

St. John Messenger

December 2024



St. John Lutheran Church



Nashua, Iowa



Advent: New Year. New Opportunities.

As I sit here at my desk, two days before the Thanksgiving holiday, I can't help but reflect on the many blessings God has given me and thank God for His mercy and forgiveness. I also look at the challenges that are ahead and pray for God's divine provision.

December marks the end of another year in the church calendar and the beginning of something new with the Advent season. Hope, purity, cleansing, newness; this is what the Advent season represents; this is what Jesus represents and what faith in Him offers us.

Although I believe strongly in salvation through faith in Jesus, I also believe there is so much more to being a Christian than simply saying you believe in Jesus. The world around you should be able to tell you are a Christian through your words and behaviors. Your Christian identity should be your defining characteristic. Your baptism (and affirmation of that baptism) should change everything for you going forward. You are cleansed by the waters of baptism, made new in Christ, and sent out into God's earthly kingdom to do His work. Early Christians knew this. Our direct ancestors knew this.

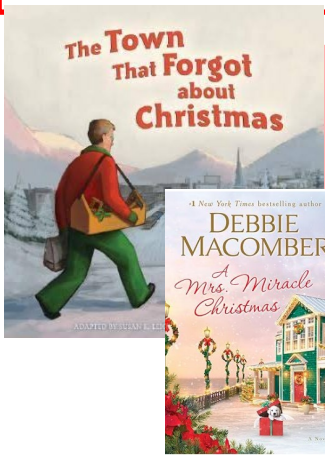
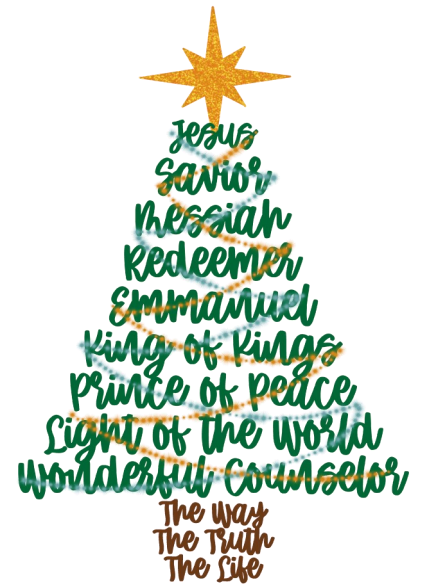
A new year brings new (and continued) opportunities to serve God through the ministries of this church. In order for this congregation to succeed in doing God's work here in this community, a strong commitment is needed by everyone reading this message. It can't just be me. It can't just be Deacon Jackie. It can't just be 10 or 15 dedicated volunteers. Every member of the Body of Christ is needed to make this community the best it can be. If you are reading this, your help is needed.

If you want to know more about how you can help this congregation complete its mission of spreading God's love and improving lives, please schedule a meeting with me at your convenience; I would be happy to speak with you about how your time, talents, and other resources might be used to further God's kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Pastor Todd

Homebound Members

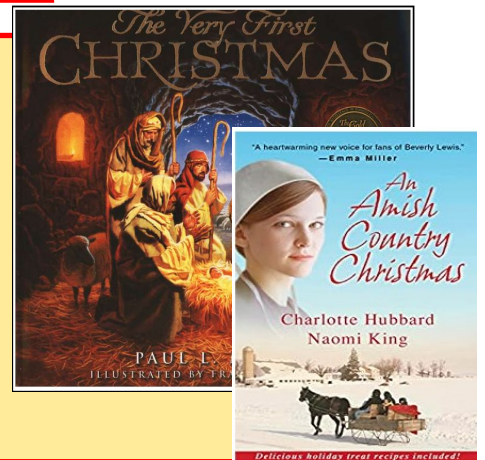
Whispering Willows, Fredericksburg: **Joyce McMichael, Shirley Frost**
 Clarksville Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center: **Don Niemeyer**
 9th St. Chautauqua, Charles City: **Glenn George**
 11th St. Chautauqua, Charles City: **Liz Arends,**
Elmer Arends, Linda Haut, and Phyllis Kunzman
 Bella Vita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



St John Library

If you're looking for some **Great Christmas Books** to read, St. John Library has them! Look for the **display on the top shelf** of the library found in the overflow area.

