

ST. JOHNS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

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Established 1900

VOLUME 1

DECEMBER 2021

ISSUE 37

Established 1893

Seasons Greetings

St. John's,

As you know during the Advent and Christmas season we are often competing for focus. We want to focus on Jesus but the bright blinking lights, Christmas specials and programs, music, food, and stuff in general is constantly pulling us away. I've noticed that in the past few years it has really kicked into high gear. The Hallmark style Christmas movie is really big and they make a lot of them. As for me, I stick to "Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer", "Frosty the Snowman", "A Christmas Carol", "Elf", and other classics. Of those I try to check out a new version of "A Christmas Carol" every year. Most of them are pretty good but everyone knows that the Alastair Sim version from 1951 is the best. "A Christmas Carol" is not a Bible story but I think it's a very godly one.

If you are looking for the Christmas story in the Bible then you will want to go to Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 1:18-2:23. It's all there and no matter how many times I read it I have never figured out the Christmas star. If you have then please let me know. A person who is good at navigating can use a star to find basic directions like east, west, north, or south but to have a star lead the magi directly to someone is unique. What did the star look like? What did the magi know that told them that "this was it"? It's one of the questions I would ask an angel if I had the chance.

To understand the Christmas story you have to start with the story before the story if that makes sense. Zechariah was a priest and the angel Gabriel came to him and told him that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son named John. Around the same time (about six months later) Gabriel visited Mary and told her that she would have a child. Elizabeth and Mary were related and when Elizabeth visited Mary she was filled with the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist leapt in Elizabeth's womb when she heard Mary's greeting. Mary was inspired to say this:

46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Continued on next page

BOTH CHURCHES NEWS

Luke 1:46-55 NRSV

You know the rest I think. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to be counted and the rest is history. One of the reasons that I like those little details of the Christmas story is because they tell us who Jesus is. When you look at the background of Mary and Joseph you'll see that they have kings and priests in their family tree. Today our pastors are called and trained but in the beginning God used a family tree to declare priests and kings. Mary came from a family tree of both. She was a daughter of David and of the priest tribe. Joseph was a descendant of David as well so the father of Jesus by adoption was also from the line of kings. The baby in the manger that we celebrate at Christmas was a priest and king forever and his reign will never end. He's a good king and priest too! He sits at the right hand of God ready to help and advocate when you need him.

Merry Christmas to you in the name of the blessed king!

Jeremy Wolfe

jeremy.wolfe@csuglobal.edu

563-258-2936



"The Farmersburg ladies are having a Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 1st at 1:00 pm at St John Lutheran in Farmersburg and inviting the Luana ladies as their guests."



Our Condolences to the family and friends of Evan Michael Pape who passed away on November 4, 2021. His services were held on November 9, 2021 at St. John Luana.

Our Sympathy to the family and friends of Marilyn (Bunny) Fox who passed away on November 9, 2021. Her services were held on November 13, 2021.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Jeff Smith, Bruce Lenth, Joy David, Norman Mueller, Sheryl Mielke, Juanita Mohs, Sharon DeSotel, Marian Olson, Rick Conley, Jerome Schultz, Roger Meuleman, Keith Lee, Dawson Spiker, Greg & Lisa Snitker, *Dallas Tielbar, Luke Baade, RoseMary Tielbar, Imogene Ihlenfeldt, Shelby Preston, Jim Fuelling, Mickey Phillips*

MILITARY: Avrey Smith, Alex & Ali (Crogan) Moran, Andrew Rodas & Beth Rodas

STONE BROOK VILLAGE: Elaine Gehring

ELKADER CARE CENTER: LuNida Landt, Nadyne Reardon

STRAWBERRY POINT: Russ Pate

GARDEN VIEW PLACE: Sharon DeSotel, Shirley Henkes, Sharon Henning

GREAT RIVER CENTER MCGREGOR: Mae Mueller

ASSISTED LIVING ROCHESTER, MN 55901: Dorothy Kluth

BICKFORD ASSISTED LIVING GURNEE, ILL 60031: Imogene Ihlenfeldt

HOMEBOUND: Mary Russett, JoAnn Meyer, Glenda Henkes, Lee Klinkenberg, Jeanette Krambeer, Lendall Schievelbein

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

FARMERSBURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Zach Radloff (22)

V. Pres: Brad Hoth (21)

Sec: Tammy Muller (23)

Treas: Lindelle Scherf (22)

Council Members: Jeff Klinge (21)

Tracey Phillips (22) Loretta Weipert (23)

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES:

Kelly Shaw & Brenda Hoth

OUTSIDE JANITOR:

Loren Scherf

INSIDE JANITOR:

Mary Beth Tielbar

WELCA:

Pres: Shirley Marmann

V. Pres: Velma Kuehl

Sec: Nancy Moon

Treas: Becky Fuelling

Mission Action: Bev Moon,
Nancy Moon, Marlene Glawe

MEN'S GROUP:

Pres: Jason Klinge

V. Pres: Brad Hoth

Sec/Treas: Don Bossard

ALTAR GUILD:

Directress: Cheryl Bossard

Sec: Loretta Weipert

Treas: Velma Kuehl

ST. JOHNS MINISTRY YOUTH

Pres: Logan Engelhardt

V. Pres: Braden Landt

Sec: Ashley Shaw

Treas: Ethan Goltz

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Tammy Muller (21)

Secretary: Vicki Baade (21)

Members: Theresa Rodas (22)

Janelle Smith (22)

Luke Steege (23)

Jason Klinge (23)

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Cheryl Bossard & Tammy Muller

Church Website:

<http://www.stjohn-farmersburg.org>

Remember to like St. John Facebook Page.

FARMERSBURG NEWS



Secret Santa

St. John will be adopting a local family for Christmas. Gift tags are on a tree in the narthex. We are asking for unwrapped gifts to be brought back to church by December 12. Because this family is a Secret Santa family, they are not eligible for the Holiday Shop.



December 5

10:30 am Worship/Communion

11:30 am Volunteers are needed to decorate the Christmas Tree.

December 19

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 Worship/

Communion

Sunday School Program

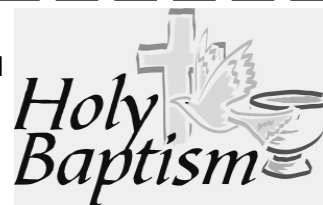


December 24

8:30 pm Worship

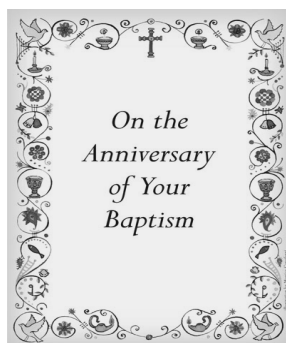
Communion

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services*



November 7, 2021

Emma RaeAnn Phillips became a child of God through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Congratulations!



KNOWN BAPTISMS

December

1 – Ethel Lenth

6 – Adam Lnenicka

Andrea Lnenicka

Amanda Goltz

8 – Jeff Wiedenman

11 – Annabelle Palmersheim

13 – Glenda Henkes

FARMERSBURG NEWS



Receiving their First Communion on November 7, 2021 were Connor & Carson Kirby and Emma Phillips.

USHERS
 December 5 & December 12
 Captain Ron Tayek Josh Kluth
 Vernice Moon Gilbert Brainard

December 19 December 24 (Christmas Eve) &
 December 28
 Captain Jason Klinge Don Erickson
 Mike Reardon Don Bossard



December



ACOLYTES FOR DECEMBER

December 5	10:30 AM	Kaylee Hoth
December 12	10:30 AM	Adrianna Schoulte
December 19	10:30 AM	Brayden Hoth
December 24	8:30 PM	Olivia Kirby (Christmas Eve Service)
December 26	10:30 AM	Landon Goltz

December Greeters

5 Jim & Julie Fuelling
 12 Jamie & Brandijo Tielbar
 19 Bill & Michelle Scherf III
 24 Linda Schoulte & Heather Crogan Christmas Eve
 26 Jim & Carol Lenth

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Shirley Marmann &
 Tracey Phillips

Worship Attendance

October

3	23
10	28
17	27
24	38
31	32

December WELCA

1 12:00 pm Unit Meeting
 1:00 pm Christmas Party
 invite Ladies from Luana
 Farmersburg ladies bring
 Christmas treats to share



December

27 – John & Kathy Klinge
 28 – Jeff & Deb Tidwell

2 Randy Scherf
 3 Glenda Henkes
 Derek Radloff
 Cora Fuelling
 Cassidy Penrod
 4 Marlene Glawe
 Eugene Dreier Jr.
 5 Lisa (Howard) Pavlovec
 Jill Jennings
 8 Connie Rohde
 11 Amanda Richard
 12 Aaron Heck
 Loren (Barney) Scherf
 13 Brian Henning
 Dallas Lee Tielbar
 14 Andrew Rodas
 Kurt Hauschild
 Melvin Walleser
 15 Ethan Goltz
 16 Lori Tielbar
 Marcella (Tootie) Kessler
 18 Scott Peterson
 Briella Schmidt
 19 Derek Leuchtenmacher
 22 Cory Pritchard
 23 Amy Suhr
 Michael Klinge
 Madelyn Lnenicka
 Isabelle Kirby
 24 Matthew Scherf
 25 Alan Feldmann
 26 Randy Muller
 Robert Bossard
 29 Velma Kuehl
 31 Don Bossard



