

St. John Journal

News & info for the family of St. John
Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill



*A loving and welcoming family of faith,
excited about what God has done
(and continues to do!)*

Volume 16, Number 01

January 2023

Volume 16 Issue 01

January 2023



Zephaniah 3: 16-17 “...Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst...”

God’s Word, Holy Scripture, encases a wealth of divine wisdom. Does it not? In the midst of spiritual rebellion against God, these faithless people are on a pathway to exile. Soon Babylonian captivity will be a physical nightmare that which mirrors the darkness in their souls. God is no longer in their heart, mind, or soul. The temporary fiscal success of Judah will soon crash like Wall Street in the Great in the Depression. They will go from riches to rags, from free people to enslaved people. Sin along with the position to rejection tends to communal and self-destruction.

Zephaniah records God’s speech to His Lost Sheep! Fear does not have to grip your soul; Fear does not have to drag you into the dark abyss. God is with you! God seeks to restore you and give you a life filled with hope, joy, peace, and love. God’s gift is for them to walk with God in His light, much like the Adam and Eve’s daily walks with God in the Garden of Eden.

2023 is upon us! We enter a new year with no awareness of what is before. This statement is not completely true. We know we can fear the unknown or live each day as Zephaniah records – “The LORD your God is in your midst.” The four fishermen chose to be in the presence of God – Jesus Christ. They dropped their nets and became a disciple of Christ. Paul on the Damascus Road encountered the mighty power of the resurrected Jesus. He also set aside his direction in leaving to be an Apostle of Jesus. There are many Biblical and historical examples of people denying fear so that their life could be lived in the midst of God!

We are at the cross roads of 2023. Is our life to be one paralyzed in dark fear? Or do we live in the light of God, that is in His midst? Joshua’s choice can be ours, “...But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15).

Soli Deo Gloria - to the Glory of God.

Pastor Norm



POINSETTIAS 2022

Given by...

Donna Bentke (3)
 Kristy Cochran

Donna DeLeon (4)
 Delores Gaskamp (3)
 Barnay & Connie Glaesmann
 Ruth Finke Family (2)
 Mary Hill
 Ben & Carolyn Kessel
 Mark & Shanay Marburger
 Butch Seeker Family (2)
 David & Glenda Stegent
 Evelyn Thielemann
 John & LaVerna Wegner
 Janet Wehring (2)
 Fred & Debra Westerfeld (2)
 James & Florence Wolff (2)

In Loving Memory of...

Herman Bentke, Jr., Herman & Emma Bentke,
 Herbert & Elsie Kolwes Haevischer
 Alvin & Esther Schawe, Burnie Wolff

Parents, Grandparents & Great Grandparents

Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Kervin Finke & Loved Ones
 Kevin Hill
 Loved Ones
 Ed Stangmeyer, Marvin Marburger
 LaNell Seeker
 Walter Thielemann
 Walter Thielmann
 Raymon & Anita Jeske
 Harry Wehring, Robert Lena & Jerry Finke
 Our Parents
 Love Ones

Given by...

Kristy Cochran
 Charles & Deanna Giese
 Randy & Sandy Janner
 Danney & Connie Rohde
 Butch Seeker

Pastor Norm & Laura Sulaica Jr.
 Fred & Debra Westerfeld

In Honor of...

Nellie Wolff
 Children & Grandchildren
 Children & Grandchildren Our Church Family
 Pastor Norm & his sweet Family

Our Lord Jesus
 Our Children & Grandchildren

Donations to Our Food Pantry

Given by...

Donna DeLeon
 Elsie Herrmann
 Al & Audrey Steinbach

In Loving Memory of...

Parents, Grandparents & Great Grandparents
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones

Readings for January

January		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
1	1st Sunday after Christmas	Isaiah 63:7-14	Psalm 111	Galatians 4:4-7	Matthew 2:13-23
8	Baptism of Our Lord	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Romans 6:1-11	Matthew 3:13-17
15	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42a
22	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-25
29	4th Sunday after Epiphany	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12

Jan Acolyte Layreader Flowers

1	Logan Boeker	Charles Gaskamp	Needed
8	Izzy Sommerfield	Sandra Tillman	Needed
15	Ainsley Kuecker	Katie Seeker	Needed
22	Robert Spinn	Kallie Krause	Trey & Cathy Boeker in honor of Logan's baptism
29	Trelyn Antkowiak	Connie Rohde	Clay & Westerfeld Families in memory of Lorene(Sis) Riechers

Baptismal Anniversaries

1/01/1946	Allen Parker	1/15/2017	Oliver Schramme
1/01/1953	David Stegent	1/18/1987	Rachel Church
1/01/1959	Mark Williams	1/21/1996	Hunter Seeker
1/01/1970	Robert Fairlie	1/24/1965	Mark Marburger
1/01/1979	Alexandra Amann	1/24/2010	Logan Boeker
1/02/1949	Judy Wagner	1/26/1936	Dolores Seeker
1/04/2004	Kayla Rosenbaum	1/26/1969	Sandra Tillman
1/05/1969	Lisa Chavelas	1/27/1946	Carol Westerfeld
1/08/1936	Myrtle Randermann	1/29/1970	Jerome Cavnar
1/08/1950	John Haarmeyer	1/29/2012	Colt Kmiec
1/08/1956	Anne Merkel	1/30/1949	Charles Gaskamp
1/08/1995	Colby Seeker	1/30/1983	Wayne Ehlert
1/09/2000	Kory Moehlmann	1/31/1960	Gayle Bednar
1/12/1986	Justin Reuter	1/31/1988	Lauren Davis
1/13/1980	Trenton Kuecker	1/31/1992	Garrett Schramme
1/15/2012	Wyatt Davis		

Wedding Anniversaries

1/01/2005	Ryan & Linda Tosta
1/13/2001	Lance & Shannon Altman
1/15/1983	Brian & Pam Knebel

You are in our thoughts and prayers as each of you celebrate your special day. May God richly bless you!

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Linda Crabtree prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666
 Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org
 Church Council President Herbert Klatte, Jr. (936) 801-8663

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2022**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on December 12, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Council President, Kenneth Seeker, called the meeting to order. Pastor Norm Sulica opened with scripture and prayer. All current members and the incoming council members were present. The November minutes were approved as distributed.

Unfinished Business

Steve Skrla gave an update on the insurance claim for the lightning strike.

Council reviewed proposed update to Building Use and Wedding Policies based on comments from November's meeting. **Motion** to approve the policies as amended. **MSC.**

Council prayerfully continues search for President-Elect position.

New Business

December 6, 2022 Text Vote: Council approved placing a black/white ad in Brenham Banner-Press Christmas Services section on Tuesday, December 13 and Banner-Bulletin on Wednesday, December 14 for the cost of \$205.

Motion to approve bonuses for church secretary and custodian. **MSC.**

Motion to update the Church Directory. **MSC.**

Motion to allow India Randermann to use the Activity Center for a baby shower on December 31. **MSC.**

Motion to approve agenda for the January Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. **MSC.**

Committee Reports:

Treasurer Report Sharon Neutzler

Report as submitted.

Financial Secretary Report Jeannie Kroll

For month of November, the total Weekly Giving Deposits were \$22,430 plus loose offering of \$326 and Direct Deposits were \$4,232.63 for a total giving of \$26,988.63. *[The sum of \$23,150 monthly is needed to meet the 2023 budget approved at the October semi-annual congregational meeting.]*

Community Concerns Report India Randermann

Food Pantry served 96 families (171 people) at two distributions in November. Members packed 143 Emergency Health Safety bags for the NALC Disaster Relief Warehouse on Saturday, December 3.

Worship and Music Report Mary Longhofer

The usher list for 2023 was mailed out to volunteers.

Parish Education Report Jennifer Schroeder

Reminder that Christmas in the Country will be December 18 after worship service. The SS Children's Program will be at 4:30pm on Christmas Eve. There will be no children's SS on December 25 and January 1. Children's SS classes will resume January 8. The Christmas tree will be taken down at 3pm on January 1.

Youth Report Herbert Klatt Jr.

No report.

Evangelism Report Josh Clay

No report.

Property Report Steve Skrla

Insurance claim on lightning strike previously discussed.

Pastor's Report Pr. Norm Sulaica

Presided at funeral for Wilfred Blome at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on December 10.

Confirmation Class and Adult Bible Class will take a Christmas break and resume after the first of the year.

NALC Pastor's Conference from January 31 to February 2, 2023 in San Antonio.

NALC Mission Convocation will be August 7-11, 2023 in Oklahoma City. Lutheran Week will include activities for the youth and ladies of the NALC. The congregation should send a voting delegate.


Motion to approve all reports as presented. **MSC.**

Motion to adjourn. **MSC.** The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Fairlie
Council Secretary



Jan

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
January Special Envelope NALC Disaster Response			
1 First Sunday after Christmas No Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service 3:00PM Take Down Christmas Tree	2 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Executive Meeting	3	4 5:00PM Confirmation Class Resumes
8 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30AM Sunday School Classes Resume 9:15AM Worship Service	9 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Council Meeting	10 6:30AM Food Pantry	11 5:00PM Confirmation Class 7:00PM Choir Resumes
15 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service	16 10:00AM Bible Study 	17	18 5:00PM Confirmation Class 7:00PM Choir
22 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service	23 10:00AM Bible Study	24 6:30AM Food Pantry	25 5:00PM Confirmation Class 7:00PM Choir
29 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service	30 10:00AM Bible Study	31	

January



ES-	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ma- umes	5 Office Closed 10:00AM Naomi Circle	6 Office Closed	7
ma- Prac-	12 Office Closed 2:00PM Ladies Aid	13 Office Closed	14
ma- Prac-	19 Office Closed	20 Office Closed	21 Via de Cristo Training - Parish Hall
ma- Prac-	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
	Office Closed	Office Closed	31 Pastor Norm at NALC Conference 1-31 thru 2-2

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School
classes resume
January 8th at
8:30AM.

*The following are sharing their time
and talents for the month of January:*

COMMUNION BREAD Donna Bentke

ALTAR PREPARATION Connie Rohde, Janet Wehring

FAMILY AID Carolyn Kessel, Mary Hill, Sandy Janner, Rosa Sloan, Audrey Steinbach,
Elvera Tisdell, Janey Wehring

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE Deanna Giese, Susi Bentke

SANCTUARY PREP Rachel Church, Sherry Randermann

CHURCH TELLERS Charles Gaskamp, Sandy Ordner

SCREEN CREW

USHERS Chad Westerfeld, Larry Pieper

A special thank you to those who volunteer and continue to volunteer within the church, behind the scenes. It truly does take a village. Again, many thanks for your commitment.



**Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 29th
after the 9:15AM Worship Service.**



**Naomi Circle
Meets January 5th at 10:00AM.
Study leader is Bevan Lazine and
the hostess is Deanna Giese.**



Quilters will meet on January 17th and January 24th at 9:00AM. Hostess for January is Laura Sulaica.



*A very Happy Birthday to all
members celebrating in January.*

2023 ST JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

PresidentHerbert Klatte, Jr.
Vice-President
Treasurer.....Sharon Neutzler
Secretary Rita Gaskamp
Community Concerns..... India Randermann
Evangelism Josh Clay
Financial Secretary Jeannie Kroll
Parish Ed..... Stephanie Koehler
Property Colton Maass
Worship & Music Virginia Altman

Many thanks to outgoing council members Kenneth Seeker, Janice Fairlie, Jennifer Schroeder, Steve Skrla and Mary Longhofer for their dedication in serving our church. Welcome to new members, Rita Gaskamp, Stephanie Koehler, Colton Maass, and Virginia Altman. Thanks to all of the above for volunteering their time.

St John Lutheran Prairie Hill Food Pantry

Upcoming Dates:

January 10th and January 24th





Contact Information for Pastor Norm

Pastor Norm can be reached in either of the following ways:

Cell Phone Number (361) 362-9108 Or

Email: pastornorm2003@yahoo.com



Dates to remember in January:

Wednesday, January 4th

Confirmation Classes resume at 5:00PM

Sunday, January 8th

Sunday School Classes resume at 8:30AM

Tuesdays, January 10th & 24th

6:30AM Food Pantry

Wednesday, January 11th

Choir Practice resumes at 7:00PM

Sunday, January 29th

Semi-Annual Congregational meeting after Worship Service

Choir Practice

Choir practice resumes January 11th at 7:00PM. Come join us to share your voice.



Thanks to those members that purchased the poinsettias for the church and a special thank you to Glenda Stegent for taking the orders, delivering the poinsettias and keeping them watered for all of us who purchased and gave donations. We appreciate you and couldn't have done it without you!

Thank You!

**Welcome,
2023!**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage **PAID**
Brenham, TX 77833
Permit No. 157

**St John Lutheran Church
of Prairie Hill**
6605 Old Independence Rd.
Brenham, TX 77833
www.stjohnprairiehill.org
979-836-8666



The deadline for the
February newsletter is:

January 16th

Submissions received after
this date will be included if
time and space allow.

Thank you!



**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**