



Established 1900

ST. JOHNS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

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Established 1893

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Advent is here and in this season I'd like to explore something important. Words often have more than one meaning or application. Advent itself means arrival or coming and it could refer to the first arrival of Jesus, his second advent, or the advent of Christmas Day itself. Names often have more than one meaning. You are likely called by many names. A first name, a nickname, a job title, a role like mother, father, aunt, uncle, grandparent, etc. If you look over someone's life there are all sorts of names attached to them. How much more those attached to Jesus Christ? His 33 years were jam packed, full of meaning, and we're told by John that if we tried to write down all of the things he did the world could not contain those books (John 21:25). Naturally he has lots of names and titles and I'd like to explore that during the Advent season.

There are about 200 names or titles that you can apply to Jesus. Can you imagine having about 200 nicknames? Why so many? It is because he is all in all, and in all (Colossians 3:11). I like this description of Jesus best:

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs.
Hebrews 1:1-4 (RSV)

He is the conduit and linchpin of all creation. All things were created through him and so 200 names probably aren't enough! Some of those names or titles are more famous than others. During Advent I will focus on these four:

- Wonderful Counselor: the Word made flesh speaks better wisdom than the world.
- Mighty God: the One who made the stars now breathes our air.
- Everlasting Father: the Ancient of Days becomes a nursing infant who will never leave us.
- Prince of Peace: glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.

I hope that you will join us for worship as we explore the many names, titles, and facets of our Lord. That culminates in our churches with a couple of special things. First of all, our Christmas Eve Candlelight worship is always a highlight and on Christmas Day itself we will celebrate with our 2nd Christmas Day meal at St. John Farmersburg. If you can join us for fellowship, that's great; if you are hosting folks at home we do carry outs as well. Please join us during the Advent season and, as the weather cools, may the Holy Spirit warm your heart with the anticipation of the coming Savior.

Blessings to you Pastor Jeremy

FARMERSBURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Bill Scherf III. (25)
V. Pres: Bruce Glawe (25)
Sec: Loretta Weipert (26)
Treas: Linda Schoultz (26)
Council Members: Ken Erickson (27),
Crystal Goltz (27) & Dave Hageman (25)

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

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,
Linda Friedlein & Ethel Lenth

MEN'S GROUP:

Pres: Ryan Moon
V. Pres: Brad Hoth
Sec/Treas: Dan Moon

ALTAR GUILD:

Directress: Cheryl Bossard
Sec: Heather Crogan
Treas: Velma Kuehl

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Linda Schoultz (26)
Secretary: Vicki Baade (27)
Members: Janelle Smith (25)
Becky Fuelling (25)
Aaron Smith (26)
Amanda Goltz (27)

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Cheryl Bossard & Tammy Muller

Church Website:

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

Remember to like St. John Facebook
Page.

FARMERSBURG NEWS

Sunday School Christmas Program is December 14.



Children's Christmas Program

Program Practice will begin on November 30th **9:00 am** (Note time) and on December 7th & December 14th at 9:00 am.
All children are invited to attend.
Contact Loretta Weipert, Kelly Shaw or Lindelle Scherf with questions.



Mick and Donna Krambeer are marking their 50th anniversary on November 29 with a card shower. Mail your cards to Mick and Donna Krambeer
PO Box 853
Monona, Iowa 52159

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December

10 – Tim & Connie Lessard
13 – Jim & Julie Fuelling
27 – John & Kathy Klinge
28 – Jeff & Deb Tidwell



Poinsettias can be purchased to use during our Worship services in December. Cost is \$10. DEADLINE to order is DECEMBER 7TH. Please pay when ordering. Contact Cheryl Bossard, Loretta Weipert or Julie Kurth.



KNOWN December Baptismal Birthdays

1 – Ethel Lenth
6 – Adam Lnenicka
Andrea Lnenicka
Amanda Goltz
8 – Jeff Wiedenman
11 – Annabelle Palmersheim
13 – Glenda Henkes
25 – Melissa Wolfe

The following saints were remembered on All Saints Sunday.

Isabella Grace Dubberke

Born 11/25/2024

Died 11/27/2024

Robert John Pate

Born 11/15/1969

Died 11/30/2024

Lee Elmer Klinkenberg

Born 04/02/1920

Died 07/28/2025

FARMERSBURG NEWS

ST. JOHN FARMERSBURG COUNCIL MINUTES November 9, 2025

Present: Bill Scherf, Loretta Weipert, Ken Erickson, Bruce Glawe, Linda Schoultz, Dave Hageman and Jeremy Wolfe. Absent: Crystal Goltz

Meeting called to order by President Bill at 1120.

Opening devotions given by Jeremy.

Loretta moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2025 meeting made by Bruce. Second by Ken. Motion carried.

