

St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

Christmas 1

December 31, 2023



Worship Assistants

Pastor: Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.

Ladies Aid: Carolyn Kessel

Lay Reader: Jennifer Anderson

Sanctuary Prep: Sandy Janner, Carol Haarmeyer

Accompanist: Linda Schulze

Ushers: Kevin Finke Family, Timmy Herrmann, Marvin Wellmann

Acolyte: Reegan Huckert

Altar Preparations: Sherry Randermann, Diana Williams

Worship Leader: Steve Skrla

Screen Crew: Anna Finke, Jennifer Schroeder

Communion Bread: Betty Feldmann

Council Members: Rita Gaskamp, Josh Clay

Tellers: Gayle Bednar, Sandy Ordner

Memorial Committee: Carolyn Kessel, Sandy Ordner

Church Ministers: St John Members

Please tune to 87.9 FM for access to the service in the church parking lot on Sundays.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

THE PEACE

ELW Pg. 152

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace be with you.

R. Peace be with you.

GATHERING HYMN

Angels, from the Realm of Glory (v. 1-3)

ELW #275

INTROIT

Isaiah 52:10

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all nations,

And all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (v. 1, 4)

ELW #272

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made your children by grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are the deeds of the LORD!**

they are studied by all who delight in them.

³His work is full of majesty and splendor,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴**He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;**

the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

⁵He gives food to those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶**He has shown his people the power of his works**

in giving them the lands of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;
all his commandments are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,**

because they are done in truth and equity.

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever;
holy and awesome is his Name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;**

those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures forever.

SECOND READING:

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

SCREEN

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.**

Alleluia.

GOSPEL*Luke 2:22-40**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, {Joseph and Mary} brought {Jesus} up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O’ Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Norman Sulaica, Jr.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Child Is This

ELW #276

CREED

ELW Pg. 106

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,**

maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING HYMN *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* *ELW #184*

OFFERTORY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* *ELW #884*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.

With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CANTICLE HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW #276

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Bells of Christmas (v. 1, 3, 6)

ELW #298

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.



Tuesday, January 2nd

9:00AM Music Planning

6:00PM Executive Council

6:30PM Rachel Circle

Thursday January 4th

10:00AM Naomi Circle

6:00PM Faith Lessons

Saturday, January 6th

9:00AM Council Retreat

Poinsettias that were purchased by members
may now be picked up.

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

*The 2024 flower chart has been posted in the Annex so that you may sign up to place
flowers in the church. You may sign up for flowers by checking the flower chart for
available dates.*

**Member Offering Envelopes are
available in the Narthex for 2024.**

Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes will resume January 10th at 4:30PM.

Bod4God

Pastor Norm is continuing his Bod4God journey.

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. Bod4God will resume in January 15th. He will step back on the scale on January 21st, 2024.

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

Sunday School Classes

Sunday School will resume again on January 14th, 2024.

Choir

Choir practice resumes January 7, 2024. Consider joining!

Bible Study

Bible study will be on Monday, January 8th at 10:00AM.

Church Gift Shop and Library

Special Fund Envelope for Dec. is the Men in Mission Scholarship.

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) 443-8243

Semi Annual Congregational Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the congregation will be held on January 28, 2024 after the worship service.



Prayer Requests for our Church Family:

Mavis Smith Janice Cordova Sydney Wagner Florence Bentke Gilbert Spinn Helen Gaskamp
Cynthia Wilson Linda King Jerry Randermann Connie Seward Dorothy Wiesepepe Mark Marburger
Tom Bentke Earline Moody Verna Mae Sefcik Ruth Finke Milton Bosse Donald Lange
Jim & Sandy Kite Mike Altman Emery & Helen Schulze Dennis Moehlmann Diana Williams
Lloyd Neutzler Mollie Grote Cookie Engeling

Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries: Alexandra Amann, Robert Fairlie, Jr., Chuck Hess, Allen Parker, David Stegent, Mark Williams, Judy Wagner, Kayla Rosenbaum

Those Celebrating wedding anniversaries: None

Prayer Request for Family and Friends of our Members:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Aaron Batot | Floyd & Joan Engeling | Rita Huckert |
| Alan Pittman | Gladys Schwartz | Roger Ellermann |
| Albert Lee & Caroline Linke | Gloria Hanath | RV Pittman |
| Aliza Jones | James Lee | Sara Hardy |
| Amanda Gurka | Joe Deatherage | Shannon Mitschke |
| Ann Fogt | Larry Dean Koch | Shannon Wellmann |
| Blake Townsend | Leah McGee | Sue Beall |
| Carol Lieber | Kelsey Mattheis | Sue Maass |
| Christy Dallmeyer | Kennedy Altman | Tess Loberg |
| Connie Cadenhead | Mark Hundemer | Wayne Hueske |
| David Majewski | Mike McIntyre | |
| Dorothy Bowles | Missy Goldsmith | |
| Ellie & Eilla Rosenbaum | Nicole Clark | |
| Floyd & Joan Engeling | Otto Kemper | |
| Gladys Schwartz | | |

Please note on your prayer card individuals to be added or removed from the list.

