

# 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 12**

**December, 2023**



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. –John 1:14*

Lloyd C. Douglas, author of *The Robe* and other novels lived in a boarding house when he was a student. On the first floor of the house there lived a retired music teacher who was confined to a wheelchair. Every morning as Douglas went down stairs he would stick his head in the music teacher's room and ask his friend; "What's the good news?" To which the music teacher would respond each day by striking a tuning fork against the side of his wheelchair and saying; "Middle C! Hear that, it's middle C! It was middle C yesterday, it's middle C today, and it will still be middle C 1,000 years from now. The tenor upstairs sings flat, the piano across the hall is out of tune, but my friend - that is middle C!"

For 2,000 years we have celebrated God love for us. This love takes form in a baby born in a backward southern small town know as Bethlehem. The disciple, John, writes Jesus "*became flesh and dwelt among us.*" God love and care for us is so deep that He enters our world to bring us His saving grace. His life among us signals the beginning of the necessary steps needed to bring forgiveness, new life, and eternal life to all believers. Christmas is a time of joy. It is a time to celebrate that the most valuable and precious gift ever given to us -- the baby Jesus, who is our Savior!

God's love and care is our middle C. Just like middle C could be counted on by the music teacher to be middle C always and forever, so too can we count on God to love and care for us, to come as a baby in a manger, to see us as children worth adopting and saving, even dying for, to be the light that cannot be extinguished, no matter what.

Merry Christmas! Please celebrate this special God-given event with your family and your church family!

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

**Contact Information for Pastor Norm**

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

## **Blood Drive**

**Make plans to participate in the  
blood drive on Sunday, December  
10th.**



**Sign-up sheets are  
available in the Narthex.**

### **Schedule for Special December Services**

December 24th

No Sunday School

9:15AM Worship Service with communion

4:30PM Christmas Program with communion

7:00PM Candlelight Service with communion

December 25th

9:00AM Worship Service with communion

December 31st

No Sunday School

9:00AM Worship Service



### **2023 Contributions**

December 25, 2023 is the deadline for contributions to be  
counted towards your 2023 total.



## December Service Information

December		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
<b>3</b>	First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalms 80:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
<b>10</b>	Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalms 85	2 Peter 3:8-14	Mark 1:1-8
<b>17</b>	Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalms 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
<b>24</b>	Fourth Sunday of Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Psalms 89:1-5	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
<b>25</b>	Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalms 2	Hebrews 1:1-6	John 1:1-14
<b>31</b>	First Sunday after Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalms 111	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40
Dec	Acolyte	Layreader	Flowers Given By		
<b>3</b>	Harper Huckert	Joseph Ordner	<i>Russell Seeker Family in honor of Kohen's B-Day</i>		
<b>10</b>	Logan Boeker	Katie Seeker	<i>John &amp; Carol Haarmeyer</i>		
<b>17</b>	Ainsley Kuecker	Charles Gaskamp	<i>Al &amp; Audrey Steinbach in honor of their Children and Grandchildren</i>		
<b>24</b>	9:15AM Addison Westerfeld 4:30PM Audrey Dismukes 7:00PM Brooklyn Randermann	9:15AM Laura Sulaica 4:30PM Kallie Krause 7:00PM Sandy Ordner	<i>Virginia Altman</i>		
<b>25</b>	Arabella Clay	Sandra Tillman			
<b>31</b>	Reegan Huckert	Jennifer Anderson	<i>Needed</i>		



## Baptismal Anniversaries

12/01/1957	Janice Fairlie	12/11/1949	Vernon Wagner
12/01/1979	Darren Huckert	12/12/2021	Kaylee Anderson
12/01/2019	Mia Davis	12/12/1976	Shae Westerfeld
12/02/1958	Don Holtkamp	12/12/1999	Emily Seeker
12/02/2017	Brandy Moehlmann	12/13/1970	Troy Giese
12/02/1986	Debora Koch	12/14/1952	Linda King
12/04/1960	Timothy Herrmann	12/14/1941	Mildred Kuecker
12/04/1960	Linda Schulze	12/15/1963	Sherry Randermann
12/05/1981	Kelly Antkowiak	12/17/1967	Lisa Finke
12/06/1942	Charles Giese	12/17/1967	Kary Kuecker
12/06/1959	Carolyn Lange	12/18/1955	Gerald Herrmann
12/06/1959	Doyle Wieghat	12/19/1971	Michael Altman
12/07/2003	Payton Blake	12/19/1971	Lance Altman
12/09/2012	Audrey Dismukes	12/20/1987	Garrison Nordt
12/09/1945	Carolyn Kessel	12/21/1975	Chris Koehler
12/10/1961	Gayle Himly	12/22/1957	Sharon Neutzler
12/10/2000	Connor Himly	12/23/1984	Preston Davis
12/11/1938	Ruth Finke	12/27/1955	Lloyd Neutzler

## Wedding Anniversaries



12/02/1980	Michael & Cereann Cheney	12/22/2020	David & Debora Koch
12/09/1973	Jim & Sandy Kite	12/22/2018	Jerry & Kristy Cochran
12/10/1972	John & Carol Haarmeyer	12/28/1990	Charles & Ellen Spinn
12/10/1978	Lee & Kathy Nordt		



A very Happy Birthday to those celebrating in December.

## 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 November 13, 2023**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on November 13, 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 Josh Clay and India Randermann.

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

**Unfinished Business**

Internet service: working ok now with the new, larger router.

New desk top computer for the office: Computer Helpers finally have us on their calendar and will be making a visit soon.

Sprinkler system: tabled until March of 2024.

Pastor Norm has contacted those that responded to the membership letters. Inactive letters will be sent this week.

Council position for Sunday school assistant superintendent is still open.

**New Business**

Chairman Klatte to appoint the audit review committee this month.

Future parking lot maintenance tabled for now.

**For Information**

Blood Drive December 10, 2023

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.

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer Report**

**Sharon Neutzler**

Report as submitted.

**Financial Secretary Report**

**Jeannie Kroll**

For the month of October, the total Weekly Giving Deposits were \$14,985.00, special envelopes to CASA for Kids \$160.00, plus loose offering of \$160.00 and Direct Deposits were \$4015.01 for a total giving of \$19,320.01. (The sum of \$23,150 monthly is needed to meet the 2023 budget.)

**Community Concerns Report**

**India Randermann**

Food Pantry served 74 families (121 people) at two distributions in October.

Funerals in October: None.

Next Blood Drive is set for December 10, 2023.

**Worship and Music Report**

**Virginia Altman**

Retakes for the pictorial directory will be Monday, November 20.

Special pre-service music is forthcoming.

**Parish Education Report**

**Stephanie Koehler**

Christmas tree decorating will be Saturday, November 25, beginning at 10 am.

Search for a new assistant Sunday school superintendent continues.

Discussion for having the Children's Christmas program back on the stage this year.

Time to register the kids for summer camp. Cindy and Stephanie will handle.

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

Family Fish Fest on October 21 had 60 attend, all was good and all were well fed.

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

Report on Good Neighbor Sunday, held yesterday, will be next month. Meal was very good.

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

Bids received on putting a new wheelchair ramp into the Parish Hall. \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Ramps tabled for now.

Sagging church window to be repaired soon.

Jon Westerfeld to trim the oak trees out the front door.

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

Visitations: Nursing home/shut ins visits 16, other visits 30

New members will be accepted on Sunday, November 19, 2023: David and Debbie Koch.

God Squad - for 3rd to 6th graders, went to the movies 'Journey to Bethlehem'

Confirmation: What does the secular world say about Jesus?

Bod 4 God & Faith Lessons classes, once a month until January.

Laura Sulaica is teaching adult Sunday classes on Revelation.

Pies and Prayers, Wednesday, November 22 at 6 pm, no communion.

Christmas eve and day services, no powerpoint available, we will use bulletins and hymnals.

Saturday, January 6, 2024, will be the council retreat. Sunday, January 7, will be the council installation. Saturday, January 13, will be the council appreciation dinner.

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

Personal: Christmas time off will be Tuesday, December 26 thru to Sunday, December 31, 2023. Sermon will be recorded.

Prayers for a health concern.

**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

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





*The 2024 flower chart has been posted in the Annex. You may sign up for flowers by checking the flower chart for available dates.*

**Bible Study**

**Bible study is each Monday at 10:00AM.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER			
<b>3 Advent 1</b> 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service 2:00PM Luther League Gathering 4:00PM Young Women's Circle Activity Center Reserved	<b>4</b> 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Executive Meeting 6:00PM Bod4God	<b>5</b> 9:00AM Music Planning 4:30PM God Squad 6:30PM Rachel Circle	<b>6</b> 4:30PM Confirmation Class 6:30PM Choir Practice
<b>10 Advent 2</b> 8:00AM Blood Drive 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service 3:00PM Christmas Cookie Exchange	<b>11</b> 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Council Meeting 7:00PM Jump Start Poinsettia Order Deadline	<b>12</b> 6:30AM Food Pantry 9:00AM Music Planning	<b>13</b> 2:00PM Share Day 4:30PM Confirmation Class 6:30PM Choir Practice
<b>17 Advent 3</b> 8:30AM Sunday School (Last Day for 2023) 9:15AM Worship Service Choir Sings at Worship Service	<b>18</b> 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Bod4God Newsletter Deadline	<b>19</b> 9:00AM Music Planning	<b>20</b> 4:30PM Confirmation Class No Choir Practice
<b>24 Advent 4</b> No Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service w/Communion 4:30PM Children's Program w/Communion 7:00PM Candlelight Service w/Communion	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 9:00AM Christmas Day Worship Service with Communion  Merry Christmas	<b>26</b> No Music Planning  PASTOR NORM	<b>27</b> No Confirmation No Choir Practice  VACATION
<b>31 First Sunday After Christmas</b> No Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service	8		



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Office Closed	2
Confirmation Singer Practice	7 Office Closed 10:00AM Naomi Circle 7:00PM Men's Ministry Christmas Party	8 Office Closed	9 6:00-8:00PM Bethlehem in Independence (Saturday & Sunday)
Game Confirmation Singer Practice	14 Office Closed 2:00PM Ladies Aid	15 Office Closed 11:00AM NALC Ladies Christmas Party at The Cannery Kitchen	16
Confirmation Practice	21 Office Closed	22 Office Closed	23
Education Class Practice	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30
THRU DEC. 26th	THRU DEC. 31st		
	Special Envelope for December - Men In Mission Scholarship	9	

Happy Holidays from Sunday School,  
Christmas program practice is in full swing.  
This year, the youth of our congregation  
are putting together one special Christmas  
program entitled "A Christmas Journey".



