

# St. John Journal

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



Happy New Year p Happy New Year p Happy New Year

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

Volume 17, Number 01

January, 2024

Volume 17 Issue 01  
January, 2024



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” – Matthew 5:16*

Alexander Papaderos, a doctor of philosophy, worked for many years trying to bring peace between the bitterly divided countries of Europe after WWII. His motivation for doing so stems from his childhood and a very odd event which took place. "When I was a small child," he said, "during the war we were poor and lived in a remote village. One day, on the road, I found the broken pieces of a mirror. A German motorcycle had been wrecked in that place.... I kept one, the largest piece.... By scratching it on a stone, I made it round. I began to play with it as a toy and became fascinated by the fact that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun would never shine - in deep holes and crevices and dark closets. It became a game for me to get light into the most inaccessible places I could find. I kept the little mirror, and as I went about my growing up, I would take it out in idle moments and continue the challenge of the game. As I became [mature], I grew to understand that this was a metaphor for what I might do with my life. I came to understand that I am not the light or the source of light. The light [or truth] is there, and it will shine in many dark places only if I reflect it." He concluded: "I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have, I can reflect light into the dark places of the world...and change some things in some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise."

Alexander discovered he could be a reflection of light or darkness. Our Savior, Jesus, encourages us to shine brightly. We are to shine the light of God into all lives around the world. This task is huge for we know we do not have a chance to share the grace of God with *all* people. And yet, we can bear the light of Jesus into the lives of those we meet every day. Words of biblical kindness and deeds reflective of Jesus can bring the gospel light to dark filled lives.

2024 is upon us! Resolves will be determined! Like Alexandre Papaderos, let us walk in the light of our Savior Jesus. 2024 is a new year to set our God as our center!

Happy New Year,

Pastor Norm

**Contact Information for Pastor Norm**

Cell Phone Number (361) 362-9108 Or Email: [pastornorm2003@yahoo.com](mailto:pastornorm2003@yahoo.com)




## Poinsettias 2023



<i><b>Given by...</b></i>	<i><b>In Loving Memory of...</b></i>
Donna Bentke (2)	Herman Bentke, Jr., Herman & Emma Bentke, Ernest & Elsie Kolwes
Jerry & Kristy Cochran (2)	Alvin & Esther Schawe, Burnie Wolff
The Klatte Family	Naomi Zopfi
The Klatte-An Family	Herbert & Esther Klatte
Delores Gaskamp	Loved Ones
David & Debbie Koch (3)	George & Sue Koch, Jerome Erdman
Mary Hill (2)	Kevin Hill, Bubba Neinast
The Dismukes Family (4)	Cole Dismukes
Butch Seeker Family	LaNell Seeker
David & Glenda Stegent	Walter & Evelyn Thielemann
Linda Schulze, Gary Schulze	Erwin & Evelyn Schulze
John & LaVerna Wegner (2)	Parents-Raymond & Anita Jeske, Grandparents-Albert & Martha Herms, Louis & Doretta Jeske
Mark & Diana Williams (2)	Floyd Gaskamp, Robert Keiln
Janet Wehring (2)	Robert & Lena Finke, Jerry Finke
James & Florence Wolff (2)	Alvin & Esther Schawe, Burnie Wolff
<i><b>Given by...</b></i>	<i><b>In Honor of...</b></i>
Jerry & Kristy Cochran	Nellie Wolff
Charles & Deanna Giese (2)	Grandchildren-Samantha & Hamilton, Savannah, Sierra, Tyler
Randy & Sandy Janner	Our Family
James & Florence Wolff	Nellie Wolff
Butch Seeker	Our Church Family of Prairie Hill
Mark & Diana Williams	Delores Gaskamp
Pastor Norm & Laura Sulaica Jr.	The Birth of Our Savior
Ladies Aid (2)	Our Lord & Savior
Johnny & Sherry Randermann (3)	Children & Grandchildren, Janet Wehring, Myrtle Jean Randermann, Ben & Carolyn Kessel
<i><b>Donations to Prairie Hill Food Pantry</b></i>	
<i><b>Given by...</b></i>	<i><b>In Loving Memory of...</b></i>
Elsie Herrmann	Loved Ones
Ben & Carolyn Kessel	Loved Ones
Joseph Ordner	Joseph Keyes, Annie Nihill O'Conner
Rosa Sloan	Earl Sloan
<i><b>Given by...</b></i>	<i><b>In Honor of...</b></i>
Rosa Sloan	<i><b>My Family</b></i>

## January Service Information

January		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
7	Baptism of Our Lord	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Romans 6:1-11	Mark 1:4-11
14	Second Sunday after Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Psalm 139:1-10	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
21	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
28	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
Jan	Acolyte	Layreader		Flowers Given By	
7	Irelyn Antkowiak	Connie Rohde		Needed	
14	Audrey Dismukes	Joseph Ordner		Pastor & Laura Sulaica	
21	Brooklyn Randermann	Katie Seeker		Trey & Cathy Boeker in honor of Logan's Baptism	
28	Arabella Clay	Laura Sulaica		Donna Haarmeyer in memory of her father, Franklin Haarmeyer	
<div></div> <div><b>Member Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex for 2024.</b></div>					
<i>The 2024 flower chart has been posted in the Annex. You may sign up for flowers by checking the flower chart for available dates.</i>					
<div><b><u>Bible Study</u></b> Bible study is held each Monday at 10:00AM.</div>					



## Baptismal Anniversaries

1/01/1946	Allen Parker	1/15/2012	Wyatt Davis
1/01/1953	David Stegent	1/15/2017	Oliver Schramme
1/01/1959	Mark Williams	1/18/1987	Rachel Church
1/01/1970	Robert Fairlie, Jr.	1/21/1996	Hunter Seeker
1/01/1979	Alexandra Amann	1/24/1965	Mark Marburger
1/01/1995	Chuck Hess	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
1/08/1936	Myrtle Randermann	1/27/1946	Carol Westerfeld
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

## Wedding Anniversaries



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

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



A very Happy Birthday to those celebrating in January.

## 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 Kenneth Seeker (512) 801-8663

## **St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2023**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on December 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Council President Herbert Klatte, Jr., called the meeting to order. Pastor Norm Sulaica opened with scripture and prayer. All current members were present except Stephanie Koehler. Decorations and treats were provided by Laura Sulaica.

**Motion** to approve the November minutes as submitted. **MSC**

### **Unfinished Business**

New desk top computer for the office: Wait until the beginning of the new year, with Cassie Lynch's help, with Computer Helpers.

Council position for Sunday school assistant superintendent: **Motion** to approve Jennifer Schroeder (of record). **MSC**

Audit Review Committee: Donna Skrla, Connie Rhode, plus one more to be asked.

### **New Business**

Annual reports from all departments for the upcoming semi-annual congregational meeting are due to Linda Crabtree by January 8, 2024.

Keeping us safe: Locating various fire extinguishers on our facility to be reported by the council retreat on January 6, 2024. Several council members are CPR certified. No training is needed for the AED, instructions are spoken with the device. The local EMS does provide once a month free training in CPR procedures.

**Motion** to approve staff bonuses to the church secretary Linda Crabtree and sexton Sherry Randermann. **MSC**

### **For Information**

December 24, 2023 Sunday Christmas Eve: 9:15 am morning service, 4:30 pm Children's Program, and 7 pm candlelight service.

December 25, 2023 Monday 9 am service.

Council Installation Sunday, January 7, 2024

Semi-Annual Congregational meeting Sunday, January 28, 2024

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Treasurer Report**

**Sharon Neutzler**

Report as submitted.

#### **Financial Secretary Report**

**Jeannie Kroll**

For the month of November, the total Weekly Giving Deposits were \$13,437.00, special envelopes to NALC Seminary \$3,160.00, Camp Scholarship \$500.00, plus loose offering of \$250.00 and Direct Deposits were \$4,447.39 for a total giving of \$21,794.39. (The sum of \$23,150 monthly is needed to meet the 2023 budget.)

#### **Community Concerns Report**

**India Randermann**

Food Pantry served 93 families (162 people) at two distributions in November.

Funerals in November: None.

Blood Drive was December 10, 2023. 6 people were eligible for donations, goal is 10.

Proposed Blood Drives in 2024: one in March, July 21 and November 10, 2024. **MSC**

India Randermann will keep this position after her present council position ends.

#### **Worship and Music Report**

**Virginia Altman**

100 families took part in the church photo directory. Planning meeting to be held tomorrow. All orders should arrive prior to Christmas. The directory will be ready this coming spring.

**Parish Education Report****Stephanie Koehler**

Jennifer Schroeder has agreed to be the assistant superintendent of record. Duties of the two/three year term have been divided and Sunday school will be lead by committee for a trial run in 2024.

Next committee meeting will be January 7. Sunday school to resume January 14.

First Communion class on February 10 at 9 am. First Communion on Sunday, February 11, 2024. Jake Church, Gunnar Eckert, Cullen Grote, Callie Dismukes.

VBS and Camp options for the summer under discussion.

Very successful Bethlehem in Independence was held with confirmands and younger youth in attendance. Christmas program will be held on the stage this year.

**Youth Report****Kenneth Seeker**

No report.

**Evangelism Report****Josh Clay**

Good Neighbor Sunday meal served 192 including dined in, delivered to shut ins and plates to go. Thanks to Colton Maass for the help.

**Property Report****Colton Maass**

Discussed the proper repair of the sagging church window. Tabled.

**Pastor's Report****Pr. Norm Sulaica**

Visitations: Nursing home/shut ins visits 13, other visits 28, including telephone calls. Expressed frustration with folks not answering their doors.

God Squad - for 3rd to 6th graders, had a small party with crafts and snacks. They would like to meet more than once a month.

Confirmation: classes continue.

Bod 4 God & Faith Lessons classes, on pause, will resume in January.

4 sermons for Christmas: Returning to Bethlehem living in the faith; seeing promise; discovering peace and finding Christ.

St. Matthew: Mr. Bill Morris will be, under special circumstances, ordained, Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 1 pm.


Personal: Christmas time off will be Tuesday, December 26 thru to Sunday, December 31, 2023. Sermon will be recorded with Steve Skrla as worship leader.

**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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<div>January</div>			
	1	2 9:00AM Music Planning 6:00PM Executive Meeting 6:30PM Rachel Circle	3 No Conf No Choir
7 Baptism of Our Lord No Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service w/Installation of New Council Members 2:00PM Luther League 4:00PM Young Women's Circle	8 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Council Meeting Committee Reports Due	9 6:30AM Food Pantry 9:00AM Music Planning 6:30PM Jump Start	10 2:00PM 4:30PM 6:30PM Practice
14 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30AM Sunday School Resumes 9:15AM Worship Service	15 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Bod4God Newsletter Deadline	16 9:00AM Music Planning 9:00AM Quilting	17 4:30PM 6:30PM Practice
21 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service	22 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Bod4God	23 6:30AM Food Pantry 9:00AM Music Planning 9:00AM Quilting	24 4:30PM 6:30PM
28 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service- Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting after Service Activity Center Reserved	29 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Bod4God	30 9:00AM Music Planning	31 4:30PM 6:30PM Practice



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			
Information Practice	<b>4 Office Closed</b> <b>10:00AM Naomi Circle</b> <b>6:00PM Faith Lessons</b>	<b>5 Office Closed</b>	<b>6</b> <b>9:00AM Council Retreat</b>
Game Day Confirmation Choir	<b>11 Office Closed</b> <b>2:00PM Ladies Aid</b> <b>6:00PM Faith Lessons</b>	<b>12 Office Closed</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Parish Hall Reserved</b> <b>Via de Cristo Training</b>
Confirmation Choir	<b>18 Office Closed</b> <b>6:00PM Faith Lessons</b>	<b>19 Office Closed</b>	<b>20</b> <b>8:00AM Men's Ministry Breakfast</b>
Confirmation Choir	<b>25 Office Closed</b> <b>6:00PM Faith Lessons</b>	<b>26 Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b>
Confirmation Choir			<b>**Special Envelope for January: NALC Disaster Response**</b>

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

CLASSES RESUME ON JANUARY 14, 2024.

Kaley Bednar will serve as the Sunday School Superintendent and Jennifer Schroeder will serve as the Assistant Superintendent.

**Semi Annual Congregational Meeting**  
The semi-annual meeting is January 28th after the Worship Service.  
Information on the meeting will be mailed to members.

### **Faith Lessons Prophet and Kings of Israel**

Join us for a 5-week study from the holy Lands Teacher and Professor, Ray Vander Laan. The study will take us to Megiddo, Mount Carmel, Lachish, Negev, and Arad. We will explore ancient ruins and scripture. Each lesson will grow our faith in God. Our journey through the Prophets and Kings of Israel begins 6pm, January 4th.

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

**ALTAR PREPARATION** Connie Rohde, Janet Wehring

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

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** Deanna Giese, Susi Bentke

**SANCTUARY PREP** Rachel Church, Sherry Randermann

**CHURCH TELLERS** Charles Gaskamp, Lauren Maass

**SCREEN CREW** Steve Skrla, Barnay Glaesmann

**USHERS** Chad Westerfeld, Larry Pieper

**LADIES AID**

**NAOMI CIRCLE** Bevan Lazine, Deanna Giese

**QUILTERS** Deanna Giese

**EUCCHARIST TEAM** Linda Schulze, Carolyn Kessel, Karen Rosenbaum, Cookie Engeling, Diana  
Williams, Connie Rohde

**COMMUNION BREAD** Donna Bentke



“Only by giving are you able to receive more than you already have.”



*Quilters will meet January 16th and  
23rd.*

Luther League Youth will  
hold its January  
gathering on January 7th  
at 2:00PM. Join us for  
the fun and fellowship.





### Church Gift Shop and Library

Take the opportunity to visit the library, There is something for everyone and you'll find some great gift ideas. Items are available by donation. Books for both children and adults can also be checked out. Come by and see what is available.

## Council Members Installation

New council members will be installed at the January 7th Worship Service. Join us in welcoming the new members.

### 2024 St John Council Members

President .....	Kenneth Seeker	Evangelism.....	Cindy Clay
Vice-President .....	Gerald Herrmann	Financial Secretary.....	Cassie Lynch
Treasurer.....	Regina Holtkamp	Parish Ed.....	Stephanie Koehler
Secretary.....	Rita Gaskamp	Property.....	Colton Maass
Community Concerns.....	Gayle Bednar	Worship & Music.....	Virginia Altman

Many thanks to outgoing council members Herbert Klatte, Jr., Sharon Neutzler, India Randermann, Josh Clay, and Jeannie Kroll for their dedication in serving our church.

Welcome to our new members, Gerald Herrmann, Regina Holtkamp, Cindy Clay, Gayle Bednar and Cassie Lynch. Thanks to all of the above for volunteering their time.

## Annual Reports

Annual Reports of the various committees are due to the church secretary by Monday, January 8th.

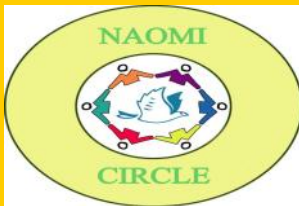


### Game Day

Each 2nd Wednesday of the month, there will be a Game Day at the church from 2:00pm - 5:00pm. The next Game Day is January 10th. Join us for fun, games and fellowship. All ages are welcome.

### Jump Start

Meets on January 9th at 6:30PM.



### Naomi Circle

**The Naomi Circle will meet at 10:00AM on January 4th.**

### Ladies Aid

Will be meeting on January 11th at 2:00PM.



### Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry will meet on January 20th at 8:00AM.





## God Squad

God Squad is a monthly event held at the Church. God Squad is a 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth gathering centered around “Faith, Food, and Fun.” The next monthly gathering will be Tuesday, January 2nd. Should you want to

share in this ministry, we invite you to come and help Laura with snacks and drinks, or if you enjoy activities, please join Pastor Norm as we encourage our youth to burn away their after-school energy.

## Bod4God

Sunday, September 17th, Pastor Norm stepped on the scale and revealed his weight. His weigh-in kicked off the beginning of Bod4God.

Bod4God is centered around scripture and weight loss. His purpose is to encourage each of you to commit to raising money for our youth to attend camp and also to encourage a healthier you. A sign up sheet to support this Weight-A-Thon will be available in the Narthex and remain throughout the event. You can make a financial commitment for every pound Pastor Norm loses or a single donation. He will step back on the scale on January 21st, 2024. Bod4God resumes meeting on January 15th at 6:00PM.



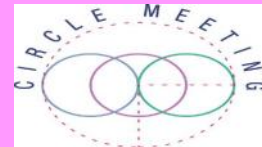
## Newsletter Deadline

The February newsletter deadline is January 15th. Please have any information that you wish to share in the newsletter by that date to the church secretary.



*The Young Women's Circle will meet on  
Sunday, January 7th at 4:00pm.*

**Rachel Circle  
Will meet Tuesday, January 2nd at  
6:30PM .**



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!



**The Parish Hall is reserved on January  
13th and the Activity Center is reserved  
on January 28th.**



Choir practice is held each Wednesday at 6:30PM. The next practice is January 10th. Come share your voice.

**Food Pantry Upcoming Dates**  
January 9th and 23rd from 6:30AM-8:00AM.





**St John Lutheran Church  
of Prairie Hill**

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Brenham, TX 77833

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

979-836-8666



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The deadline for the  
February newsletter is:

***January 15th***

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

Thank you!



**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**