Susan Garbes



BIBLE STUDY

New Testament

Dig into the New Testament
 This is a study plan that will cover all of the New Testament, helping you read the entire New Testament in one year.

Attend class at St. John
 or follow along from home
 Reading plans will be available

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
Beginning
January 8th 2025



Upcoming Healthy Choices Challenge

To support our congregation in making healthier choices this holiday season, and in to the new year.

We hope to be beginning our "Healthy Choices" Challenge in January.

This challenge will include weekly tips, encouragement, and resources to help you stay on track with your mental, physical, financial, and spiritual health.

Let's come together as a community to support one another and make this holiday season and new year a time of true joy and well-being.



2024 Christmas with Wartburg

Hear the Angels Sing

**Tickets Available to the Public
Friday, Nov. 1**



- Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines
- Saturday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m. Neumann Auditorium, Waverly
- Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. Neumann Auditorium, Waverly
- Sunday, Dec. 8, 3 p.m. Neumann Auditorium, Waverly

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: 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00 a.m.— 8:00 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



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15



St. John Lutheran
Love as Jesus Loves

December Birthdays

2	Megan Fonley	18	Ophelia Tyler
2	Mykah Hall	19	Taylor Haut
2	Bailey Sievers	19	Austin Deutsch
3	Tucker Johnson	19	Delane Muller
4	Cynthia Wilken	20	Darin Dietz
4	Lori Bridges	20	Grace Moore
5	Anita Sullivan	20	Matthew Schilling
6	Melvin Folkerts	21	Michael Stille
6	Abigail Poppe	22	Channing Chyma
7	Jason Lantz	22	Jonathan Hillegas
8	Mary Norland	24	Mindy Foelske
8	Landyn Stiles	24	Harleigh Regenold
9	Brian Fecht	25	Adrienne Kalvig
11	Amber Moore	28	Julie Trost
13	Carissa Buttjer	29	Gary Lore
13	Jaxson Fecht	29	Allyson Poppe
16	Jonathan O'Neill	29	Harriet Pothast
16	Sheldon Pahnisch	29	Samantha Schuler
17	Todd Greer	31	Kendrick Norland

And speaking of a Christmas Library...



This week, many Americans are celebrating Thanksgiving, a time to gather, give thanks, and reflect on God's goodness. Whether you celebrate this holiday or not, we want to express our gratitude for the blessing of partnering with you in ministry.

Our team at RightNow Media is thankful for the privilege of equipping you and your church to grow in faith and community. As the Christmas season draws near, we pray you have time for rest, reflection, and renewed focus on our savior. (And if you're looking for a Christmas series to go through with your family or congregation in the coming weeks, [browse our Christmas library.](#)) We're honored to have you as part of the RightNow Media family. With gratitude,