Installation of New Council Members
New Council members will be installed on January 7th at the worship service. Please join in welcoming the new members and giving thanks to those outgoing council members.

2024 St John Council Members

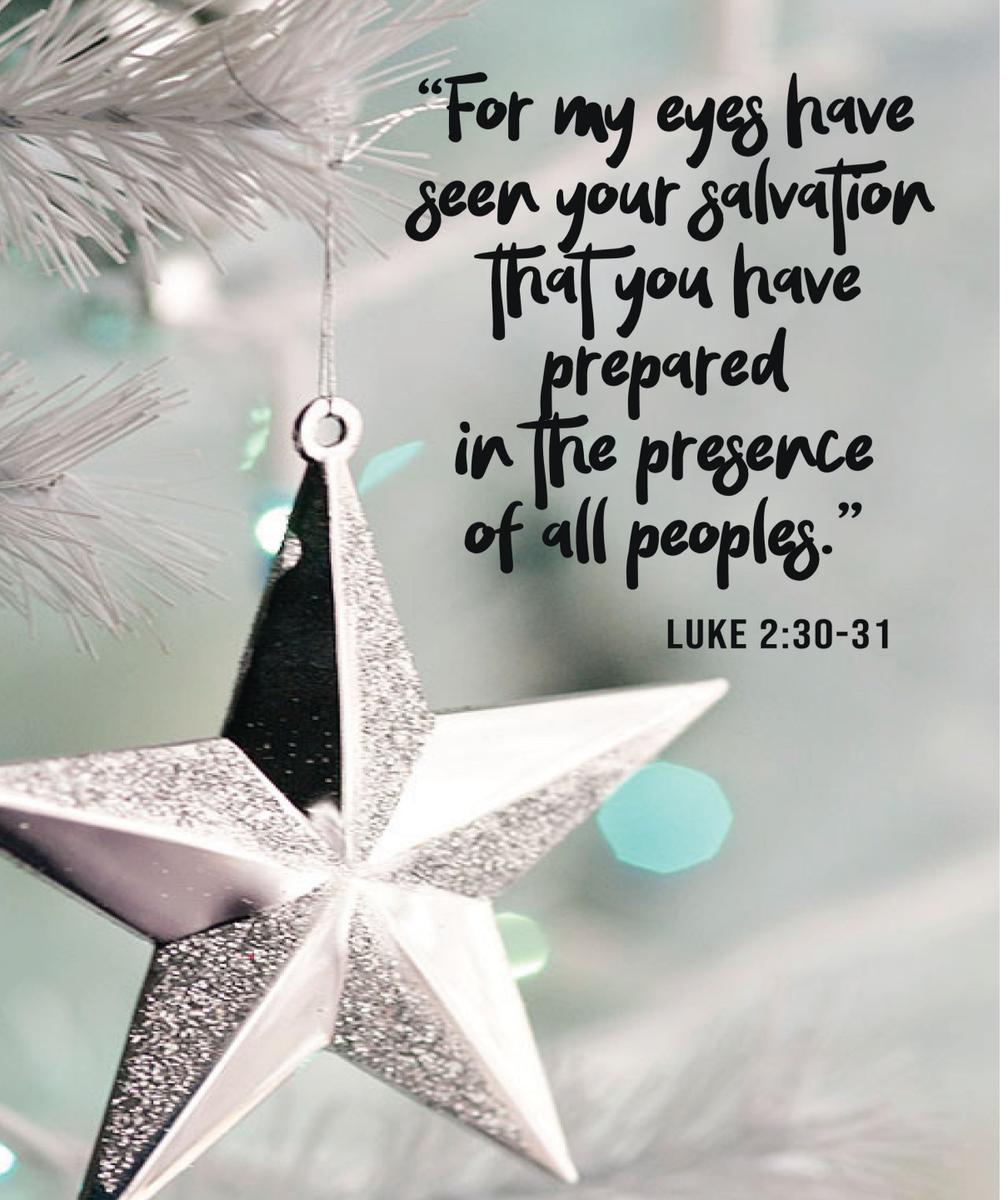
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|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| President | Kenneth Seeker | Evangelism..... | Cindy Clay |
| Vice-President | Gerald Herrmann | Financial Secretary..... | Cassie Lynch |
| Treasurer.....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

Welcome to our new members, Gerald Herrmann, Regina Holtkamp, Cindy Clay, Gayle Bednar and Cassie Lynch.

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.
Thanks to all of the above for volunteering their time.

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.



*“For my eyes have
seen your salvation
that you have
prepared
in the presence
of all peoples.”*

LUKE 2:30-31



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

...you will be called by
a new name that the mouth
of the LORD will bestow.

ISAIAH 62:2, NIV