

St. John Messenger

January 2025



St. John Lutheran Church



Nashua, Iowa

A Word of Hope and Guidance for the New Year

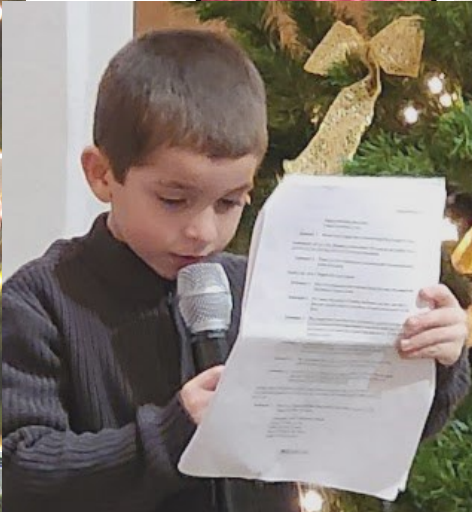


John's Gospel begins with: “¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*”

As we begin a new calendar year, I'd like to remind everyone reading this message that God has a plan for you. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “*for I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a hope and a future.*” Before time (as we know it) began, God existed in a Triune state (God the Father, The Word of God – Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit) and had a plan for the entire universe. Because of God's desire for connection (for relationship), He created the cosmos; carefully placing things where they needed to be to allow for life and growth, so that His desire for relationship could be realized.

God desires to have a relationship with you; God has a plan for you. God's plan for creation came about because of God's work and divine knowledge. God's plan for you will come about through a combination of God's work and your own. Take time this year to **be with God**; to sit and listen to God speaking to you; directing you to where you need to be so that His plan for you comes to fruition. Amen.

Pastor Todd






Excavating the Evidence for Jesus - The Top-10 List for Christmas

TITUS KENNEDY

Explore the scripture, history, archaeology, and evidence for the ancient world surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ.

Free Study Guide Included: GROUP

- Trailer
TITUS KENNEDY
- NUMBER 01
AUGUSTUS AND THE ROMAN EMPIRE
Augustus and the Roman Empire
TITUS KENNEDY
- NUMBER 02
HEROD THE GREAT
Herod the Great
TITUS KENNEDY
- NUMBER 03
QUIRINIUS AND THE CENSUS
Quirinius and the Census
TITUS KENNEDY
- NUMBER 04
BETHLEHEM AT THE BIRTH
Bethlehem at the Birth
TITUS KENNEDY
- NUMBER 05
CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
Church of the Nativity
TITUS KENNEDY



Fighting Fair
KIRK CAMERON & CHELSEA CAMERON • 8 Sessions • 13 Min Avg

Join Kirk and Chelsea Cameron for six lessons all about marriage conflict should/shouldn't say during an argument, how to understand your differ

New Year's Resolutions - Kid Edition



Description

A New Year brings new resolutions. This brief video humorous look at common resolutions adults make...



5 Steps to Stress-Free Parenting
KARI RUSSO



Making Ends Meet
HOWARD DAYTON & KYLE M. H...

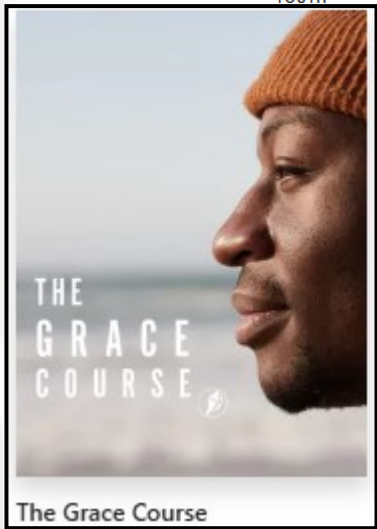


Jesus Changes Everything

NICK HALL • 4 Sessions • 19 Min Avg

* Note: The real-life stories in this series contain mature theme
Teenagers often feel trapped. They're stuck in the same habits,

