



# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

148 S Chestnut St. Belle Plaine MN 56011

*December 2024*

*Sunday Worship Services at 8:00 am and 9:15 am*

*Sunday School at 9:15 am*

*Wednesday evening service at 6:00 pm*

*Connect & Confirmation class at 6:00 pm*

His Name Is...

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

Those words from the beginning of the gospel of John only begin to tell us who Jesus is. John and the other writers of scripture tried in numerous ways to describe who Jesus is. No matter how much they wrote, they could not fully capture who Jesus is. They could not identify all there is to know about the baby born in Bethlehem. It simply can't be done. But what we can do is continue to grow in our knowledge and understand of who Jesus is. And so, as we prepare our hearts and minds to truly celebrate Jesus at Christmas, our Sunday morning themes will be four of the names and descriptions we find in scripture.

- December 1                      Emmanuel
- December 8                     The Light
- December 15                    The Messiah
- December 22                    Hope

See you on Sunday,  
Pr. Ted

Staff:

**Interim Pastor:**

**Ted Vanderpan**

**Office:**

**Amanda Schultz**

**Accounting:**

**Monica Braesch**

**Custodian:**

**Sarah Padgett**

**Choir Director:**

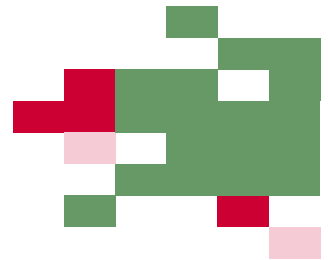
**Allison Vandermark**

**Organist:**

**Eileen Hanlon**

**Accompanist: Eileen**

**Hanlon**



Inside this issue:

Council minutes & announcements	2-3
Birthdays	4
Church Calendar	5
Sunday Helpers ~ Christmas schedule	6
Financial corner	7

Unapproved St. John Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
November 11th, 2024

Vice President Jim Eggers called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**Present:**

X	Pastor Ted		Albert Koepp	X	Jim Eggers	X	Anne Herrmann
X	Teresa Latzke	X	Jan Effinger	X	Tim Moonen		Chris Zellman
X	Jerold Stauffacher	X	Jaime Petersen	X	Cayla Menke	X	David Bungarden
X	Steve Kelm	X					

**Opening Devotions:**

Pastor Ted opened the meeting with a passage from Psalm 90 followed by a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Members of Council reviewed the minutes from October 14th, 2024 Council Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the meeting minutes from October. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the agenda for November 11th, 2024.

**Pastor Ted Report:**

Things to Consider in the Upcoming Months

**Overview of The Call Process**

It would be a good time for the Council to familiarize yourselves with what happens in the Call Process. Once it is up and running, the Call Committee (CC) will function completely independent of the Council. There are a couple of things that will be the responsibility of the Council. It would be helpful to begin thinking about those things now. I have printed copies of material provided by the Synod to help with this. If you would like, we can run through the material “quickly” tonight and then revisit it over the next few months.

**Launching the Call Committee**

I have secured January 21 as a date for the CC to have its “Organizational” meeting with the Synod. As we begin asking the congregation to consider being on the CC, we should ask them to keep that date open since they will be appointed only one week prior. This organizing meeting is required by the Synod. If we have that meeting, once the Bishop has been here on January 26<sup>th</sup>, the CC will be ready to receive names. If we do this, I expect the Synod will have names ready for us immediately after the Bishop meeting with us.

**Confirmation/Connect Small Group Night**

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> the small groups did not attend worship and did not meet in their group. Leaders organized a fun night with games, service activities and a bonfire. I heard positive comments from kids and adults/parents. I chose to do it to let the large group experience what a “youth group event” could be like. It could be a good time to encourage some adults to organize a couple of events for fun and fellowship for the kids. It could lay the groundwork for creating a youth group. It would also help to develop some adult leaders for the older age groups.

**Staff Reports:**

Nothing to report.

**Treasurer’s Reports:**

Jerold discussed with the members of the council that the revenues for the month were down and for the year they were down compared to the budgeted amounts. This month’s expenses were down compared to expenses paid last year during the same month and for the year the expenses are down compared to the budgeted amounts. The rough draft of the preliminary budget was shared and was reviewed by the council members.

**Transfers:**

No Transfers in or out this month.

**Ongoing Business:**

- A. An update on the Church roll was discussed. After researching the definition of an “Active Member” it was determined that we have a total of 458 active members. This number would be used to establish a quorum for the Annual Meeting. Anne reported that they have also accomplished defining “non-member” and will use that status as a way to identify people who want to be members, and can be used for New Member orientation.
- B. Dave provided an update on the Transition Team to the council members. The second survey was sent out and should be completed at the end of this month. They are continuing to fill out and complete the MSP so they can submit that to the Synod.
- C. The New family leave law follow up was discussed in the treasurer’s report. Monica has submitted the information required.

- D. A discussion was held regarding handling of the Offering money. Tim reported that the Ground facilities proposed the option of installing a drop box in the Conference room by the office to drop the money envelope into.
- E. Steve provided an update on the Property task force. He mentioned that they have been discussing with the city regarding the parking lot and received some preliminary information on the process and they are hoping to have an idea by the new year.

**New Business:**

- A. Pastor Ted discussed the First Call Committee meeting and how to form a Call Committee in his Pastor’s report and provided a packet of information for all council members to review.
- B. meeting with the Synod office has been scheduled for January 21 launching the Call Committee.
- C. Pastor Ted informed the Council Members that Sheila Schmidt submitted her resignation. A discussion was held regarding what direction we would like to go forward on finding her replacement.

**Ministry Team Updates:**

- A. The Worship and Music committee met and discussed options for the alternative service music on Wednesday nights. The committee came up with a recommendation to continue the Wednesday night services with or without music.
  - B. Technology & Communications had nothing to report. Tim shared with the council that he has received a couple quotes for the audio systems.
- The Nomination Committee had nothing to report.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord’s prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Teresa Latzke,  
 Secretary

---

**Embracing Stewardship**

As we push for a strong end to 2024, we want to thank you for your donations of time, talents, and your financial support. We provide giving envelopes to attendees for collection each Sunday during our worship services. Alternatively, Simply Giving is a program where you authorize an automatic withdrawal from your banking account for your regular giving. It is convenient, helps the church have a more consistent cash flow and ensures your giving makes it to church even when you don’t. Details are available on the website. We also accept giving through Venmo. Open the Venmo app and point your phone on the QR code below to make your donation. Remember, your donations may be tax deductible. If you have questions, please call the church office.

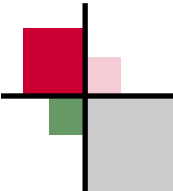


{{The church office will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24th and remained closed until Monday Dec. 30th.}}

**Support the mission trip**

The youth mission trip group will be selling Heggies pizza now through December! Orders can be placed between services or with a participant of the mission trip – for delivery in January. They will also be taking orders for gift cards for Christmas. All those orders will need to be prepaid by December 16<sup>th</sup> – cards will be in December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# December Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Robert Stoppelmann	2 DuWayne Dandurand Erik Hoff Joyce Nyblom Andy Steinhagen Nicole Walker	3 Deb Brazil Luke Fogarty Diane Gerres	4 Kyle Arola Dominick Fogarty Lois Gustafson Peggy Malz Alexander Meger	5 Dylan Johnson Randal Kruger John Schmidt	6 Zach Fahey Michael Gustafson Tristan Lindahl	7 Troy Borresen Allen Latour Tyson Menke Roby Schultz
8 Mary Karl Tina Soller Jennie Weiland	9 Midge Bessel Deanne Fogarty Eisley Koch Brent Koepp Tammy Koepp	10 Marjorie Grannis	11 Kerry Arola Wyatt Fogarty Ainsley Maier Taylor Menke Mark Schultz	12 Jade Laue	13 Ethan Martin Zachary Olson	14 Laura Buddenhagen Jeff Burkman Taylor Fimon Alex Johnson Theodore Kroells
15 Bruce Schmidt	16 Luke Bristlin Chester Gohlke Sue Johnson Connor Kopesky	17 Madelyn Eyrich Laurie Hiles Debra Schaefer Mike Tracy	18 Lori Schmidt Madelyn Siekmann Donald Oldenburg	19 Elanor Stapf	20 Katey Borresen Laura Costello Duane Koepp Hoyt Nagorski	21 Steve Gerres Adam Meierbachtol Kevin Nyblom
22 Jan Campbell Elena Salden Harper Schrot Madison Theis	23 Traci Scheer	24 Megan Holzemer Ira Meierbachtol Brian Siekmann	25 Carissa Schultz Trevor Theis	26 Garrett Boblitt Daniel Buerkle Makenna Gerres Morgan Hagen Kari Laue	27 Garrett Boblitt Daniel Buerkle Makenna Gerres Morgan Hagen Kari Laue	28 Cooper Stier
	30 Bob Fimon Deborah Traxler	31 Parker Borresen Mason Gerres Luke Meriwether Chris Schultz				