St. John Farmersburg Council Minutes

November 10, 2021

Present at meeting: Brad Hoth, Lindelle Scherf, Tammy Muller, Zachary Radloff, Jeff Klinge, Loretta Weipert and Jeremy Wolfe. Absent: Tracey Phillips

Meeting called to order by President Radloff at 6:29 PM. Jeremy shared opening devotions & prayer.

Jeff moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Lindelle. Motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes of October 2021 meeting made by Jeff, seconded by Lindelle. Motion Carried. Tammy moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.

Lay Minister Report: Jeremy to purchase an Alb to wear, cost to be covered by professional expenses. Jeremy shared updates on how his schooling is going, hopes to be ordained in 2023. Three youth received First Communion on November 7.

Ongoing Business:

Discussion on lifting or changing any COVID restrictions or practices we have in place. Our main concern is the safety and well-being of all our congregational members. Due to the number of COVID cases in the county and the cold & flu season the council decided not to change anything at this time.

Harvest Meal went well. Still waiting to pay all the expenses.

Council reviewed and updated the parsonage lease. Lease will to be renewed annually. Rent will be \$500 per month. Everyone living in the house must be listed on the lease. Brad moved to approve the changes, seconded by Lindelle. Motion carried.

New Business:

Megan Glawe & Andrew Klink wedding set for September 10, 2022

St. John will be adopting a local family for Christmas. Gift tags will be put on a tree in the narthex. We are asking for unwrapped gifts to be brought back to church by December 12. Because this family is a Secret Santa family, they are not eligible for the Holiday Shop.

Committee Reports:

Evangelism- will be purchasing a poinsettia for the care centers again this year.

Parish Ed -started practice for Christmas program. Program will be December 19.

Property- Water heater repaired, leak under double sink repaired and a new door latch put on in basement.

No reports from Worship, Stewardship, Youth, Men's, Women's, and Memorial committees.

Motion to adjourn by Lindelle at 7:34 pm. Seconded by Loretta. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by

Tammy Muller, secretary



FARMERSBURG NEWS

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

THANK YOU to everyone who has cooperated each year in getting these reports ready for the Annual meeting. The following is a list of committees and groups that were active this past year and from whom we would like to receive a report. Any other committee or group that would like to submit a report and inform us of 2021 happenings, please feel free to turn in a written report. All reports can be emailed to the church office (stjohn87@neitel.net) or given to Kelly Shaw.

DEADLINE FOR THE REPORTS IS **JANUARY 12th 2022**

Pastor's Report	Jeremy Wolfe
President's Report	Zach Radloff
Treasurer's Report	Lindelle Scherf
Auditing Committee	Brenda Hoth/Cheryl Bossard/Dorothy Jennings
Nominating Committee	Brad Hoth/Jeff Klinge/ Linda Schoulte/John Klinge/Heather Crogan
Budget Committee	Lindelle Scherf/Zach Radloff/Brad Hoth/ Tammy Muller/john Klinge
Stewardship Committee	Jeff Klinge/Tammy Muller
Evangelism Committee/Caring Spirits	Lindelle Scherf
Worship Committee	Tammy Muller
Property Committee	Brad Hoth/Jeff Klinge
Memorial Committee	Tracey Phillips/Heather Crogan/ Loretta Weipert
Parish Education Committee	Loretta Weipert
Video Tape Ministry	Ryan Moon
Women of the ELCA	Shirley Marmann/Becky Fuelling
Men of St. John	Jason Klinge/Don Bossard
Youth	Logan Engelhardt/Ethan Goltz
Altar Guild	Cheryl Bossard/Velma Kuehl
Fascher Scholarship Fund	Tammy Muller/Lindelle Scherf
Probert Scholarship Committee	Tammy Muller/Lindelle Scherf
Schoenfeldt Scholarship	Tammy Muller/Lindelle Scherf
Banner Committee	Marlene Glawe
Strawberry Point Lutheran Home	Deb Tidwell & Jeff Klinge/Bill & Michelle Scherf
EWALU Ambassadors	Shirley Marmann/Ethel Lenth
Interchurch Council	Nancy Moon/Marlene Glawe/Becky Fuelling
Prayer Shawl Project	Marlene Glawe
Shepherd of the Hills	Heather Crogan
Clayton County Food Shelf	Utonia Ruff

Chapter 9 Bylaws

B9.01 All committees and organizations handling funds within the congregation shall include as a part of their annual report to the congregation a financial report in writing which shall be included in the congregation's written annual report.

