

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!) for us.

Volume 20, Number 01

January, 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Grace and peace be unto you from our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus the Christ. Amen

“Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.” --- Ecclesiastes 5:1.

Happy New Year!

I have been visiting an eye doctor about my vision. Growing up 20-20 means you have great eye vision. The eye doctor would run a battery of eye test. We all have experienced the close -your-right-or-left-eye-and-read-line-four test. The doctor notes your vision accuracy. And of course, you would be informed of your vision. The hope or goal would be 20-20 vision.

Our new year 2026 is about new vision, and new vision is good and right for God's church, God's family! Our spiritual vision needs to be good and right! Our relational vision with God needs to be good and right as well! Yes, our new year resolutions in our mind, heart, paper, or electric devices should be first focused in God! Is God at the top of your list?

Ecclesiastes invites us to “guard” our steps in our walk of faith with Jesus! The inference is clear – our world is filled with traps, snares, and false paths which move us away from God. We live in an obvious culture that publicly rejects God. The framers of the constitution, the leaders of the American Revolution, clearly believed in God. Their fears were government intrusion on citizens and the church. Today, we hear about separation of church and state from the position that the church or citizens who believe in God cannot intrude on or in the government. There are those among us who argue two genders are false. They believe there are many genders! Churches are easily led amiss in their understanding of scripture. For some, the Bible is no longer God's Word but is now God's suggestion.

Even as we journey into the sanctuary for worship, these traps, snares, and false paths come with us intentionally or unintentionally. Our spiritual vision in God could be misguided by people of the world These people could come from different corners of our culture.

Ecclesiastes guides us, saying, *“To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil”*. To have that clear spiritual vision in Christ Jesus our primary source to guide us, should be God. The Bible, scripture, is holy! It is God's voice speaking to us, offering guidance, counsel, hope, and salvation!

Through forty inspired writers God speaks to us on topics from daily living to daily faith! Likewise, our worship-experience each week gifts us to be in the presence of the God. For God's presence is in the sanctuary, but most importantly in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through weekly worship, God engages us through the liturgy that is composed of scriptural passages. We are directly connected with God through the biblical readings from the Old Testament, the New Testament Letters, and the Gospels. The Sermon serves to open our soul to listen to God talking to us! Ecclesiastes invites us to come to the Lord and be open to be focused solely on Him.

Maybe our new resolutions should begin: *"I am resolved to draw near to God in worship, scriptural reading, and in building faith-based relations with my brothers and sisters in Christ!"*

God Bless You,
Pastor Norm

Contact Information for Pastor Norm
Cell Phone Number (361) 362-9108 Or Email: pastornorm2003@yahoo.com

January Scripture References

	January	FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
4	2nd Sunday after Christmas	1 Kings 3:4-15 <small>Solomon Asks for Wisdom</small>	Psalm 119:97-104 <small>Commandments Create Wisdom</small>	Ephesians 1:3-14 <small>Every Spiritual Blessing</small>	Luke 2:40-52 <small>Twelve Year Old Jesus In the Temple</small>
11	First Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 42:1-9 <small>God's Light Will Be Revealed</small>	Psalm 29 <small>The Power in the Lord's Voice</small>	Romans 6:1-11 <small>Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ</small>	Matthew 3:13-17 <small>God's Beloved Son</small>
18	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7 <small>The Lord's Servant</small>	Psalm 40:1-11 <small>Trust in the Lord</small>	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 <small>Called to Be Saints</small>	John 1:29-42a <small>The Lamb of God</small>
28	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4 <small>Those in Darkness Will See a Great Light</small>	Psalm 27:1-9 (10-14) <small>The Lord of Light</small>	1 Corinthians 1:10-18 <small>The Cross is the Power of God</small>	Matthew 4:12-25 <small>Follow Me</small>

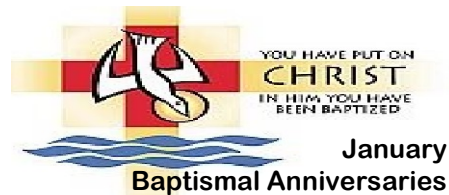
Refreshment Sunday
On the morning of January 4th, come enjoy fellowshiping on the front lawn (weather permitting) with our congregational family. A table with goodies like muffins and cookies will be offered along with beverages.

January Service Information

Jan	Acolyte	Layreader	Flowers Given By
4	Arabella Clay	Jana Ahlers	<i>Johnny and Sherry Randermann in memory of Myrtle Jean Randermann</i>
11	Audrey Dismukes	Jennifer Anderson	<i>David and Wanda Hermann in honor of their 52nd wedding anniversary</i>
0100	Reegan Huckert	Blake Becker	<i>Donna Haarmeyer and Audra Kroll in memory of Franklin Haarmeyer</i>
25	Knowles Koehler	Kathryn Boyd	<i>Trey & Cathy Boeker in honor of Logan's Baptism</i>

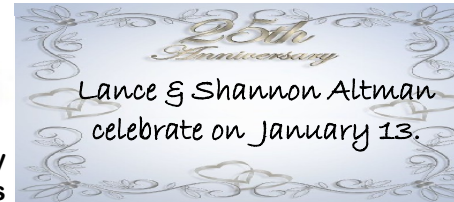


Darlene Kelly	1/2
Meredith Sommerfield	1/2
Leonard Dismukes	1/4
Reagan Lawhun	1/8
Anna Finke	1/9
Megan Schramme	1/9
Garrett Altman	1/10
Joel Zinsmeyer	1/10
Deanna Giese	1/11
Dorothy Haevischer	1/11
Sandy Kite	1/11
Rhett Schroeder	1/11
Finley Koehne	1/15
Brooklyn Randermann	1/18
Chad Dismukes	1/19
Johnny Randermann	1/21
Jennifer Anderson	1/22
Alexandra Amann	1/24
Mina Kraft,	1/24
Debra Westerfeld	1/24
Mary Hill	1/27
Sandy Janner	1/30
Kenny Wilson IV	1/30
Herbert Klatte Junior	1/31
Garrett Schramme	1/31
Johanna Wilkerson	1/31



Alexandra Amann	1/1	Trenton Kuecker	1/13
Laura Burton	1/1	Wyatt Davis	1/15
Robert Fairlie Junior	1/1	Oliver Schramme	1/15
Chuck Hess	1/1	Rachel Church	1/18
Allen Parker	1/1	Hunter Seeker	1/21
David Stegent	1/1	Logan Boeker	1/24
Mark Williams	1/1	Bailey Ken	1/24
Judy Wagner	1/2	Dolores Seeker	1/26
Margaret Faske	1/7	Sandra Tillman	1/26
John Haarmeyer	1/8	Carol Westerfeld	1/27
Colby Seeker	1/8	Wayne Ehlert	1/30
Justin Reuter	1/12	Charles Gaskamp	1/30
		Gayle Bednar	1/31
		Lauren Davis	1/31
		Garrett Schramme	1/31

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





**Thank you for helping contribute to the festive atmosphere in the sanctuary!
The poinsettias had been given in:**



MEMORY of
Lanell Seeker
HONOR of
Our Church family
here at St John
MEMORY of
Alvin and Ester Schawe
MEMORY of
Burnie and Nellie Wolff
MEMORY of
Alvin and Ester Schawe
MEMORY of
Burnie and Nellie Wolff
HONOR of
James and Florence Wolff
HONOR of
Children of Charles and
Deanna Giese
HONOR of
Grandchildren of Charles and
Deanna Giese
MEMORY of
Herman Benike Jr
MEMORY of
Elsie and Ernest Kolwes
Emma and Kerman Benike
HONOR of
Our Savior
MEMORY of
Alvin and Esther Schawe
Les and Ruth Hobbs/Dane
Hobbs
HONOR of
Children and
Grandchildren of
James and Becki Schawe
MEMORY of
Spin and Schlotzman
Families
MEMORY of
Robert and Lena Finke
MEMORY of
Alfred Boeker Jr

HONOR of
St John Lutheran
Church
MEMORY of
Donna Deleon's Husband,
MEMORY of
Donna Deleon's Parents,
MEMORY of
Donna Deleon's Grand-
parents
MEMORY of
Donna Deleon's Great
Grandparents
HONOR of
Rob and Sherrie Winkle-
mann's
Children
HONOR of
Rob and Sherrie Winkle-
mann's
Grandchildren
MEMORY of
Bob and Helene Schmitz
MEMORY of
Alan Stephen
HONOR of
The Family of Randy and
Sandy Janner
MEMORY of
Jeanette Schwartz
MEMORY of
Norma and Ardell Keeton
(Parents of Stan
Keeton)
MEMORY of
Mondell and Edwin Wells
(parents of Linda
Keeton)
MEMORY of
David
(Son of Linda Keeton)
HONOR of
Connie and Danney

MEMORY of
Jeanette Preuss' husband,
Robert L Preuss Jr
MEMORY of
Fritz and Elsie Sommerfeld
MEMORY of
Cecil and Lorene Griffon
MEMORY of
Joseph Keyes and Annie Nihill
HONOR of
Johnny and Sherry
Randermann's
Children
HONOR of
Johnny and Sherry
Randermann's
Grandchildren
MEMORY of
Jerry Gene Randermann
MEMORY of
Myrtle Jean Randermann
MEMORY of
Jerry Gene Randermann
MEMORY of
Steve and Pansy Skrla
and Eugene Seeker
HONOR of
Dolores Seeker
MEMORY of
Kimberly Applewhite and
Roger Martin
MEMORY of
Evelyn An Kruse
MEMORY of
Parents: Charlie and Edna Feldmann
Alton and Ruth Hahn
HONOR of
Our Parents and
Grandparents,
Verlin and Howard Kruse,
MEMORY of
Jerry Finke

MEMORY of
Cathy Fry
MEMORY of
Jesse Reid
MEMORY of
Raffaele Copola
MEMORY of
Ross and Palm Families
MEMORY of
Jerry Randermann
MEMORY of
Barbara Richter
MEMORY of
Myrtle Randermann
HONOR of
Virginia Altman's Children,
HONOR of
Virginia Altman's Grandchil-
dren,
and
Great Granddaughters
MEMORY of
Loved Ones
MEMORY of
Poncho and Julie Dismukes'
parents
MEMORY of
Cole Dismukes
MEMORY of
Mollie Grote
MEMORY of
Alexander E Grote
MEMORY of
Cole Dismukes
MEMORY of
Mollie Grote
MEMORY of
Gerald and Brenda Herrmann's
family
HONOR of
Gerald and Brenda Herrmann's
family

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p><i>BECAUSE OF</i> <i>God</i> <i>I'm</i> Stronger, saved, hopeful, loved, FORGIVEN, Found, blessed, inspired</p>			
<p><i>2nd Sunday after Christmas</i> 4</p> <p>Refreshment Sunday 9:15am Worship Service</p> <p>Installation of New Council Members</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00pm Whittlers for Christ 6:30pm Ex Council</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00am Music Planning</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p><i>First Sunday after Epiphany</i> 11</p> <p>8:30am Sunday School 9:15am Worship Service</p>	<p><i>Fire on the Mountain 1</i> 12</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Whittlers for Christ 6:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Music Planning 10:00am Rachel Circle 4:30pm God's Squad <i>The Chosen - Season 1 Episode 1</i> 6:00pm Bible Study <small>Wednesday, January 13th</small> Lance & Shannon Altman</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p><i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i> 18</p> <p>8:30am Sunday School 9:15am Worship Service</p> <p>2:00pm Luther League</p>	<p><i>Newsletter information due</i> <i>Fire on the Mountain 2</i> 19</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Whittlers for Christ</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00am Music Planning 9:00am Quilters <i>The Chosen - Season 1 Episode 1 (Continued)</i> 6:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p><i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i> 25</p> <p>8:30am Sunday School 9:15am Worship Service</p> <p>Semi Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship Service</p>	<p><i>Fire on the Mountain 3</i> 26</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Whittlers for Christ</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Music Planning 9:00am Quilters <i>The Chosen - Season 1 Episode 2</i> 6:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>

AIRY 2026

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3
Pastor 's Vacation -----		7am - 11:30am Council Retreat
8 10:00am Naomi Circle 2:00pm Ladies Aid	9	10 Luther League And God Squad Movie Party to see David 12:15 pm at Westwood cinema
15	16	17
22 6:00pm Council Appreciation Meal	23	24 7:30am Men's Ministry Breakfast
29	30	31 MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL <i>joy and peace</i> AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE <i>Holy Spirit.</i> Romans 15:13

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2025**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on December 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Council President Gerald Herrmann called the meeting to order. Council member Cindy Clay was absent from the meeting. Pastor Norm Sulaica opened with devotion and a prayer.