# December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday of Advent 8:00am worship 9:15am worship *no Sunday school 9:15am transition team	2 5:30pm Worship /music Committee 6pm Personnel 6:30pm boy scouts	3 11am Lutheran home service 1:30 Kingsway service 6pm ELCA Christmas Dinner	4 6pm Worship service Connect/confirmation 7:00pm choir	5 5pm TOPS	6	7
8 8:00am worship 9:15am worship 9:15am Sunday School *private party	9 6:30pm boy scouts 6:30pm church council	10	11 6pm Worship service Connect/confirmation 7:00pm choir	12 5pm TOPS	13	14
15 8:00am service (Sunday school sings) 9:15am Sunday school Christmas program *private party	16 6:30pm boy scouts	17 4:30pm stewardship	18 6pm Worship service Connect/confirmation *Winter fun night 7:00pm choir	19 5pm TOPS	20	21
22 8:00am service 9:15am service *no Sunday School *private party	23 6:30pm boy scouts	24 Christmas Eve 3:00pm service 5:00pm service 7:00pm service *office closes at noon	25 Christmas 9:00am service *office closed	26 *office closed	27 *office closed	28
29 8:00am service 9:15am service *no Sunday School	30 6:30pm boy scouts	31 New Year's Eve *office closes at noon				

~ SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS ~

Alter guild: Renee Meuleners & Wendy Theis

<b>Dec 1</b>	<p><b>Greeters:</b> Gerold &amp; Diane Bratsch  <b>Lay Readers:</b> Bonnie Vinkemeier  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Rob &amp; Sandy Schultz, Bonnie Vinkemeier  <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Albert Koepp</b>, Dorothy Koepp, Kevin Koepp, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek, Tim Carlson, Josh Koepp</p>	<p><b>Greeters:</b> Anita Lambrecht  <b>Lay Reader:</b> Phoebe Einertson  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Chris &amp; Annette Moylan, Phoebe Einertson  <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Scott &amp; Tricia Rudd</b>, Monica &amp; Jason Braesch</p>
<b>Dec 8</b>	<p><b>Greeters:</b> Matt &amp; Kristin Stier  <b>Lay Readers:</b> Angie Kahle  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Matt &amp; Kristin Stier, Renee Meuleners  <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Albert Koepp</b>, Dorothy Koepp, Kevin Koepp, Matt Stier, Bruce Volek, Tim Carlson, Josh Koepp</p>	<p><b>Greeters:</b> Ken &amp; Wendy Theis  <b>Lay Reader:</b> Dave Bungarden  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Dave Bungarden, Steve Schroeder Lynne Jeurissen  <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Scott &amp; Tricia Rudd</b>, Monica &amp; Jason Braesch</p>
<b>Dec 15</b>	<p><b>Greeters:</b> Greg &amp; Linda Schwichtenberg  <b>Lay Readers:</b> Linda Schwichtenberg  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Greg &amp; Linda Schwichtenberg, Patti Laabs  <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Brent Schwichtenberg</b>, Greg Schwichtenberg, Bruce Schmidt, Richard Laabs</p>	<p><b>Greeters:</b> Kevin &amp; Sandy Wolpern  <b>Lay Reader:</b> Brent Koepp  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Abby Kubes, Sandi Wolpern, Mindy Chevalier  <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Brent Koepp</b>, Mitchell Koepp, Tim Moonen, Justin Stauffacher</p>
<b>Dec 22</b>	<p><b>Greeters:</b> Brent &amp; Margaret Schwichtenberg  <b>Lay Readers:</b> Sue Steinhagen  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Jerold &amp; Kathi Stauffacher, Sue Steinhagen  <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Brent Schwichtenberg</b>, Greg Schwichtenberg, Bruce Schmidt, Richard Laabs</p>	<p><b>Greeters:</b> Brent &amp; Wendy Koepp  <b>Lay Reader:</b> Amy Franck  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Brent Koepp, Kirk Franck, Sara Bungarden  <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Brent Koepp</b>, Mitchell Koepp, Tim Moonen, Justin Stauffacher</p>