LUANA

CHURCH SECRETARY & FINANCIAL TREAS.:

Karla Schrader

CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Jim Meyer (23)

V. Pres: Duaine Davis (23)

Sec: Sonya Anderson (21)

Cur. Treas: Mary Schroeder(22)

Bene. Treas: Cindy Landt (21)

Financial Counters: Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Doug Schlein (21),
Janelle Smith (22),
Ervin Bugenhagen (22) &
Doug Schrader (23)

CUSTODIAN:

Cindy Landt

WELCA:

Pres: Betty Handke (20)

V. Pres: Anna Schroeder (20)

Sec: Marj Schrader

Treas: Linda Davis

Mission Action: Carol Goettler

ALTAR GUILD:

Pres: Sherri Johnson (23)

Sec: Darci Engelhardt (23)

Banners/Linens/Candles:

Mary Schroeder (21)
Lisa Meyer (22)

Special Services/Flowers:

Betty Handke (21)
Diane Kraus (22)

Bapt./Comm.:

Sherri Johnson
Darci Engelhardt

Seasonal Banners:

Altar Guild

ST. JOHNS MINISTRY YOUTH:

Pres: Logan Engelhardt

V. Pres: Braden Landt

Sec: Ashley Shaw

Treas: Ethan Goltz

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Tammy Muller(21)

Secretary: Vicki Baade (21)

Members: Theresa Rodas (22)

Janelle Smith (22)

Luke Steege (23)

Jason Klinge (23)

St. John's Luana website

www.stjohn-luana.org

LUANA NEWS

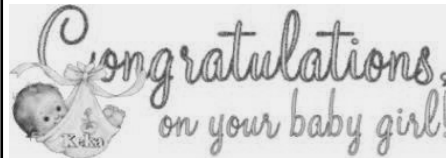
St. John Luana

7:00 pm Worship

With Communion



December Anniversaries
5 Larry & Cindy Riveland
9 Jerry & Mary Schroeder
31 Reggie & Sarah Freilingner



Congratulations Cyrus and Ashley Landt on the birth of their daughter, Kylee Marie.

Grandparents Neil & Cindy Landt and Great Grandfather Laverne Landt.

December Birthdays

11- LaRee Berger
13- Stephanie Wikner
14- Wayne DeSotel
15- Robert Handke
17- Diane Doerring
18- Carol Goettler
Kimberly Kraus
19- Burke Schrader
24- Tom Harnack
26- Darin Schlein
29- Becky Harnack



DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS:

Read Lessons & Prayers:

Greeters: Doug and Connie Schlein

Dec. 5- Luke Steege

Dec. 12 - Mary Schroeder

Dec. 19 - Vicky Baade

Dec. 26 - Jerry Schroeder

Acolyte: Dec. 5 - Ty Wikner
Dec. 9 - Josh Schierholz
Dec. 19 - Cayl Anderson
Dec. 24 - Emme Wikner
Dec. 26 - Karsten Steege

Communion Servers: Dec. 3 - Erv Bugenhagen and Doug Schlein
Dec. 19 - Janelle Smith and Cindy Landt
Dec. 24 - Doug Schrader and Mary Schroeder

Altar Guild: Sherri Johnson

Flowers: Susie Mohs

Known Baptismal Anniversary December

15- Lonnie Baade
17- Marjorie Schrader
26- Oswald Goettler



LUANA NEWS

St John Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Meyer at 7:46a.m.

Present: Jim Meyer, Doug Schrader, Mary Schroeder, Cindy Landt, Erv Bugenhagen, Duaine Davis, Janelle Smith, Lay Pastor Jeremy Wolfe and church secretary, Karla Schrader.

Absent: Sonya Anderson and Doug Schlein.

Devotions were led by Jeremy Wolfe.

Secretary's report was read, motion to approve by Cindy and second by Doug, motion carried.

Treasurer's report, Current and Benevolence, were given and motion to approve by Erv and second by Duaine; motion carried.

Old Business:

Thrivent investment was taken care of in September.

