



The Informer

December 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 67 Issue 12



In this Issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Pastor's Letter | 1 |
| Notes from the Balcony | 2 |
| Serving the Lord this Month | 3 |
| Church News | 4-8 |
| Calendar | 9 |



From Pastor's Pen:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1,14)

Dearly Blessed of the Lord,

Many years ago, when Video Cassette Recorders were just hitting the market, my father received one for a Christmas gift. At first, he was very excited about this wonderful gift. It allowed him to watch prerecorded movies, tape his favorite shows, and have the freedom of doing something else while his new machine watched television for him.

Things, however, were not that simple. Soon my dad's joy turned to anger, and a great deal of expressive language. The problem was that he could not get the (beeping) thing to do what he wanted. Even after reading all the instructions on installation, programing, recording and playback, he could not get it to work. Perhaps I should add that my father has never been the most mechanically or technologically advanced, nor is he very good at following instructions. I think that I may be the only child to have owned a tricycle with a rear facing seat positioned over the front wheel. Obviously, when it came to the VCR my father was in way over his head.

One weekend I came home to an angry and frustrated man who begged me to hook up his new VCR and show him how to use it. He confessed that what he needed was not better instructions, but someone to come along with the gift to save him from his ignorance.

When God gave us the gift of salvation through His Word, he didn't just send us a booklet of complicated instructions which we could neither understand nor follow. He sent His Son. In Jesus' birth we have the Word made flesh, Immanuel - God with us.

The miracle of Christmas is that God has given us the most precious gift of all. He has given us Himself in the person of Jesus Christ who was born of the virgin Mary. In the glad tidings of the birth of our Lord we see the glory of God in Christ. Christmas is the celebration of the mystery of the incarnation; God setting aside His riches to become the poor child born in a stable. There in the arms of Mary is the glory of God in a tiny package.

That tiny package went on to humble himself throughout His earthly life for us. Placing Himself under the law of God, He fulfilled it completely for us. Then, suffering the humiliation of death upon the cross, He paid the ransom price for our sins. The result is that we are now set free to be the children of God. Rising and ascending in glory, the Word in flesh gives us victory over sin, death and the power of the devil. He fills us with the certain hope of eternal life.

Thanks be to God! To us a child is born and a Son is Given. He comes to deliver us. He comes to fill us with the joy of our salvation-gift. O Come, let us adore Him. Christ the Lord!

In thankful service,

Pastor Umberger

Notes from the Balcony



1. The apartment of 2 psychiatrists
2. The lad is a diminutive percussionist
3. Decorate the entryways
4. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis
5. A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
6. Wanted in December: top forward incisors
7. The smog-less bewitching hour arrived.
8. Exuberation to this orb.
9. 288 Yuletide hours.
10. Do you perceive the same longitudinal pressure which stimulates my auditory sense organs.
11. Stepping on the pad cover.
12. Far back in a hay bin.
13. Leave and do an elevated broadcast
14. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully.
15. Frozen precipitation commence
16. We are Kong, Lear and Not Cole
17. Oh, member of the round table with missing areas
18. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres
19. Vehicular homicide was committed on Dad's mom by a precipitous darling
20. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element
21. Our fervent hope is that you thoroughly enjoy your yuletide season
22. May the Deity bestow an absence of fatigue to mild male humans.
23. Assemble everyone who believes.
24. Obese personification fabricated of compressed mounds of minute crystals.
25. I spied my maternal parent osculating a red-coated, unshaven teamster.

Answers on pg.8

Serving the Lord this Month

Ushers

Sat, Dec 2: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, Dec 3: Brian Nielsen
Sat, Dec 9: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, Dec 10: Brian Nielsen
Sat, Dec 16: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, Dec 17: Brian Nielsen and team
Sat, Dec 23rd: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, Dec 24th: Brian Nielsen
Christmas Eve: Brian Nielsen
Christmas: Esther Cashion & Brian Nielsen
Sat, Dec 30th: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, Dec 31st: Brian Nielsen

Acolytes

Sun, Dec 3: Sloane Churchill
Wed, Dec 6: Johnny Kjera
Sun, Dec 10: Bennett Johnson
Wed, Dec 13: Brayden Medinger
Sun, Dec 17: Joel Duffy
Wed, Dec 20: Bentley Orton
Sun, Dec 24: Sloane Churchill
Christmas Eve Candlelight: Johnny Kjera
Christmas Day: Lydia Merritt
Sun, Dec 31: Alice Schmidt