MSC to approve the November minutes.

Unfinished Business

Sanctuary Front Door Hardware Status – This item is still being looked at to determine if the hardware can be refinished or if a replacement is necessary.

Copier Contract – The new contract is being finalized, so we are operating on a month-to-month basis until the new contract takes effect. The new copier will have the capability to print in color, but the use of color will need to be limited because it is significantly more expensive than black and white copies.

New Business

Set date for Church Council Appreciation Dinner – The Council Appreciation Dinner will take place on January 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Set date for Council Retreat – The Council Retreat will take place on January 3, 2026, at 7:30 a.m.

Set date for Council Installation – Installation of 2026 Council and Sunday School Leadership will take place during worship on January 4, 2026.

Good Neighbor Meal Results – 192 meals were served. The total cost was \$2,900 and \$1,050 was received in free will offering donations.

Pay Date Change for Musicians & Pastor Mileage – **MSC** to pay musician fees and mileage reimbursements on the 15th of each month for the previous calendar month.

Appoint Audit Committee – Several possible members were discussed. Gerald Herrmann will contact some of those individuals to see if they are willing to serve. A list will be sent via text message to the Council for final approval.

Church Secretary Pay – **MSC** to raise the hourly pay for the Church Secretary position from \$18/hr. to the budgeted rate of \$20/hr. The lower rate was offered during the initial employment period.

Reports

Treasurer Report

Regina Holtkamp

Balances in the various accounts held at both Brenham National Bank and Bank of Brenham were reviewed.

Actual to budget income and expenses were reviewed.

Financial Secretary Report

Cassie Lynch

For the month of November, the total Weekly Giving Deposits were \$32,381.00, special envelopes to the NALC Seminary \$822.00, loose offering \$317.00, and Direct Deposits \$4,494.11, for a total giving of \$38,014.11

2026 offering envelopes should be delivered within the next week or two.

Community Concerns Report

Gayle Bednar

Food Pantry served 81 families (205 individuals) in November.
Funeral on December 8th: Mollie Grote, 132 people served.

Worship and Music Report

Donna Skrla

Donna is working to fill various volunteer schedules for 2026.
The new Yamaha Clavinova CVP 909 piano has been ordered.

Parish Education Report

Megan Schramme

Christmas in the Country was well attended.
Bethlehem in Independence will take place on December 13th and 14th,
with many of the confirmation youth participating.
Christmas program practice is taking place weekly after worship.

Youth Report

Jon Westerfeld

Activities included under the Pastor's report.-

Evangelism Report

Cindy Clay

No report.

Property Report

Colin Zimmerman

A seasonal check was done on all HVAC systems.
Outside faucets need to be winterized to prevent freezing.

Pastor Report

Pastor Norm Sulaica

Visitations: Nursing Home/Shut-in visits – 21, Other visits – 41

Bible Study: Monday Bible Class

Whittler for Christ

Tuesday Evening Study

Youth Ministry: Confirmation

God Squad - December 9th at 4:30 p.m.

Luther League – Attendance has been a challenge. Looking for ways to improve.

Funerals: There was one recent funeral: Mollie Grote, December 8th.

Jury Duty: November 17th @ 9am

Christmas Time Off: December 26th – January 2nd

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

Motion to adjourn. **MSC.**

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Boeker

Council Secretary

2026 St John Council Members

President: -----Jon Westerfeld
 Vice President: -----Gil Janner
 Treasurer: -----Tina Seeker
 Secretary:-----Cathy Boeker
 Financial Secretary: -----Jeannie Kroll
 Parish Education: -----Megan Schramme
 Evangelism & Outreach: -----Cathie Klatte
 Community Concerns: -----Cammie Guzman
 Worship Committee: -----Donna Skrla
 Property: -----Colin Zimmermann

Planning on something new for 2026?



FOOD PANTRY


Come help serve at the Food Pantry every 2nd and 4th Tuesday

Next time to serve Tuesday January 13

All Welcome!

6:30 pm Wednesday

CHOIR Practice



Men's breakfast and meeting

Every 4th Saturday

7:30 AM

January 24th

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

CLASSES RESUME ON JANUARY 11, 2026

Jill Eckert will serve as the Sunday School Superintendent and Cindy Clay will serve as the Assistant Superintendent.

This month
January 20th
and 27th

Quilters
Meets every
3rd and 4th Tuesday
9:00am

Confirmation Class
4:30 pm
Wednesday



This month
Saturday 10th
at 12:15pm

Usually Every
2nd Tuesday
3rd - 6th Grades



Luther League and God Squad are invited to see the 12:15pm showing on Saturday-Jan 10th Pastor's treat!



St John Lutheran Church

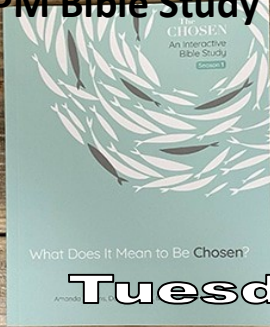
This month Saturday 10th at 12:15pm

Usually meets 7th - 12th grade 3rd Sunday at 2pm

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN
 Displaying God to a Broken World
Monday Mornings at 10:00am



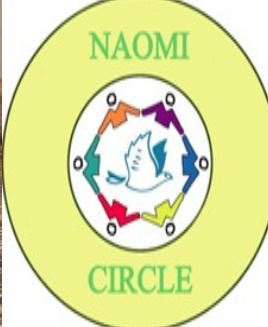
6:00 PM Bible Study Tuesday
 Chosen
 Season 1
 Episode 1
Tuesday January 13




Whittling for Christ
 Scripture and woodworking
 6 PM on Monday nights
 Activity Center.
 Michael Griffin
 will teach and guide us in
 whittling wood.



**January 8th
 10am**
**NAOMI
 CIRCLE**



**Rachel
 Circle**
**Tuesday
 January 13
 10am**



**Ladies
 Aid**
**January 8th
 2pm**



Sharing their time and talents for the month of January

**COMMUNION BREAD
 FAMILY AID**

Gayle Himly
 Sherry Randermann
 Carolyn Kessel
 Gayle Bednar
 Mary Hill
 Sandy Janner
 Audrey Steinbach
 Elvera Tisdell
 Janet Wehring

ALTAR PREPARATION

Connie Rohde
 Janet Wehring
 Steve Skrla and
 Barnay Glaesman

SCREEN CREW

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Deanna Giese
 Susi Bentke
 Deanna Giese
 Chad Westerfeld
 Joel Zinsmeyer

**QUILTERS
 USHERS**

CHURCH TELLERS

Charles Gaskamp
 Jeanne Kroll

SANCTUARY PREP

Rachel Church
 Sherry Randermann
 Carolyn Kessel,
 Linda Schultze
 Connie Rohde

LADIES AID

Mary Hill
 Cookie Engeling
 Brenda Herrmann
 Becki Schawe

NAOMI CIRCLE

BULLETIN EDITING

Judy Griffin
 Mary Longhofer

EUCHARIST TEAM

Linda Schulze
 Betty Feldmann
 Mary Longhofer

Laura Sulaica
 Virginia Altman
 Cookie Engeling
 Carolyn Kessel
 Connie Rohde
 Karen Rosenbaum

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



**SPECIAL OFFERING
FOR JANUARY 2026
NALC DISASTER RESPONSE**

PORTALS OF PRAYER DEVOTIONALS ARE
AVAILABLE FOR JANUARY THRU MARCH
IN VESTIBULE AND ANNEX

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

The deadline for the
February newsletter is:

January 19, 2026

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

Thank you!

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Julie Steen - prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com
Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666
Office hours:
Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm
Church Council President
Jon Westerfeld (979) 277-0625

**January
2026**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED