

# 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 02*

*February, 2023*

Volume 16 Issue 02

February 2023



Philippians 2:4 *“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

Paul authors this Philippian’s letter about 60 AD. His concern centered on reaching out to the Christian people in Philippi, Thessalonica, and us for the purpose to describe a Christian life worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our Christian life should be one of joy and thanksgiving. In fact, this letter overflows with joy and thanksgiving. Paul says, *“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy (Philippians 1:3-4).”* This great apostle adds that joy comes when we are of the same mind and unified in Christ, *“complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind (Philippians 2:2).”*

Paul’s point is simply that we can find great joy by being humble and giving as Christ was humble and giving. Our above verse, *““Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others,”* is guiding us to follow the example of Jesus. Our Savior remained obedient to the will of God the Father which means Jesus had to think about us above his self-interested. Self-interest tends to focus on what I want only to ignore others. Watching my grandchildren play is a great joy. But it is easy to observe how self-interest ignores others. One grandchild sees a toy bringing great joy to a sister or brother, so they reach out and take the toy from their brother or sister. As parents we have seen this happen many a times with our rug rats and curtain climbers. The child without his/her toy responds usually with screaming and crying.

Our Savior, Jesus, comes not to take our toys from us. His purpose is to gift us with important blessings which affect us in this world and our eternal future. Paul is encouraging us to follow this example to lift up others! We are to love our neighbor as God loves us! The Christian life style is the style of caring and aiding those in need God through Christ Jesus. Sharing our Christian joy with others brings new joy to us as well.

*Soli Deo Gloria - to the Glory of God.*

Pastor Norm



Will be meeting on Sunday, February 5,  
2023 @ 4 pm St. John's Activity Center



## *Readings for February*

February		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
<b>5</b>	Epiphany 5	Isaiah 58:3-9a	Psalms 112:1-9	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20
<b>12</b>	Epiphany 6	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalms 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
<b>19</b>	Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exodus 24:8-18	Psalms 2:6-12	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
<b>22</b>	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-19	Psalms 51:1-13	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
<b>26</b>	First Sunday in Lent	Genesis 3:1-21	Psalms 32:1-7	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11

## *Feb Acolyte Layreader Flowers*

<b>5</b>	Alex Grote	Jennifer Anderson	Needed
<b>12</b>	Hunter Janner	Sandra Tillman	Trey & Cathy Boeker in honor of their Wedding Anniversary
<b>19</b>	Wyatt Davis	Joseph Ordner	Needed
<b>22</b>	Charlie Schramme	Charles Gaskamp	
<b>26</b>	Rhett Schroeder	Sandy Ordner	Fred & Debra Westerfeld in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

## *Baptismal Anniversaries*

2/01/1976	Karen Spinn	2/16/1964	Damon Wegner
2/02/1975	Amber Westerfeld	2/17/2013	Brandon Estes
2/05/1961	Gerald Wehring	2/18/1940	Donna Bentke
2/05/1984	Leigh Cavern	2/18/1996	Kallie Krause
2/06/1944	Deanna Giese	2/19/1989	Valerie Garner
2/07/1937	Marjorie Hohlt	2/19/2006	Colin Hagerman
2/07/2016	Canaan Wilkerson	2/20/1983	Jennifer Schroeder
2/08/1942	Dorothy Haevischer	2/22/2003	Riley Moehlmann
2/09/1975	Trey Boeker	2/24/1935	Arlie Parker
2/09/2014	Kayden Patterson	2/26/1933	Earline Moody
2/10/1944	Al Steinbach	2/26/1995	Falyn Knebel
2/10/2002	Wesley Neuendorff	2/28/1971	Joel Wellmann
2/11/1968	Steve Skrla		
2/14/1993	Jordan Kaminski		
2/15/1986	Jessica Wehring		
2/15/2004	George Boswell		

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

2/04/2017	Brandon & Kaley Bednar	2/20/1982	David & Betty Feldmann
2/05/1967	Ben & Carolyn Kessel	2/24/1973	Fred & Debra Westerfeld
2/05/2005	Kim & Bruce Weilbacher	2/26/1976	Donald & Carolyn Lange
2/12/2000	Trey & Cathy Boeker	2/26/1983	Don & Regina Holtkamp
2/12/1994	Gail & Shannon Mitschke		
2/14/1975	Bob & Susi Bentke		

*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 Klatt, Jr. (936) 801-8663

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2023**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on January 9, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Council Present Herbert Klatte, Jr., called the meeting to order. Pastor Norm Sulaica opened with scripture and prayer. All current members were present. The December minutes were approved as distributed.

**Unfinished Business**

Council approved Kenneth Seeker to take the open President-Elect position.

Sharon Neutzler gave an update on the insurance claim for the lightening strike. Total replacement cost was \$8545.38, less the \$2500.00 deductible, bringing the out of pocket total to \$6045.38.

Quotes from Brenham Iron Works were discussed for replacing the siding and repairing the gutters on the west wall of the Activity Center. Another bid was discussed to finish the end wall by the BBQ area.

**MSC** to accept \$2821.22 for siding and gutter repair plus construction of the end wall \$965.11, for a total of \$3786.33.

Update given on background checks to comply with our insurance policy. Discussion on what positions would be considered routine vs. guest helpers. **MSC** to set up an account with Identico located at Parts n More for those required to apply for background check.

**New Business**

**Motion** to allow Jerry Randermann to use the Activity Center for a Thanksgiving/Christmas celebration on December 3, 2023. **MSC**.

**Motion** to allow Laura Pieper (Aaron Burton) to use the Activity Center for rehearsal dinner, October 13, 2023, and use of church for wedding, October 14, 2023. **MSC**.

**Motion** to go out for bids to address the mold issues in the two bathrooms in the parsonage. No venting is currently in either bathroom. **MSC**.

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer Report**

**Sharon Neutzler**

No report available.

**Financial Secretary Report**

**Jeannie Kroll**

For the month of December, the total Weekly Giving Deposits were \$13,000., plus loose offering of \$1654.00, and Direct Deposits were \$4,331.32, for a total giving of \$19,185.32. (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 45 families (100 people) at one distribution in December.

**Worship and Music Report**

**Virginia Altman**

No report.

**Parish Education Report**

**Stephanie Koehler**

Committee meeting held Sunday, January 8, 2023. Motion for council to approve members: Stephanie Koehler, Johanna Wilkerson, Amanda Dismukes, Jennifer Schroeder, Cindy Clay, Kaley Bednar, Megan Schramme, Brooke Huckert and India Randermann. **MSC**.

Johanna Wilkerson will start a new young women's circle on January 22 at 4 pm

February 11-12 will be first communion for Rilynn Schroeder and Ian Hill.

No Children's Sunday school on February 19 and March 19.

Important Dates: last day of Sunday school May 7

Confirmation May 28

VBS July 31 to August 4

Rally Day August 6

**Youth Report**

**Kenneth Seeker**

Discussion to restart Luther League. First event will be 11 am, pizza lunch followed by bowling on Sunday, February 5, 2023.

**Evangelism Report**

**Josh Clay**

Discussion to restart SHARE for the senior ladies of the church to gather and play games.

2nd Wednesday of the month, beginning February 8, 2023, from 2 pm to 5 pm, on the Activity Center.

Discussion to bring back the library as well.

**Property Report**

**Colton Maass**

Insurance claim on lightening strike previously discussed.

**Pastor's Report**

**Pr. Norm Sulaica**

High School Youth Ministry

Confirmation parents meeting, Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Confirmation Sunday, May 28, 2023; future confirmation Sunday's will be 3rd Sunday in May for planning purposes

Ash Wednesday service, February 22, 2023 with a possible NALC pastor pulpit exchange.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church new members class on January 28, 2023, 10 am

St. Matthew Lutheran Church wedding: Justin Dana and Amanda Moehlman

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

NALC Mission Convocation will be August 7 to 11, 2023 in OKC. 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,

Rita Gaskamp

Council Secretary

**2023 ST JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS**

President.....Herbert Klatte, Jr.

Vice-President..... Kenneth Seeker

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



Februa

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>February Special Envelope Bread Partners</b>			<b>1</b> 5:00PM Confirmation Class 7:00PM Choir
<b>5 Epiphany 5</b> 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service 11:00AM Luther League - Pizza & Bowling 4:00PM Young Women's Circle	<b>6</b> 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Executive Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 2:00PM Game Day 5:00PM Confirmation Class 7:00PM Choir
<b>12 Epiphany 6</b> 8:30AM Sunday School with Valentine's Celebration 9:15AM Worship Service with First Communion	<b>13</b> 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Council Meeting	<b>14</b> 6:30AM Food Pantry	<b>15</b> 5:00PM Confirmation Class 7:00PM Choir
<b>19 Epiphany 7</b> No Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service	<b>20</b> 10:00AM Bible Study  	<b>21</b> 9:00AM Quilting	<b>22 Ash Wednesday</b> 7:00AM Brief Worship Service 5:00PM Confirmation Class 7:00PM Worship Service No Choir Practice
<b>26 First Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30AM Sunday School Bury the Alleluias during Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service	<b>27</b> No Bible Study	<b>28</b> 6:30AM Food Pantry 9:00AM Quilting	