Dave moved to approve the treasurer's report, second by Linda. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

*Updates on Christmas Meal. Asked permission from Luana and Farmersburg council members to open an account for annual Christmas Meal to keep funds separate from the General fund. Linda made a motion for an account to be opened for Christmas Meal, second by Loretta. Motion carried. Plans to go door to door in Farmersburg to pass out flyers. Will ask the congregation to provide desserts.

*Proposed to work on mileage reimbursement to make more economical.

Old Business:

*SOTH provided a gift list for a secret family. By next Sunday tree with gift tags will be in the Narthex.

*Discussed the success of Harvest Meal. Funds raised \$3597 and paid \$121.30 for remaining cost of turkey, so the total profit was \$3475.70.

New Business:

*Will ask Brad if he is willing to do snow removal again this winter.

*Set the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday February 1, 2026 after worship.

*Set date for Budget committee for December 21 after worship. Bill will contact Nominating Committee to schedule a date to meet.

Committee Reports:

Evangelism - None

Parish Education - Christmas Program December 14, discussed date with Ryan Moon. Going to allow students 4th and 5th graders to acolyte related to lack of confirmation students. This upcoming Sunday they will be trained to acolyte.

Property - None

Stewardship - None

Worship - None

Memorial - Purchased a television for Sunday School Room.

Men's Group - None

Women's Group - None

Motion to adjourn by Ken, second by Linda. Motion carried.

Next meeting December 14 after worship.

Respectively submitted by Loretta Weipert, secretary



FARMERSBURG NEWS



Our Giving Tree is for a family whose Mother has passed away and the Father is taking care of the kids on his own. He is a hard worker with a great work ethic. He is struggling due to medical issues for him and his late wife. Tags are on the tree in the Narthex. Deadline for gifts is December 14th. Please pick up a tag and help this family.

October 2025 – Treasurer's Report

Income:

1456.00
933.00
442.00
343.00
1600.00
3557.00 (Harvest Meal)
590.97 (PayPal Offering)
161.00 (Thrivent Choice Dollars)



Missions:

NE Iowa Synod:	270.00
SOTH:	232.00
Food Shelf:	122.00
St. Pt. Home:	35.00
LSI:	50.00
EWALU:	35.00

Treasurer Report

Staff Compensation:

Pastor:	2636.37 + 535.14 + 351.38 (Portico) (Housing from different Account: 707.58)
Inside Cust.:	215.48
Outside Cust.:	126.98
Organists:	129.28

Expenses:

Black Hills (gas):	48.46
Alliant (elec):	227.73
NEIT:	116.40
Church Mutual	773.00
City of Farmersburg	275.40 (4 th Quart Utilities)
Fisk Farm & Home	65.24

Total Income: 9082.97

Total Expenses: 6244.86

General Checking Balance – October 1, 2025: 12.98
October 31, 2025: 2851.09

Kelly Shaw, Treasurer

LUANA

CHURCH SECRETARY &
FINANCIAL TREAS.:
Karla Schrader

CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Jerry Schroeder (26)

V. Pres: Aaron Smith (25)

Sec: Vicky Baade (27)

Cur. Treas: Diane Kraus (25)

Bene. Treas: Stan Dull (26)

Financial Counters: Council

DEACONS:

Jerry Schroeder (26)

Tim Donlon (26)

Loren Lenth (27)

TRUSTEES:

Diane Kraus (25)

Aaron Smith (25)

Heath Landt (26)

Vicky Baade (27)

Luke Steege (27)

WELCA:

Leaders:

January—March: Karla Schrader

April—June: Mel Lenth

July—September: Lisa Meyer

Oct.—December: Vicky Baade

ALTAR GUILD:

Pres: Sherri Johnson (26)

Sec: Darci Engelhardt (26)

Banners/Linens/Candles:

Lisa Meyer (25)

Mary Schroeder (27)

Special Services/Flowers:

Diane Kraus (25)

Betty Handke (27)

Bapt./Comm.:

Sherri Johnson

Darci Engelhardt

Seasonal Banners:

Mary Schroeder

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Linda Schoulte (26)

Secretary: Vicki Baade (27)

Members: Janelle Smith (25)

Becky Fuelling (25)

Aaron Smith (26)

Amanda Goltz (27)

St. John's Luana website

www.stjohn-luana.org

LUANA NEWS



Cake and coffee reception honoring Carol Goettler
December 7 after worship at Luana.
Carol is retiring from playing the organ.
Thank you for your years of service, Carol!