The temporary fix to the parsonage roof is working. It has been hard to get someone to come and look at it and make a bid or to get the materials to fix it. We will book someone as soon as possible for the next spring or summer.

The sidewalk on the south side of the church seems to be tilting toward the building. This will be checked into by the building committee, as well as the window wells and gutters.

Randy Williams shampooed the carpet and it looks better.

New Business:

The wasp nest in the tree by the parsonage will be taken care of in the fall when the weather gets colder. Cindy knows someone who wants it.

Sunday School will be once a month starting in November.

Discussion was held about possibly selling the parsonage in the future.

Deb Tidwell volunteered to do the sermon for the lay service on October 3. We will need someone to lead the service.

Motion to adjourn at 8:28a.m. by Cindy, second by Erv, motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by,
Janelle Smith

the
MINUTES

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LUANA

Council Minutes

Sunday, October 10th, 2021

PRESENT: Lay Pastor Jeremy Wolfe, Duaine Davis, Janelle Smith, Mary Schroeder, Doug Schlein, Cindy Landt, Karla Schrader, Doug Schrader, and Sonya Anderson.

ABSENT: Ervin Bugenhagen, Jim Meyer.

Meeting called to order by Vice President Duaine Davis at 0746 am.

Devotions: Led by Pastor Jeremy Wolfe led devotions.

Secretary's Report:

Sonya Anderson read the Council minutes from September 12th, 2021. Mary Schroeder made a motion to approve, and Cindy Landt seconded this. Motion carried.

Treasurers & Financial Report:

Reviewed by all Council present.

Doug Schlein made a motion to accept, and Doug Schrader seconded this, motion carried.

Old Business:

1. The Building Committee has not yet met.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jeremy will meet with the worship committee on way to make worship smoother.
2. The parsonage residents talked of getting married at the church.
3. Jeremy talked with Pastor Erika and Heidi Landt about the Youth Group.
4. The First Communion Class will be held.
5. There will be no communion today. The communion servers for today will serve at the following communion service.
6. The remote for the church service music is getting a little rusty. The laptop has a MP# player that could play the songs. Karla obtains the hymns from Sundays and Seasons.

Next Meeting: November 14th, 2021 @ 745 am.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 0811 am by Cindy Landt and seconded by Doug Schrader. Motion carried.

The Lord's Prayer was led by everyone upon closing of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sonya Anderson

LUANA OCTOBER REPORT

Submitted by Karla Schrader

EXPENSES

Black Hills Utilities –Nat. Gas	37.47
Alliant - Electricity	226.21
Karla Schrader –Secretary	330.91
Cindy Landt – Custodian	307.83
NEITEL	118.58
Jeremy Wolfe	1,169.33
Jeremy Wolfe – Sept mileage	454.33
IRS	292.43
Plunketts – Pest control	193.67
Farm & Home – cust.	162.20
Clayton Co. Treas. (year)	1,426.25
Williams Carpet Cleaning	150.00
Concordia – P & P	52.50
1517 Media – Sundays & Seasons	339.00
Monona Computer Serv – Jan-Oct	162.27
St John Farmersburg – newsletter	<u>127.00</u>
	5,549.98

INCOME

Oct. 3	1,595.00
Oct. 10	422.00
Oct. 17	477.00
Oct. 24	427.00
Oct. 31	<u>842.00</u>
	3,763.00
Bal. Sept. 30, 2021	11,195.81
Income	3,763.00
	14,958.81
Less Expenses	5,549.98
Bal. Oct. 29, 2021	9,408.83

SPECIAL FUNDS

Ruby Breitsprecher CD	5,229.74
St John Scholarship Fund CD	40,076.87
Willard & Anne Kamin CD	4,240.61

FURNACE/RENT/REPAIR FUND

Bal. 9-30-21	\$ 39,745.51
Rent	1,000.00
Interest	<u>35.19</u>
Bal. 10-29-21	\$ 40,780.70

CURRENT FUND

	Envelopes	Plate	Total
Oct. 3	1,590.00	5.00	1,595.00
Oct. 10	412.00	10.00	422.00
Oct. 17	467.00	10.00	477.00
Oct. 24	422.00	5.00	427.00
Oct. 31	<u>842.00</u>		<u>842.00</u>
	3,763.00	30.00	3,763.00

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

INCOME

Oct. 3	Offering	71.00
Oct. 10	Offering	15.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
Oct. 17	Offering	10.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
Oct. 24	Offering	15.00
Oct. 31	Offering	90.00
	Food Shelf	<u>50.00</u>
		271.00

EXPENSES

Food Shelf	\$ 70.00
SOTH	130.00
NEIA Synod	<u>71.00</u>
	271.00



Shepherd of the Hills Ministries NEWSLETTER – DEC 2021



CLOTHING CENTER

The Clothing Center remains **CLOSED to foot traffic**. **ALL SERVICES REMAIN AVAILABLE.** Items can be packed up for our families/clients upon request. Some families have allowed items to be packed for them, while others have not.

Donations are **ACCEPTED BY APPT ONLY!** This policy has not changed since the beginning of the pandemic, March of 2020. Please continue to call the office, to set up a time for donations. *Dropping off donations is discouraged at this time.* It is not acceptable to leave those items on the landing near the front door. *With the time of year, where moisture sets in, often items left on the door step, are not brought inside for distribution, sadly.* As a gentle reminder, this is comparable to someone leaving items on your doorstep at home, without your consent! We do assist families with clothing or household needs, however, policies are in place for reason. *We ask that individuals be respectful of this policy!*

Donations we are **MOST IN NEED OF:** Boys size clothing 12mo – 5t, 10–16; Girls Size 12 mo- 16. Men's Jeans (denim only); Sm Kitchen appliances, Pots/Pans.

As a gentle reminder, please call the office before making the drive to Shepherd, to inquire on most recent needs and/or setting up a donation time!

Thank you for bearing with us during these most uncertain times!

Christmas Just 4 Kids

We are accepting **donations of new toys/gifts** at the **St. Olaf Auditorium** on **Dec 6th & 7th**, and will be **packing the family bags on Dec 8th & 9th**. Any monetary donations may be mailed to Shepherd of the Hills, PO Box 36, St. Olaf, IA 52072. Toys & gifts are needed for children Newborn to 18/High School Senior. Please reach out to the office for any gift ideas if needed. **All physical donations of toys/gifts need to be received by Dec 7th this year.**

Any Volunteers wanting to assist the week of Dec 6th-9th, please reach out to Heather in the office! We still have spots open to volunteer!

Thank you for the continued support of this community wide project!

Conference Assembly 2022

Annual Conference Assembly is scheduled for February 20, 2022 at 2:00pm. St. Peter Lutheran Church, Garnavillo is scheduled to host in 2022.

St Peter does have policies in place to help guide them through decisions relating to COVID, transmission rates and hosting events. We are hoping to host an in-person event, however will have plans in place if a Virtual Event is needed! We will be in communication with St. Peter, monitoring our Clayton County Data in coming weeks, to be able to make an informed decision for the health and safety of all participants! A decision will be made by January 20th. Stay tuned!

Shepherd of the Hill's Needs:

The **Operating Fund** pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care.

The **Crisis Fund** is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities.

Please utilize the **MEMO LINE** on your check to specify **Crisis** or **Operating Fund**!

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 16th & 17th
Clothing Center Closed –
Christmas Gifts' Pickup Days
February 20th, 2022
Annual Conference
Assembly
2:00pm

Any event may be subject to change

Shepherd of the Hills

100 W. Hill Street, PO Box 36,
Saint Olaf, IA 52072

Telephone: 563-783-2409

Fax: 563-783-2428

E-mail: shephill@neitel.net

**Business Hours: Monday-Friday
9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm**

Heather Crogan, Director

BOTH CHURCHES NEWS

December 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Merry Christmas from LSI!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! This year has been another difficult time for all of us, and we are grateful for the lowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping the people LSI is privileged to serve. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our neighbors who are so often overlooked in our society. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Never Alone

Two years ago, Kayla knew it was time for a change in her life. She had struggled with substance use for years. When she was pregnant with her youngest son, Rafe, she was determined to build a brighter future for him. She entered treatment to become sober and create a healthy home for her baby.

While in treatment, Kayla enrolled in the HOPES program through LSI Early Childhood Services, which provides in-home parenting education and guidance for parents of young children. Kellie, Kayla's LSI worker, met with her every week to ensure she had all the resources and support she needed to raise Rafe in her home. They kept track of all his important developmental milestones, sharing smiles and laughs along the way. Whether it was supplying diapers or being a listening ear, Kellie was always there for Kayla.

Kayla is now two years sober, has a job as a chef, and feels empowered and confident that she has everything she needs to help her family thrive.

"I just feel overwhelmed and overjoyed. I never thought I could do all this, so I'm proud of myself," she says. "There are people at LSI that care about you. They are there to support you and they are willing to help."