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



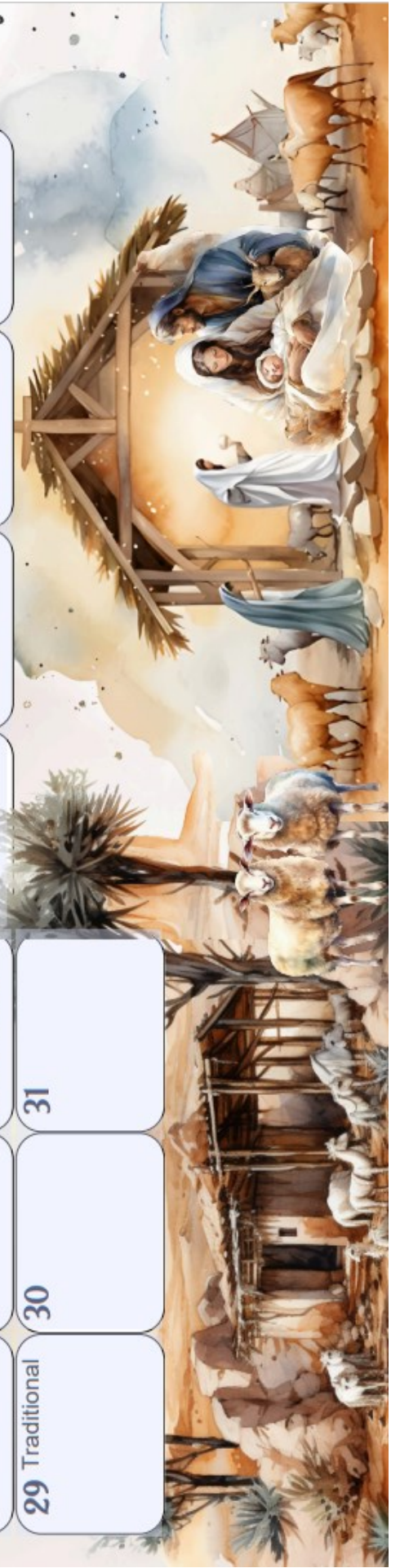
RightNow Media

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

December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Traditional with Communion	2 Cub Scouts 5:30 p.m.	3	4 WELCA 1:30 p.m.	5 Bible Study 6 p.m.	6	7
8 Jubilee with Communion	9 Boy Scouts 7-8:00 p.m.	10	11	12 Book Club 6:30 pm	13	14
15 Traditional COUNCIL/Meeting /Christmas Party	16 Cub Scouts 6 p.m. Christmas Party	17	18	19 Bible Study 6 p.m.	20	21
22 Jubilee	23	24 Children's Prog 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight 7 p.m. Comm at both.	25 Wishing You A Merry Christmas & Happy Birthday Baby Jesus!	26 Bible Study 6 p.m.	27	28
29 Traditional	30	31				



Daring Joy by Deacon Jackie: A Year in Review



Dear St. John Lutheran Congregation,

Greetings in Christ! As we approach the end of another year, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your deacon here at St. John Lutheran Church. For those who may be newer to our congregation or need a refresher, a Lutheran Deacon is a person called by God to serve the church and the world. Deacons support the ministries of the church, lead service projects, and help ensure that our faith is lived out in practical, impactful ways. After I was ordained in May I feel like I've made a more visible and active member of many community projects and activities with multiple churches.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for welcoming me into your community and for your unwavering support over the past year. Your dedication and faith have made my role here both fulfilling and joyous.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



In **June**, we participated in the Water Over the Dam Days Parade, a beloved community tradition. Our float, adorned with joyful decorations and Jesus bearing the Olympic torch, was a testament to our faith and unity. The ecumenical service on Sunday brought together various denominations, highlighting our shared commitment to worship and community service.



July was marked by our vibrant Vacation Bible School. Children from our congregation and the Nashua community explored their faith through stories, crafts, songs, and games. The smiles and laughter of the children were a beautiful reminder of the joy and hope that faith brings to our lives.

August saw the continuation of the Water Over the Dam Days with a Community Wide Youth Group Dance. It was an incredible time of fellowship and fun, bringing together the youth of our community in celebration. We also held the Blessing of the Backpacks, sending our students back to school with prayers and blessings for a successful and safe academic year. Additionally, we began preparations for the new Sunday School year and reimagined our Confirmation Program to better serve our young members.



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

Continued on p. 7

From p. 6

In my personal growth, I attended two continuing education workshops. The first, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, focused on empowering women in ministry. The second was with The Jordan Project offered through Grandview University in Des Moines, enriching my knowledge and skills to better serve our congregation.



September brought the much-needed routine with Sunday School back in session. One of my greatest joys in being your Deacon is working with our children. Whether it is creating the Sunday School curriculum, preparing lessons for our amazing teachers and helpers, crafting Confirmation lessons, or delivering the Sunday Children's message, the joy and fulfillment of interacting with and watching our children's faith grow is immeasurable.

We also hosted the wonderful husband and wife duo "Love and the Outcome", for a community music filled worship experience. We also supported Children International by sponsoring two children from the Dominican Republic. It is wonderful to help our children experience international ministry and see the value in helping those in need.



October was a month of celebration as we completed the confirmation program with seven of our students. These young individuals affirmed their baptism on Reformation Sunday, marking a significant milestone in their faith journey.



November was full of the routine busyness of being a deacon in an active church. Leading small groups and Bible studies, planning the upcoming Advent services, and even beginning to look toward Lent kept us all engaged and spiritually nourished.

In December, we will experience the Children's Christmas program and the Candlelight service to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our savior and king! These events will surely fill our hearts with the warmth and light of the holiday season.

Throughout the year, I have also been blessed to lead worship services every four to six weeks and sing in Jubilee twice a month. I'm involved with the Cub Scouts that meet at St. John the 1st and 3rd Monday each month. I've recently joined the Nashua Chamber of Commerce as a religious presence. I'm excited to begin working as a participant in the Nashua Park Board. It has been a very busy and spiritually fulfilling year.