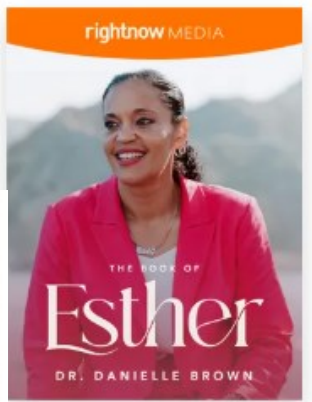
Free Study Guide Included: YOUTH



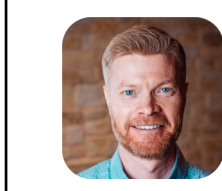
The Grace Course



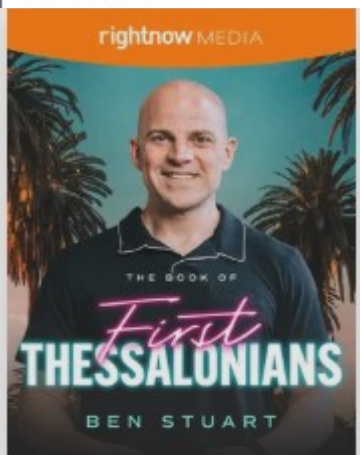
The Beatitudes Project
STU GARRARD



The Book of Esther



Brian Mosley,
President,
RightNow Media
[President's Story](#)



The Book of 1 Thessalonians
BEN STUART

RightNow Media

RightNow Media— SO MUCH TO EXPERIENCE! IT'S FREE!
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/join/stjohnnashua>

January 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Happy New Year! 1	2:00 p.m. Bible Study on Revelation 2	3	Men's Breakfast 7:00 a.m. 4
			Pastor Vacation-----		Pastor Vacation-----	Pastor Vacation-----
9 a.m. Trad. Service NO Communion 2nd Sun Christmas Ephipany of Our Lord 5	5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts 6	7	NO WELCA 6:00 p.m. New Bible Study of New Testament 8	2:00 p.m. Bible Study on Revelation 9 6:30 Book Club	10	11
	Pastor Vacation-----					
9 a.m. Jubilee Service Communion 12	9-3 SEWING 13	9-3 SEWING 14	9-3 SEWING 15 6:00 p.m. New Bible Study of New Testament	2:00 p.m. Bible Study on Revelation 16	17	10-4 Rented Demro Kitchen /Fellowship 18 9-11a.m. PEO (Overflow)
9 a.m. Traditional Service Communion 19	5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts 20	21	6:00 p.m. New Bible Study of New Testament 22	2:00 p.m. Bible Study on Revelation 23	24	25
9 a.m. Jubilee Service 26	9-3 SEWING 27	9-3 SEWING 28	9-3 SEWING? 29 1:00-5:00 p.m. BLOOD DRIVE 6:00 p.m. New Bible Study of New Testament	2:00 p.m. Bible Study on Revelation 30	31	

January Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Becky Zwanziger | 11 Alicia Martin | 23 Jeremy Wolf |
| 2 Todd Burrichter | 13 Elexa O'Neill | 24 Alecia Liddle |
| 3 Kelli Haut | 15 Jeanne Patterson | 24 Jaxson Mahan |
| 3 Levi Bridges | 15 Edward Mahlstedt | 25 Linda Mahlstedt |
| 4 Rhett Miller | 17 Ann Harvey | 26 Amanda Lienemann |
| 4 Catherine Mahlstedt | 19 Huxley Stille | 27 Loralee Patterson |
| 6 Brian Poppe | 20 Sarah Leonard | 27 Derek Potratz, |
| 7 Ann Senner | 21 Samuel Blum | 27 Amanda Hanson |
| 7 Rowan Hoffman | 21 Wayne Hicok | 30 Nathan Harvey |
| 9 Verna Wiebke, | 21 Krew Stille | 30 Wallace Ross |
| 9 Joel Gray | 22 Christopher Kalvig | 31 Bruce Bruns |
| 10 Vickie Demro | 22 Katelyn Wolf, | 31 Tyler Klobassa |
| 10 Elizabeth Kalvig | 22 Jamie Baldwin | |
| 10 Alicia O'Neill | 23 Lola Stiles | |