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AY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
a-	2 Office Closed 10:00AM Naomi Circle	3 Office Closed	4
ay a-	9 Office Closed 2:00PM Ladies Aid	10 Office Closed	11 9:30AM First Communion Class
a-	16 Office Closed	17 Office Closed	18
lay r- a- ) e	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The 2023 Sunday School is back and ready to take on the new year!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all children of our congregation as well as visitors to check out all of the wonderful Sunday School happenings here at St. John Prairie Hill. A huge shout out to Kaley Bednar for her role thus far as Assistant Superintendent. She has stepped right up and is rocking and rolling with our Sunday School openings. Thank you for all that you do.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the Sunday School program to help keep it going strong. If you would like to lead a craft, cooking class, or even a science rotation I know the children would absolutely adore seeing you in Sunday school! If you have a question or would like to volunteer I would LOVE to hear from you! Please feel free to contact me at 979-451-5538.

In His Name -

Cindy Clay

Sunday School Superintendent

There will be no Sunday  
School on February 19th  
and March 19th



# The following are sharing their time and talents for the month of February:

**COMMUNION BREAD** Donna Bentke

**ALTAR PREPARATION** Connie Rohde, Janet Wehring

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

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** Deanna Giese, Susi Bentke

**SANCTUARY PREP** Sandy Janner, Carol Haarmeyer

**CHURCH TELLERS** Donna Skrla, Gary Schulze

**SCREEN CREW** Janice Fairlie, Kallie Krause

**USHERS** Johnny Randermann Family (Additional volunteer needed)

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.



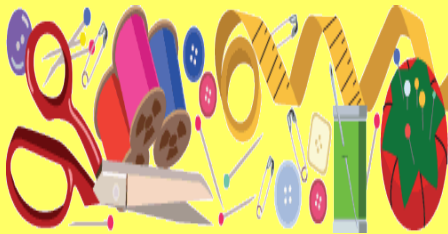
## Luther League

Begins February 5th with pizza and bowling. Pizza will be at 11:00am at Mr. Gatti's, followed by bowling at the Bowling Alley. All jr. high and high school students are invited to attend.



## Naomi Circle

**Meets February 2nd at 10:00AM. Bible Study leader and hostess is Mary Hill.**



Quilters will meet on February 21st and February 28th at 9:00AM. Hostess for February is Susi Bentke.



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

## Game Day

Each 2nd Wednesday of the month, there will be a Game Day at the church from 2:00pm - 5:00pm. Join us for fun, games and fellowship. All ages are welcome.



## St John Lutheran Prairie Hill Food Pantry



## Upcoming Dates:

February 14th and February 28th



### **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](mailto:pastornorm2003@yahoo.com)



### ***Event Dates coming in February:***

#### ***Sunday, February 5th***

***11:00AM Luther League Gathering***

***4:00PM Young Women's Circle***

#### ***Wednesday, February 8th***

***2:00PM Game Day***

#### ***Saturday, February 11th***

***9:30AM First Communion Class***

#### ***Sunday, February 12th***

***9:15 AM First Communion at the Worship Service***

#### ***Wednesday, February 22nd***

***7:00AM Brief Ash Wednesday Worship Service***

***7:00PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service***

#### ***Sunday, February 26th***

***Choir Sings at Worship Service***

## Choir Practice

Choir practice is held each Wednesday at 7:00PM. The choir is looking for men of the congregation to join and share their voices. Practice this month will be on February 1st, 8th and 15th with the Ash Wednesday week practice to be determined. The choir will sing at the worship service on February 26th.



Work is being done to reopen our church library. The library will be located in the meeting room across from the Pastor's office. Please feel free to help us fill out shelves by donating any Christian fiction or non-fiction books. They can be new or used, and can be for adults or children. A box is located for the collection in the narthex of the church. Thank you for any help with this. We will keep you posted on the progress towards when the opening occurs.





**St John Lutheran Church  
of Prairie Hill**

6605 Old Independence Rd.  
Brenham, TX 77833

[www.stjohnprairiehill.org](http://www.stjohnprairiehill.org)

979-836-8666



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The deadline for the  
March newsletter is:

*March 20th*

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

Thank you!



*February*

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**