We would like to invite all to attend on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM.

Before I wrap up my time as Sunday School Superintendent, I would like to take a moment and say what a privilege it has been to serve our youth through the past two years. I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped with Sunday School and our fellowship activities.

As always, stay tuned for upcoming dates and activities. If you are interested in volunteering for a Sunday or two please contact Kaley Bednar, our next Superintendent.

Thank you to all of you and Merry Christmas!

Cindy Clay



### Christmas Poinsettia Sale

Poinsettias to decorate the Church will be available for purchase again this year. The cost of each plant will be \$13.00. In lieu of purchasing a Poinsettia, members may make a donation to the Food Pantry. Forms are available in the Narthex of the Church. The deadline to order will be December 11th. Poinsettias will be placed in the Church December 15th.

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

**ALTAR PREPARATION** Sherry Randermann, Diana Williams

**FAMILY AID** Connie Rohde, Susi Bentke, Betty Feldmann, Dorothy Haevischer, Dorothy Meyer,  
Myrtle Randermann

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE** Carolyn Kessel, Sandy Ordner

**SANCTUARY PREP** Sandy Janner, Carol Haarmeyer

**CHURCH TELLERS** Gayle Bednar, Sandy Ordner

**SCREEN CREW** Anna Finke, Jennifer Schroeder

**USHERS** Kevin Finke Family, Timmy Herrmann, Marvin Wellmann

**LADIES AID** Carolyn Kessel, All Members of Ladies Aid

**NAOMI CIRCLE** All Naomi Circle Members

**QUILTERS** No Meeting in December

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

**COMMUNION BREAD** Betty Feldmann



*“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.”*

*William Shakespeare*



*Quilters will not meet in December.*



Luther League Youth will  
hold its December  
gathering on December 3rd  
at 2:00PM. Join us for the  
fun and fellowship.

## Church Gift Shop and Library

Take the opportunity to visit the library, **MANY** new items, including seasonal items have been added. 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 for you.



## Christmas Cookie Exchange {Revised}

Add to your Christmas celebrating by coming to our 'Ladies' Christmas Cookie Exchange to be held December 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bring whatever amount of cookies you would like to share from your favorite recipe, and you will be able to pick from the other favorite cookies shared to take home. If you bring a dozen, you can pick a dozen to take home. If you bring 2 dozen, you can choose 2 dozen to take, and so on. Bags will be available at the party for the cookies that you choose to take home with you. There will also be refreshments to enjoy and drawings for prizes. Come, taste, and enjoy!

## 2023 St John Council Members

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

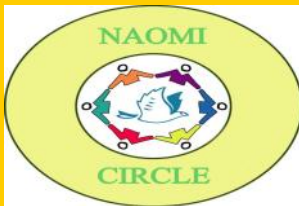
### Game Day

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 December 13th. Join us for fun, games and fellowship. All ages are welcome.



### Jump Start

Meets on December 11th at 7:00PM.



### Naomi Circle

**The Naomi Circle will meet at 10:00AM on December 7th.**

### Ladies Aid

Will be meeting on December 14th at 2:00PM.



### Bible Study Series

**A weekly Bible study is being held each Monday at 10:00AM. Please join in this learning opportunity and for the fellowship.**



### Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry will hold their Christmas Party on Thursday, December 7th at 7:00PM.



## 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, December 5th. 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 meets in December, on the December 4th and 18th at 6:00PM.

## NALC Ladies Christmas Party

**Friday, December 15, 2023**

**Social 11:00 a.m.**

**Lunch served 11:30 a.m.**

**The Cannery Kitchen**

**314 E. Alamo St., Brenham**

**Tickets \$15.00 and  
available in the Narthex**

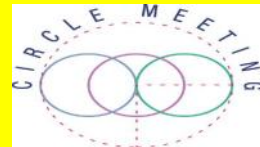






*The Young Women's Circle will meet on  
Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00pm.*

**Rachel Circle  
Will meet Tuesday, December 5th at  
6:30PM at Mary Longhofer's house.**



Choir practice is held each Wednesday at 6:30PM. The choir will sing at the Worship Service on December 17th.

**Food Pantry Upcoming Date**  
December 12th from 6:30AM-8:00AM.



**St John Lutheran Church  
of Prairie Hill**

6605 Old Independence Rd.  
Brenham, TX 77833

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

979-836-8666



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

The deadline for the  
January newsletter is:

***December 18th***

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

Thank you!

**DECEMBER**



**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**