Greeters

Sat, Dec 2: Kathy McDowell
Sun, Dec 3: Lucille Perley & Annie Churchill
Sat, Dec 9:
Sun, Dec 10:
Sat, Dec 16: Kathy McDowell
Sun, Dec 17: Sunday School kids
Sat, Dec 23:
Sun, Dec 24: Lucille Perley
Sat, Dec 30:
Sun, Dec 31:

Communion Assistants

Dec 3: Kevin McAnally & Glen McMillin
Dec 17: Brian Kern & Ralph Grotelueschen
Dec 24: Jim Homann & Jonathan Schmidt
Dec 25: Jim Homann
Dec 31: Dennis Boarts & Jonathan Schmidt



Altar Guild

Dec 2 & 3: Marsha Boarts & Kris McAnally
Dec 9 & 10: Stacey Roman
Dec 16 & 17: Rebecca Hinman & Kathy Ahrens
Dec 23 & 24: Flo Moore & Margie Schaefer
Dec 25:
Dec 30 & 31: Kathy Ahrens & Rebecca Hinman

Eternal Candle

Dec 3: Larry & Sharon Ripka, in memory of parents and Jeffie
Dec 10: Gail Massey
Dec 17: In honor of Parker Myers' baptismal birthday
Dec 24: OPEN
Dec 31: Karen Schmidt



Flowers

Dec 3: In loving memory of Jack Passman
Dec 10: In loving memory of Terry Dugan
Dec 17: Mary Whipple, in remembrance of Donald
Dec 24: Brian & Christine Engebrecht
Dec 31: Karen Schmidt



Church News

Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 3- Janet Hill & Elliott Stone | 17- Shirley Gillies, Jack Heino, | 26- Dennis Kelly & |
| 4- Beverly Brokaw & Jared | Emme Palar & Suzannah | Wendy Rossmiller |
| Sountris | Weber | 28- Owen Braddy & Kenneth |
| 6- Susanne Soyke & | 19- Wanda Cass | Weidenbach |
| Jaydin Medina | 20- Louis Hill | 30- Jackie Keogh |
| 8- Craig Johanson | 21- Holly Belan, James | 31- Brenda Roggendorf |
| 11- Hailee Fischer, Lisa | Hanerhoff | |
| Foehrkolb & Johnny Kjera | 22- Brian Newlon & Alice | |
| 12- Cindy Hart & Cindy Kirklin | Schmidt | |
| 13- Nic Fellows | 24- Kay Iwen, Scott Park, | |
| 14- Theresa Bailey & Carlee | Candace Sountris & Craig | |
| Budny | Wenzel | |
| 15- Brian Kern & Michael Pierce | 25- Carole Vrban | |



Weekly Attendance

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>THIS YEAR</u> | <u>LAST YEAR</u> |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10/29 | 151 | 153 |
| 11/5 | 135 | 170 |
| 11/12 | 149 | 150 |
| 11/19 | 166 | 179 |

Average Attendance of St. John's Members: 29%

Membership Report

Transfer:
Katie Aiello to Trinity in Fort Wayne, IN
Hannah Umbarger to Trinity in Springfield, IL

Baptism:
Grant Engelkes (11/11/23)

All Boards Meet

Reminder: ALL boards meet on Thursday, December 7th.
Parish planning meets on December 14th,
and there is a voter's meeting on Sunday, December 17th.



Church News

How about sending a Christmas card to our homebound members?

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| NANCY BONOW 1020 38TH ST. MOLINE, IL 61265 | INGRID HODSHIRE 4343 KENNEDY DRIVE 4102 BED 2 E. MOLINE, IL 61244 | BILL PARK 1900 10TH ST. #193 SILVIS, IL 61282 | REV. AND MARY HEINO 1900 10TH ST. #239 SILVIS, IL 61282 |
| ALICE HELLER 221 11TH AVE. MOLINE, IL 61265 | MARY ANN ECKERT 1455 HOSPITAL RD. #6 SILVIS, IL 61282 | ANGELA FISCHER 24690 E. 1680 TH ST. GENESEO, IL 61254 | CARL & MARY MCGEE PO BOX 133 RAPIDS CITY, IL 61278 |
| CHRIS HIGGINS 4055 25TH AVE ROCK ISLAND, IL 61201 | LORI HOPKINS 325 2ND ST. APT. 705 SILVIS, IL 61282 | RON & PEG HEITZMAN 8027 N. 2300 AVE GENESEO, IL 61254 | DARLENE DOPSON 470 27TH AVE EAST MOLINE, IL 61244 |
| NANCY SMART 4046 9 ^{1/2} ST. E. MOLINE, IL 61244 | JUNE SUTTON 1900 10TH ST. SILVIS, IL 61282 | NOREEN HOPKINS 39 LILAC CT. GENESEO, IL 61254 |  |
| BARBARA HONERT 1900 10TH ST. # 340 SILVIS, IL 61282 | THE CASS FAMILY 4502 ELMORE AVE. #111 DAVENPORT, IA 52807 | TERRY TIPSWORD 424 13TH AVE. A SILVIS, IL 61282 | |

Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

How about a card for our former Vicar's...

(If there is a former Vicar you were particularly fond of, Annie would be happy to get you his current address)

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Alex & Rachel Lange 3325 22nd Ave SE Albany, OR 97322 | Mark & Rebecca Harriss 21 A Circle Dr. Cottage Hills, IL 62018 | Joseph & Kate Warnke 7516 Watson Circle Long Grove, GA 30248 | Ryan & Andie Anderson 410 Witter St. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 |
| Julian & Julia LaMie 28054 S Yates Ave Beecher, IL 60401 | Chad & Magdalena Biar 1292 Tommy Trail Fallon, NV 89406 | Michael Wilke 801 Seminary Place St. Louis, MO 63105 | Jonathan & Molly Lackey 325 S. Black Branch Rd Cecilia, KY 42724 |

Church News

Advent Schedule

Light suppers served at 5:30pm;

Dec. 6th- 6:30pm

Dec. 13th- 6:30pm

Dec. 20th- 6:30pm

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight with Communion—8:00pm

Christmas Morning with Communion—9:00am



THERE IS NO NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE THIS YEAR

Poinsettias

It is time to order your Christmas poinsettias! The cost this year is \$10 per plant. There are envelopes and a box on the Library counter. We need 36 plants to fill our tree stand. You may take your poinsettias home with you after the Christmas morning service.



LWML

LWML Christmas Cheer will be **Saturday, December 2nd at 10:00am**. Join us for brunch and Christmas festivities. If you are able, please bring some cookies to pack for the students at Arrowhead. A great time to get together. Mother's bring your daughters. Daughter's bring your mothers. Please sign-up on the Library counter so we will have plenty of seating and food. Any questions contact Diana Lackey or Judy Dugan.

Candlelight Memorial Service

If you or anyone you know is struggling with the Christmas season due to loss or other issues, please consider attending the Candlelight Memorial Service on **Tuesday, December 5th at 7pm**. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Church Decorating

Please join us on **Sunday, December 10th** after Bible study and Sunday school to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Many hands make light work.



Christmas Caroling

We will be caroling to some of our homebound members on **Saturday, December 17th**. Please meet at church at 11:30am for a light lunch and then we will head out. Carpooling is available.

Church News

2024 Flower Chart & Eternal Candle Instructions

If members wish to give **ALTAR FLOWERS** or **ETERNAL CANDLES in 2024** please sign the charts located on the wall in the Narthex.

CHANCEL FLOWERS are ordered by the Altar Guild at the beginning of each month. Members are asked to write their NAME in the date they wish to give flowers and the OCCASION for giving the flowers. **Please make checks (\$25) payable to ALTAR GUILD in advance of the order and write the date you are giving the flowers.** Payment may be placed in the offering plate (*in an envelope clearly marked Altar Guild*) or in the Altar Guild mail box in the office. Members who wish to bring in their own flowers are asked to **please circle the date.** FRESH FLOWERS ONLY, PLEASE. If you wish to have flowers on a date that has already been filled, or if you are signing up for a date in the current month, please contact the church office. If you have questions please feel free to call the office (792-0755)

Members are asked to write their NAME and the OCCASION in the **ETERNAL CANDLE** date. **Please make checks (\$6) payable to ALTAR GUILD and write the date you are giving the eternal candle.** Payment may be placed in the offering box in the Narthex (*in an envelope clearly marked Altar Guild*) or in the Altar Guild mail box in the office.

Food Pantry Christmas Boxes

The food pantry is now preparing to pack their annual Christmas boxes. If you know of a family that would be blessed to receive a basket, please fill out the slip and

- Return to the office by: Thursday, December 14th at noon.
- Pick up will be on Wednesday, Dec. 20th from 10am-12noon.



CHRISTMAS BOX REQUEST

Name of member: _____

Name of nominated family: _____ Size of household: _____

Nominated family will pick up _____ Church member will deliver _____

(If the nominated family will be picking it up, please provide contact info so Carrie knows who she is expecting, and can contact them if needed)

Phone number for nominated family: _____

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION.

RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY Thursday, December 14th at noon.

Church News

YOU ARE INVITED!

"Lo, How a Rose": A Choral Holiday Concert

A Black Hawk College Choral Concert featuring the Chamber Singers, Concert Choir and Community Chorale with special guest – the Rock Island High School Chamber Singers.

Thursday, December 14th at 7pm in the Sanctuary.



Answers to "Guess the Christmas Carol"

1. Nutcracker suite
2. Little Drummer Boy
3. Deck the Halls
4. Silent Night
5. Noel
6. All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth
7. It came Upon a Midnight Clear
8. Joy to the World
9. 12 Days of Christmas
10. Do You Hear What I Hear
11. Up on the Housetop
12. Away in a Manger
13. Go Tell it on the Mountain
14. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
15. Let it Snow
16. We Three Kings
17. O Holy Night
18. Jingle Bell Rock
19. Grandma Got Ran Over by a Reindeer
20. Jingle Bells
21. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
22. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
23. O Come All Ye Faithful
24. Frosty the Snowman



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <div>26</div> <div>9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study / 10:15am - Confirmation</div> | <div>27</div> <div>1pm - Staff Meeting 2pm - Activities Room 6pm - Chimes 6:30pm - 7th Grade 6:30pm - Heavenly</div> | <div>28</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam 7pm - Candlelight</div> | <div>29</div> <div>9am - TOPS 10am - Midweek Bible 2pm - Activities Room 5:30pm - Advent Supper 6:30pm - Advent Service</div> | <div>30</div> <div>All Boards Meet in Prep 6:30pm - Board Meetings</div> | <div>1</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 10am - LWML Xmas 5pm - Worship w/</div> | <div>2</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship</div> |
| <div>10</div> <div>9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study / 10:15am - Confirmation 11:15am - Decorate For</div> | <div>11</div> <div>1pm - Staff Meeting 2pm - Activities Room 6pm - Chimes 6:30pm - 7th Grade 6:30pm - Heavenly</div> | <div>12</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div> | <div>13</div> <div>9am - TOPS 10am - Midweek Bible 2pm - Activities Room 5:30pm - Advent Supper 6:30pm - Advent Service</div> | <div>14</div> <div>6:30pm - Parish Planning 7pm - BHC Choir Concert</div> | <div>15</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 11am - Whipple Bday 5pm - Worship</div> | <div>16</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 11am - Whipple Bday 5pm - Worship</div> |
| <div>17</div> <div>9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Confirmation 10:15am - Voter's Mtg / 11:30am - Caroling</div> | <div>18</div> <div>Informers Deadline 1pm - Staff Meeting 2pm - Activities Room 6pm - Chimes 6:30pm - 7th Grade 6:30pm - Heavenly</div> | <div>19</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div> | <div>20</div> <div>9am - TOPS 10am - Midweek Bible 2pm - Activities Room 5:30pm - Advent Supper 6:30pm - Advent Service</div> | <div>21</div> <div>11:30am - Ladies</div> | <div>22</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship</div> | <div>23</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship</div> |
| <div>24</div> <div>9am - Worship 8pm - Christmas Eve</div> | <div>25</div> <div>9am - Worship w/ Comm.</div> | <div>26</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div> | <div>27</div> <div>9am - TOPS 2pm - Activities Room</div> | <div>28</div> <div></div> | <div>29</div> <div></div> | <div>30</div> <div></div> |
| <div>31</div> <div>9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study / 10:15am - Confirmation</div> | <div>1</div> <div></div> | <div>2</div> <div></div> | <div>3</div> <div></div> | <div>4</div> <div></div> | <div>5</div> <div></div> | <div>6</div> <div></div> |

St. John's Lutheran Church



1450-30th Avenue
East Moline, IL 61244

Tel: 309-792-0755
Fax: 309-792-0776
E-mail: office@stjohnsem.org
www.stjohnsem.org

See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website

Walking in the Light of Christ!

Worship Schedule:

Saturday worship– 5:00pm
Sunday worship- 9:00am
Sunday School & Bible Study-10:15am
Christmas Eve Candlelight– 8:00pm
Christmas morning– 9:00am
New Year's Eve– NO NYE service this year

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:30am– 2:00pm
Closed for lunch from 12-1pm



St. John's in the winter snow