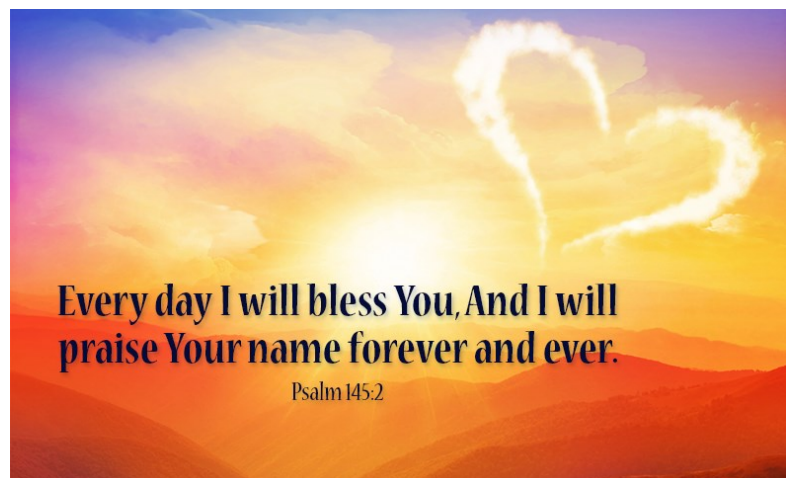
Daring Joy by Deacon Jackie:

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the blessings ahead, we are reminded of the power of praise in our lives. The scriptures offer us profound insights into the importance of praising God, and today, we draw inspiration from Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, and John 1:1-18. Jeremiah 31:7-14 speaks of the joy and restoration that comes from praising God. The prophet Jeremiah calls the people to sing with gladness and proclaim the greatness of the Lord. He assures them that God will gather His people, bring them back from captivity, and turn their mourning into joy. This passage reminds us that praise is not just an expression of gratitude but also a declaration of faith in God's promises, regardless of our current circumstances. Psalm 147:12-20 continues this theme by highlighting the reasons we have to praise God. The psalmist encourages us to praise the Lord for His provision, protection, and power. He recounts how God strengthens the bars of our gates, blesses our children, and grants peace within our borders. The psalmist also marvels at God's control over nature, from sending snow like wool to scattering frost like ashes. This psalm teaches us that praise is a response to God's mighty works and His care for us, even when we face challenges. Ephesians 1:3-14 shifts our focus to the spiritual blessings we receive through Christ. The apostle Paul begins with a doxology, praising God for blessing us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. He reminds us that we are chosen, adopted, redeemed, and forgiven through Christ. Paul emphasizes that our praise should be rooted in the recognition of God's grace and the inheritance we have in Him. This passage encourages us to praise God for His eternal plan and the hope we have in Christ, no matter what life throws our way. John 1:1-18 brings us to the heart of our faith—the incarnation of Jesus Christ. John begins his gospel with a profound declaration of Jesus as the Word who was with God and was God. He describes how the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, revealing the glory of the Father. This passage calls us to praise God for the gift of His Son, who brings light and life to the world. It reminds us that our praise is ultimately directed to Jesus, the true light who gives us the right to become children of God, even in the darkest times.

As we meditate on these scriptures, let us be inspired to live lives of praise. Whether in times of joy or sorrow, let our hearts be filled with gratitude and our lips with songs of praise. Let us proclaim the greatness of our God, who restores, provides, blesses, and saves. May our praise be a testament to our faith and a beacon of hope to those around us.

Blessings to you all today and throughout the whole year! May you feel God's grace, mercy and peace; and may you in all circumstances glorify and praise His holy name.

Deacon Jackie



Addressing Suicide: A Call for Awareness and Prevention

In today's society, suicide remains a critical public health issue that affects individuals and communities across the globe. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 49,000 people died by suicide in the United States in 2022, making it one of the leading causes of death. This equates to one death every 11 minutes. The prevalence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors is even higher, with an estimated 13.2 million adults seriously considering suicide, 3.8 million planning a suicide attempt, and 1.6 million attempting suicide in the same year.

The heart of the issue often lies in feelings of hopelessness. When individuals feel that their situation is unbearable and that there is no way out, they may see suicide as the only option. This sense of hopelessness can be exacerbated by various factors, including mental health conditions, trauma, isolation, and lack of support.

Addressing suicide requires a multifaceted approach, and one of the most crucial steps is fostering open and honest conversations about the topic. By talking openly about suicide, we can break the stigma that surrounds it and create an environment where individuals feel safe to share their struggles. Awareness and prevention start with understanding the warning signs and risk factors, such as changes in behavior, withdrawal from social activities, and expressions of hopelessness.