<p>Tuesday, Dec. 24th                  Christmas Eve Services:                  3:00 pm                  5:00 pm                  7:00 pm</p>	<p>Wednesday, Dec. 25th                  Christmas day service:                  9:00 am</p>
---	--

<b>Dec 29</b>	<p><b>Greeters:</b> Angela Faucette  <b>Lay Readers:</b> Albert Koepp  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Albert Koepp, Dorothy Koepp, Angela Faucette  <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Chris Schultz</b>, Luke &amp; Logan Schultz, Rob Schultz, Mark Schultz, Wayne Koepp, Aaron Leonard</p>	<p><b>Greeters:</b> Cindy Schoenbauer  <b>Lay Reader:</b> Linda Reuben  <b>Communion Assistants:</b> Cindy Schoenbauer, Peg Longhenry, Linda Reuben  <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Chris &amp; Annette Moylan</b>, Steve Schroeder, Lee Sauter</p>
---------------	--	--

# St. John Lutheran Church

## General Fund: Statement of Activities

January 01, 2024 to October 31, 2024

	01/01/24-10/31/24	01/01/23-10/31/23
<b>Revenues</b>		
Offering Revenues	247,216.90	268,254.81
Wild Game Feed	543.00	500.00
Other Revenue	2,009.11	3,492.41
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>249,769.01</b>	<b>272,247.22</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Benevolence Expense	13,200.00	15,300.00
Church/Grounds Maintenance Expense	10,141.15	11,826.60
Education Expense - Youth	14,620.94	10,164.84
Total Insurance	13,093.10	8,886.00
Total Office Expenses	15,201.05	13,864.55
Total Other Expenses	5,513.34	6,683.07
Total Professional Fees	3,123.30	1,530.90
Total Staff Benefits	20,691.01	29,317.35
Total Staff Salaries	153,451.38	164,832.54
Stewardship	72.62	0.00
Total Utilities	15,161.42	25,116.34
Total Worship Music & Arts Expenses	3,878.51	3,996.61
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>268,147.82</b>	<b>291,518.80</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>-18,378.81</b>	<b>-19,271.58</b>
Cash Balance at January 1		
Net Income / Expenditures		
Misc. cash not affecting income		
Cash set aside for strategic planning		
<b>Cash Balance at October 31</b>	<b>\$19,912.19</b>	<b>\$11,228.01</b>
<b>Property Improvement / Building Fund</b>	<u>1/1/24 - 10/31/24</u>	<u>1/1/23 - 10/31/23</u>
Income (Donations, Rent, Investments)	\$84,691.23	\$79,130.59
Total Expenditures	(\$125,304.96)	\$56,146.08
Interest Expense	\$3,646.04	\$4,719.89
Net Receipts / Disbursements	(\$44,259.77)	\$18,264.62
<b>CALLLED TO SERVE THROUGH OUR GIVING</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT</b>
<b>September 29-October 5</b>	<b>\$5,400</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>
<b>October 6-October 12</b>	<b>\$7,069</b>	<b>\$1,747</b>
<b>October 13 - October 19</b>	<b>\$7,300</b>	<b>\$3,695</b>
<b>October 20 - October 26</b>	<b>\$4,155</b>	<b>\$175</b>
<b>October 27- November 2</b>	<b>\$3,650</b>	<b>\$115</b>

St. John Lutheran Church  
148 S. Chestnut St.  
Belle Plaine 56011

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 16  
Belle Plaine, MN 56011

Change Service Requested