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Lonnie and Vicky Baade



Read Lessons & Prayers: Dec. 7 Janelle Smith

Dec. 14 Linda Davis

Dec. 21 Karla Schrader

Dec. 24 Mel Lenth - Christmas Eve (8:30 pm)

Dec. 28 Luke Steege

Acolyte:

Dec. 7 Livia Steege

Dec. 14 Ty Wikner

Dec. 21 Emme Wikner

Dec. 24 Dayne Anderson - Christmas Eve (8:30 pm)

Dec. 28 Karsten Steege

Communion Servers: Dec. 7 – Jerry Schroeder & Heath Landt

Dec. 21 – Loren Lenth & Vicky Baade

Dec. 24 – (Christmas Eve) – Tim Donlon & Luke Steege

Altar Guild: Sherri Johnson

Flowers: Linda Davis



There are months available for you to volunteer to Usher and/or take care of flowers for 2026.

There is always room to join in reading the lessons and prayers for 2026. Let Karla know if you are interested.



Our Prayers and Sympathy to the Family & Friends of Joy Lynnette Meyer-David who passed away October 11, 2025. Her services were held at St. John Lutheran Church, Luana on November 22, 2025.



DECEMBER

5 - Paul Miller

9 - Mona Schultz

11 - LaRee Berger

13 - Stephanie Wikner

15 - Robert Handke

17 - Diane Doerring

18 - Carol Goettler

Kimberly Kraus

19 - Burke Schrader

26 - Darin Schlein

29 - Holley Smith



LUANA NEWS



If you are planning on sharing a poinsettia for Advent please let Karla know.



Known Baptismal Birthdays
December
15 – Lonnie Baade
17 – Marjorie Schrader
28 - LaRee Berger



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Att.	Comm
Oct. 19	38	34
Oct. 26	37	
Nov. 2	46	41
Nov. 9	40	
Nov. 16	<u>35</u>	<u>32</u>
	196	107

St. John Council Minutes November 9, 2025

Present were: Pastor Jeremy, Jerry Schroeder, Diane Kraus, Loren Lenth, Stan Dull, Tim Donlon, Heath Landt, Luke Steege, Aaron Smith and Vicky Baade. Church secretary, Karla Schrader was also in attendance. Meeting was called to order by President, Jerry Schroeder.

Pastor led devotions.

Vicky read the minutes of the October 12 meeting. Luke moved to accept the minutes, Loren seconded, approved.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Vicky moved to accept the reports, Heath seconded, approved.

Church insurance – Jeremy is getting another quote.

Jerry will check with the abstract company this week.

One furnace is not working properly. Jerry will call Kurt Gerdes.

Aaron and Stan will check into a plan for ringing the church bell from the main floor.

Jeremy proposed honoring Carol Goettler for her years as organist with a cake and coffee reception. The event will be December 7 after church.

Jerry adjourned the meeting. Members prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be December 14 at 7:30am.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Baade, Council Secretary



LUANA NEWS

OCTOBER REPORT

EXPENSES

		INCOME
Black Hills Utilities –Nat. Gas	46.13	Oct. 6 1,205.00
Alliant - Electricity	122.61	Oct. 13 932.00
Karla Schrader –Secretary	500.24	Oct. 20 853.00
Cindy Landt – Custodian	461.50	Oct. 27 <u>1,689.00</u>
NEITEL	119.87	4,679.00
Jeremy Wolfe- salary	2,636.46	Trfr Repair Fund <u>2,200.00</u>
Jeremy Wolfe – housing	707.58	6,879.00
Jeremy Wolfe – mileage	599.06	
IRS- July	159.37	
Church Mutual – Prop. Ins.	944.26	Bal. Sept. 30, 2025 248.21
City of Luana – Sept. w/s/g.	119.54	Income <u>6,879.00</u>
B & K Plbg – office ac/heating	128.40	7,127.21
Farm & Home – cust.	9.11	Less Expenses <u>6,645.50</u>
Concordia – P & P	<u>91.37</u>	481.71
	6,645.50	

SPECIAL FUNDS

St John Scholarship Fund CD	43,249.01
Willard & Anne Kamin CD	4,788.07
Ruby Breitsprecher CD	5,676.58
St John CD	125,000.00

CURRENT FUND

	Envelopes	Plate	Total
Oct. 6	1,200.00	5.00	1,205.00
Oct. 13	932.00		932.00
Oct. 20	817.00	36.00	853.00
Oct. 27	<u>1,667.00</u>	<u>22.00</u>	<u>1,657.00</u>
	4,616.00	63.00	4,679.00

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

INCOME

Oct. 6	Offering	85.00		
Oct. 13	Offering	100.00		
	Food Shelf	70.00		
Oct. 20	Offering	5.00	SOTH	130.00
	Food Shelf	15.00	Food Shelf	95.00
	Soth Oper	250.00	SOTH Oper	275.00
Oct. 27	Offering	47.00	Synod	<u>107.00</u>
	Food Shelf	10.00		607.00
	Soth Oper	<u>25.00</u>		
		607.00		