Faith communities play a vital role in suicide prevention. By offering support, compassion, and resources, we can help those who are struggling find hope and healing. Encouraging individuals to seek professional help and providing access to mental health resources are essential components of this effort.

As a community, let us commit to being vigilant and supportive. Let us reach out to those who may be suffering in silence and offer a listening ear and a helping hand. Together, we can make a difference and save lives.

We will be offering two free workshops on suicide awareness and prevention. February 28, 2025 will be a two hour community workshop designed to expand suicide prevention efforts by, building a network of support within the broader community for those impacted by suicide. This program raises awareness about the dangers of suicide and explores actionable steps to reduce risks.

March 1, 2025 will be a one-day workshop is designed to equip community leaders with the skills and resources necessary to minister effectively to individuals impacted by suicide. Participants will learn how to create resources, train community members in suicide awareness and basic conversation skills, and extend invitations to those who have experienced suicidal thoughts to share their stories. The workshop will engage participants in exploring how to cultivate a soul-safe culture within their communities. This all day workshop can earn you continuing ed credits.

Registration for either workshop is posted on St. John's Facebook page under events.

If you or someone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, please seek help immediately. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 for support.

In Christ,
Deacon Jackie

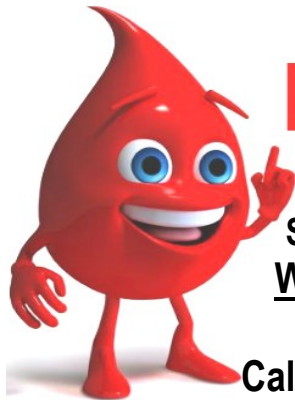
"LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE"
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14



Homebound Members:

Clarksville: **Don Niemeyer**
 Cedar Vale: **Virginia Kraft**
 Lawrence, KS: **June Marth**
 Bartels—Linden Place:
Verna Wiebke
 Ravenwood, Waterloo:
Diane Reuscher
 Evergreen Arbor, Waverly:
Ida Schloemer
 Whispering Willows, Fredericksburg:
Shirley Frost,
 9th St. Chautauqua, Charles City:
Glenn George
 11th St. Chautauqua, Charles City:
Linda Haut, Phyllis Kunzman,
Elmer Arends, Liz Arends
 Bella Vita Asst. Living, Tampa, FL:
Shirley Fosse

Schedule Today for your blood donation on
Wednesday, January 29th, 2025, here from 1-5 p.m.
at St John Fellowship Hall; Call Myrna 641-435-4804 Or 1-800-733-2767
 Red Cross Services are important for someone like a 14 year-old with sickle cell who has already over 100 blood transfusions. You can give patients a chance to keep fighting, who are in pain and suffering. Every blood donation symbolizes “Hope and Healing.”
 Hope to see you as a blood volunteer!



Blood Drive!

Nashua Community Blood Drive at
St. John Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall.
Wednesday, January 29, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

For an Appointment:
Call Myrna 641-435-4804 Or 1-800-733-2767



WELCA NEWS
 There will be no WELCA MEETING for January. A new meeting schedule will be coming soon. Stay Tuned!

FIND US: ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Website: www.stjohnnashua.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohnlutherannashua/](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnlutherannashua/)
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8AuycQBC1zUQWr2JfB727g/videos>

October			November			December					
Date	Attend	Giving	Date	Attend	Giving	Date	Attend	Giving	Date	Attend	Giving
Trad. Comm Oct. 6th	88	3,253.10	Trad. Comm Nov. 3rd	64	2,139.00	Trad Comm Dec. 1st	68	2,450.00	Tuesday-Christmas Eve- 12\24 Children's Christmas Program- 5:30p.m.	129	
Jubilee Comm Oct. 13th	108	1,351.28	Jubilee Comm Daylightsavings Nov. 10th	126	2,58.74	Jubilee Comm Dec. 8th	97	4,194.25			
Trad No Com Oct. 20th	74	1,755.00	Non-Trad Fall Meeting Nov. 17th	83	2,075.00	Trad No Com Dec. 15th	83	12,557.00	Tuesday-Christmas Eve- 12\24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7p.m.	79	1,566.00
(Organ) Affirmation & Reformation w/ Comm (Not Jubilee) Oct. 27th	162	1,279.63	Jubilee No Com Nov. 24th	83	7,955.00	Jubilee No Com Dec. 22nd	108	4,715.01			
						Sunday, December 29th Hymn Sing	78	2,235.00		434	26,151.26
	432	7,639.01		356	12,169.00	Dec. Sub-Total	434	26,151.26	Dec. Total with Christmas	642	\$27,717.26
Attend. Average	108		Attend. Average	89		Attend. Average	86				

2025 Council Members & Committee Chairs

New Council Members:

Jeremy Wolf & Zach Huffman

President....

Secretary....

Mark Rodruck, Finance

Evangelism: **Kathy Cerwinske, V.P.**

Education:

Administration: **Megan Stille**

Building & Grounds:

Stewardship: **Lisa Acton**

Technology: **Kif Richmann**

Worship & Music: **Rick Drewelow**

Terms Finished; Bruce Becker,

Lori Bruns, Karen Sinnwell.

**Council
Retreat
for
planning
is on
Sunday
Jan 19th,
After
Church**

Pastor Todd Burrichter
Email: pastortoddburrichter@gmail.com † Cell: (641) 228-0235
 Office Hours: Tuesday—work from home
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday-- 8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.

Deacon Jackie Schilling
Email: jschilling610@gmail.com † Cell: (319) 504-6583
 Office Hours: Monday: Work from home; attend evening meetings.
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.
 Sat and Sun: 8:00 a.m. — noon
On call for all confirmation needs.
 Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. † Monday, Thursday, Friday
Secretary: Lisa Acton † (641) 435-2396
 Church email: stjohnlutherannashua@gmail.com
 300 Merrill Street, P.O. Box 575; Nashua, IA 50658-0575

January 2025 Worship Servants

Type Service	Traditional No Comm	Jubilee w/Comm	Traditional w/ Comm	Jubilee No Comm
Date	Jan 5th	Jan 12th	Jan 19th	Jan 26th
Head Usher	Jeremy Wolf	Jeremy Wolf	Jeremy Wolf	Jeremy Wolf
Lector	Joy Krieger	Jill Kalvig	Katie Burrichter	Dawn Lindloff
Sound	Kaden Hannemann	Dan Berger	Kif Richmann	Greg Henn
Computer/ Camera	Kami Hannemann	Joan Lore	Conner Sullivan	Katelyn Wolf
Acolyte	Landon Stiles	Andrew Kalvig	William Miller	Jenny Wolf
Acolyte	Emmie Sudol	Adrienne Kalvig	Allison Miller	Laura Wolf
Greeters/ Offering	Nat & Amy Sinnwell	Deb & Orlin Sudol	Brian & Andrea Sullivan	Troy & Jill Stille
Communion	N/A	Greg & Jo Henn	Lisa Acton	N/A

Starting in 2025 —NEW! The Complete New Testament Bible Study Look at the Calendar Below for the Reading Schedule.

The New Testament Bible Study meets **Wednesday at 6 p.m.**

Questions?

Call Megan Stille!

Reading Schedules and Study Guides are available in the office.

A Great Study to learn something you didn't know, or review what you already know.

A Great Refresher!

January 2025 New Testament Bible Study Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			(Video) 1	2	3	4
			Mathew 1-2	Mathew 3	Matthew 4	Matthew 5
5 Matthew 6	6 Matthew 7	7 Catch-up Day	8 Matthew 8-9	9 Mat.10:1-11:1	10 Mat 11:2-30	11 Matthew 12
12 Matthew 13	13 Matthew 14	14 Catch-up Day	15 Matthew 15	16 Matthew 16	17 Matthew 17	18 Matthew 18
19 Matthew 19,20	20 Matthew 21	21 Catch-up Day	<u>Mat. Part 2</u> 22 Matthew 22,23	23 Matthew 24	24 Matthew 25	25 Matthew 26
26 Matthew 27	27 Matthew 28	28 Catch-up Day	29 Mark 1:1-34	30 Mark1:35-2:22	31 Mark 2:23-3:12	

St. John Lutheran Church
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P.O. Box 575
Nashua, IA 50658

CHRISTMAS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