I look forward to the coming year; to continue to grow as your deacon; to help empower and equip the members of St. John to live out their faith in their daily lives. May we come to spiritually enrich our relationships with family, church, and community members. And we in turn will realize personal growth as each day we deepen our relationship with the Lord.

Blessings,
Deacon Jackie

WELCA NEWS

The December WELCA meeting and Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, December 4 at 1:30 in the Social Hall. Joan Lore will be lesson leader. The lesson will be from "Then Sings My Soul" and we will discuss the heritage behind and meaning of several favorite Christmas Carols. All women of St. John are welcome to attend this meeting.

After the meeting, we will be assembling plates of goodies for our shut-ins. Each member should bring enough goodies so we can assemble 15 plates. If there are others who would like to donate cookies, candies or other Christmas goodies for our shut-ins, please bring your goodies to the church by noon on December 4 and label them for WELCA.

We wish all members of our congregation a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous 2025.



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>

2024-25 Council Members & Committee Chairpersons

Lori Bruns, President

Mark Rodruck, Finance

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

Education: **Karen Sinnwell, Secretary**

Administration: **Megan Stille**

Building & Grounds: **Bruce Becker**

Stewardship: **Lisa Acton**

Technology: **Kif Richmann**

Worship & Music: **Rick Drewelow**

Welcome New Council Members
Jeremy Wolf and Zach Huffman!

Retiring Council Members: Lori Bruns, Karen Sinnwell, and Bruce Becker.

Thank you all so much for your dedication and service to God.

Day	Date	Attendance	Giving
Sun	Nov 3	64	\$2,139.00
Sun	Nov 10	126	\$2,058.74
Sun	Nov 17	83	\$7,955.00
Sun	Nov 24	83	\$2,075.00
	Ave. 89		\$14,227.74

This congregation has always been generous with its time, talents and contributions. Currently we are struggling to provide for the Approved ministry needs of the congregation. Please prayerfully consider your contributions and see if you can help in any way. Without your contributions the Church will struggle to fund its current ministries. Thanks in advance for your consideration.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Drive, we filled 60 boxes! Every shoe box gift carries the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world. I know that God has already chosen the special boys and girls to receive our boxes. Thank you to all who contributed financially as well! Stacey Berger
"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Type of Service	Traditional Communion 1st Sun Advent	Jubilee Communion 2nd Sun Advent	Traditional 3rd Sun Advent	Jubilee 4th Sun Advent	Children's Christmas Program 5:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.	Traditional 1st Sunday of Christmas	Type of Service
Date	12 01 2024	12 08 2024	12 15 2024	12 22 2024	12 24 2024	12 24 2024	12 29 2024	Date
Head Usher	Lori Bruns	Lisa Acton	Karen Sinnwell	Lori/Kathy	Winging it!		Lisa Acton	Head Usher
Skit/Wreath	Jill Kalvig	Kif Richmann	Kristy Richmann	Bruce Bruns	N/A		N/A	Skit/Wreath
Lector	Wilson	Nancy Poppe	Myrna Ross	Linda Becker		Kathy Cerwinske	Tom Franzen	Lector
Sound	Wyatt Burrichter	Greg Henn	Kamden Hannemann	Dan Berger				Sound
Computer-Camera	Lyla Burrichter	Katelyn Wolf	Kammi Hannemann	Sam O'Neill		Joan Lore		Computer-Camera
Acolyte		? Sophie Wilken		Andrew Kalvig	W/I	W/I	Harmony Pederson	Acolyte
Acolyte	Kylie Huffman	Hailey Wilken		Emmie Sudol	W/I	W/I	Kylie Huffman	Acolyte
Greeters-Offering	Wilson	Wilken Family	Richmann Family	Linda & Bruce Becker		Myrna Ross	Zelda & Dennis Demro	Greeters-Offering
Communion	Katie Burrichter	Troy and Jill Stille	N/A	N/A	Angie Dietz and Matt Hannemann		N/A	Communion
Date	12 01 2024	12 08 2024	12 15 2024	12 22 2024		12 24 2024	12 29 2024	Date
Organist	Hannah							Organist

St. John Lutheran Church

300 Merrill Street,
P.O. Box 575
Nashua, IA 50658



The greatest gift of all

MATTHEW 1:21