowment Committee: Presented by Charlie Tews

Despite a negative balance in fund balance from investments in 2022 (allocations of fund amounts are based on prior year's investment outcomes), the following allocations were given.

1. \$500 scholarship to Augustana District
2. \$500 to Gideons International
3. Charlie made request to up the Mission's Endowment donations for congregation member students at Lutheran Universities to be raised to \$1,000/year from the previous traditional

\$500/year due to COLA. m/s/c Chad Thram/Rod Smith

Secretary's and Stewardship Reports:

1. No additions or corrections. m/s/c Rod Smith/David Milbrath

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Andrew Hauger

1. Bank accounts as of November 30, 2023: General account \$74,189.79. Dedicated account \$104,642.87.
m/s/c David Milbrath/Brian Meier

Reminder: 2023 Charitable Contributions must be received by the church by December 31, 2023.

Board of Education Report: Presented by Brenda Anderson

1. 2/10- Christmas Program was held. 31 students from PreK-6th grade participated. 6 high schools students assisted. Music was led by Jodi Dalsgaard. Directed by Aril Beyer and assisted by Brenda Anderson and Kari Smith.
2. 12/10- Luther League served coffee hour and sold lefse and Christmas cookies
3. 12/13- Both April Beyer and Brenda Anderson resigned from the Board of Education. Jenni Runck will continue for another term leaving Kari Smith as the only Board member.
4. Christmas break will be 12/17-12/31. Sunday school classes will only resume on 1/7/24 if adequate teachers are available for coverage. April, Jason, and Taya Beyer resigned. Also Brenda and Gabby Anderson resigned from Sunday School teaching.
5. There will be some changes like no soup/pie meal after the Annual meeting, no Lenten meals, no Quake, and no Easter breakfast unless someone new coordinates Luther League. Finally we will only have access to the Grow curriculum until July unless it is renewed.

Board of Trustees' Report: Presented by Andrew Hauger

1. Reviewed monthly financial statements and disbursements.
2. Shrubs trimmed
3. Furnace filters replaced
4. Two basement windows were replaced. Gramstad's donated \$500 toward these windows.
5. 2024 budget is almost set. Preliminary budget is set to be ~\$240,000 with the two main increases line items is future ministerial costs and building insurance premiums. There is a \$5,000 deductible on the roof damage that does not have a line item.

Board of Deacons' Report: Presented by Rod Smith

1. Communion assignments for December/January are:
 - a. 12/24- Sue Anderson set-up, Rod Smith & Adam Beers to assist.
 - b. 1/7- Todd Wells set-up, Adam Beers & Todd Wells to assist.
 - c. 1/21- Adam Beers set-up, Rod Smith & Todd Wells to assist.
2. Regarding membership changes for the month of October:
 - a. Baptisms - 0

- b. Transfers in- 0
- c. Transfers out- 1 Michael Tews
- d. Funerals(visitation)- 0
- e. Inactive list- 0
- f. Removal by request - 1 Anna Dressen, Kylee Madsen
- g. Requested membership - 2 Ray and Yvonne Milbrath

In 2023 we Welcomed the following members:

- ♦ Adam & Karley Anderson
- ♦ Jim Anderson

Pastor's Report: Presented by Pastor Godfredsen

- 1. 27 calls were made to parishioners.

Discussions:

- 1. Stewardship & Evangelism: Stewardship/World Hunger/Benevolence Meeting Report provided from their 11/21/23 meeting. \$12,000 distribution was as follows.
 - a. EEMN- \$2,000
 - b. First Choice Pregnancy Center- \$1,000
 - c. Kinship Christian Radio- \$2,000
 - d. St. John's Auxiliary- \$2,000
 - e. Mission Mexico International- \$1,000
 - f. St. Paul Seminary- \$3,000
 - g. Kitchen Table Ministry- \$1,000 m/s/c Rod Smith/Brian Meier
- 2. Worship and Music: No reports provided.
- 3. Children, Youth, and Families: No reports provided.

Old Business:

- 1. Call Committee- One other candidate has expressed interest.
- 2. St. Paul's Church Partnering Discussion- Members of the both councils met to further discuss how partnering services may look in the future. It was decided that the next step is to form a transition team consisting of three members from each congregation. The council discussed that it can be made up of either council and/or congregation members. Deciding on these three members will be decided upon in the future.

New Business:

- 1. Approval of time changes for Annual Meeting- 9:00 am Sunday School and 10:00 am service with Meeting to follow with a possible potluck to follow.
- 2. Three Days of Prayer- St. John's Church will left open for prayer 8:00 am-4:00 pm from 01/02/24 – 01/04/24.
- 3. Credit Card Company- Brian Meier suggested we contact Red Rock Bank to see if there is a credit card option and go away from Bank of American because Tracie has been having trouble getting permission to pay with card despite several attempts at doing so.

Closing Prayer: David Milbrath

Adjourn: m/s/c All

Next meeting: January 10th @ 7:30 pm. Secretary, Adam Beers

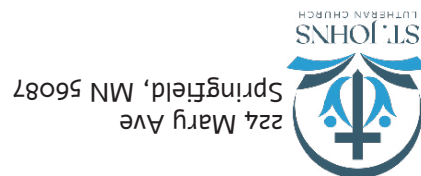
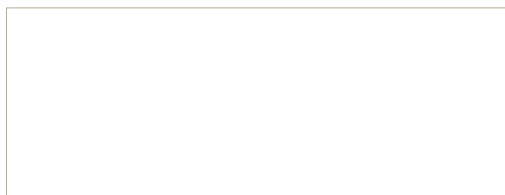


Do you play or want to learn how to play 500, Sheep Head or Pinochle? Every Thursday at the Community Center they have senior cards from 1:00 - 3:30 PM.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting will be held January 28 after worship with Sunday School at 9:00 AM and Worship at 10:00 AM.

St Johns is looking for some Confirmation group photos. These are the missing years: 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019, and 2020. If you have one of the groups, can you please send the photo to St Johns email: sjlcspringfieldmn@gmail.com along with the names of the kids in the photo.



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POSTAGE
Here



12TH ANNUAL THREE DAYS OF PRAYER

Prayer was a holy habit practiced by Jesus Himself (see Mark 1:35; Luke 11:1). The disciples who walked alongside Him witnessed a connection between His public life and ministry, and this habit of prayer. It was a connection so significant, that they asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1).

LCMC's Three Days of Prayer on January 2-4 is an opportunity for us to follow the Lord's example and to come together as one across the association with a shared purpose: to pray.

Each congregation or person can structure these days of prayer however seems best. In the past, some congregations put together a prayer vigil – a person signing up to pray in 30-minute intervals – perhaps for all three days or a few hours each day. Others have offered a prayer service at a set hour on each of

the three days. Some have encouraged their people simply to pray at work, home, or school, wherever they are and whatever they are doing. During this time of a continued experience of COVID-19 throughout the country and overseas, we encourage you to do whatever works best and whatever is safest for your congregation.

No matter how you structure this time of prayer, let's come together as an association of congregations across the U.S. and around the world to pray.

Check out our Three Days of Prayer Resources page to download a sample guide for your congregation.

During the Three Days of Prayer the Church will be open from 8AM to 4PM.