RENT/REPAIR FUND

Bal 9-30-25	31,421.69
10-2-25 Dep.	700.00
CD Int.	<u>3,008.22</u>
	35,129.91
To current	<u>2,200.00</u>
Bal. 10-31-25	32,929.91

THRIVENT BALANCE

Bal. Aug. 28, 2025	\$134,713.28
Income	360.46
Change in Value	<u>2,086.17</u>
Bal. Sept. 30, 2025	\$137,159.91

Both Churches News

Women of St. John Luana and Farmersburg are invited to a Christmas Party at St. John Farmersburg on **DECEMBER 3rd @ 1:00 pm** for an afternoon of fun, games & Refreshments. Mark the date and plan to attend.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

7:00 pm at Farmersburg Worship/Comm. Candlelight

8:30 pm at Luana Worship/Comm.



On December 10 Confirmation will be at the St. Olaf Auditorium from 7:00 pm—8:30 pm to help SOTH.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Erv Bugenhagen, Yvonne Groth, Roger Landt, Stacy DeSotel, Julie Mohs, Charlie Post, Dallas Tielbar, Shelby Preston, Bram Byroade, Melody Pate, Jim Fuelling, Mike Reardon, Ron Tayek, Cheryl Bossard, Beth Bries, Alan Feldmann

MILITARY: Avrey Smith, Andrew Rodas & Beth Rodas, Will Schrandt

ELKADER CARE CENTER: Grace Doerring,

GARDEN VIEW PLACE: Juanita Mohs, Darlene Moon, Harold & Jeanette Vogt

TOWER LIVING CENTER: Lendall Schievelbein

SAMARITAN BETHANY ROCHESTER, MN 55901: Dorothy Kluth

KENSINGTON ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Russett

WAUKON GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER: Rita Pritchard

HOMEBOUND: Glenda Henkes, Jim Fuelling, Shirley Wagner, Jeanette Krambeer in Des Moines

PEEPS and Confirmation. We are doing a trip to the water park in Prairie du Chein on December 22 in the afternoon. Details to come.

Christmas Day Community Meal

St. John Lutheran Church - Farmersburg, Iowa
208 E Washington Street

Thursday, December 25th
Serving from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Join us for a warm and welcoming Christmas Day Meal! We'll be serving:
Ham • Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Corn • Stuffing • Roll • Dessert
Carry Outs Available
Freewill Offering

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Come celebrate the joy of Christmas with good food and good company.

★ Questions call 563-258-2936
or pastorjeremywolfe@gmail.com

Proceeds fund next year's meal and donation to Shepherd's Crisis Fund and Food Shelf

NEWSLETTER

Advent 2012

Because the way Christmas falls, I have set the deadline earlier for the next newsletter.
DECEMBER 16 Thank You!!!!



Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2025



Christmas is fast approaching. We are planning on serving over 500 children this year. We could use your help making Christmas a bit brighter for local families in need.

There are two ways you can help...

Bring a new unwrapped toy or item for kids to the auditorium in St. Olaf on December 11-12. Or you could send a monetary donation so we can shop for items in need. The address is...

Shepherd of the Hills, PO Box 36, St. Olaf, Iowa 52072

Toys for Tots is supporting us again this year...However, they are unable to support the age groups of 14-17. If you are able to support this group, that is great.

Our Christmas for Kids event is underway. December 11-12 from 9am to 4pm, we will be sorting the toys and taking walk-in donations for the event. If that date/time does not work for you, we can schedule a date/time that does work.

December 17-18 we will be distributing the toys to families that have a referral.

Clothing Center Updates:

Wow...We had an awesome ½ off sale on Oct 31-Nov 1. This shows me that people are recognizing us as a thrift store, not just a place to help those in need. We are accepting winter/long sleeve donations at this time until March 2026.

We will be closed from December 24 - January 5.

This time allows us to spend the holidays with friends and family. It has been a wonderful year for us. Our volunteers are the best gift for Shepherd of the Hills. Thank you for supporting us in 2025.

Shepherd Conference News:

We would like to recognize Pastor Randy Baldwin on the anniversary of his ordination on December 8, 1985.

Mark your calendar for our Annual Conference Assembly on February 15, 2026 at 2:00 pm. Location this year is Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein.

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 and our sponsored events throughout the year

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

Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:

*Christmas for Kids
December 17-18*

*Conference Assembly
February 15, 2026*

**Any event may be subject to change*

Shepherd of the Hills:

Heather Hageman
100 W. Hill Street, PO Box 36,
St. Olaf, IA 52072

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Fax: 563-783-2428

E-mail: shephill@neitel.net

Business Hours: Monday-Friday

9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm