



**St. John—St. James Lutheran Church/School**  
**219 Manitowoc Street**  
**Reedsville, WI 54230**

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## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

**Darin Aden, Pastor**

St. John—St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Church Office: 920-754-4568

daden@stjohnstjames.com

**Rick Zimmerman, Principal**

School Office—920-754-4432

rzimmerman@stjohnstjames.com

**School Office Hours:**

Monday—7:30 am-3 pm

Tuesday—7:30 am-3 pm

Wednesday—7:30 am-3 pm

Thursday—7:30 am-3 pm

Friday—7:30 am-3 pm

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday—7:30 am-12:30 pm

Tuesday—7:30 am-12:30 pm

Wednesday—7:30 am-12:30 pm

Thursday—7:30 am-12:30 pm

Friday—7:30 am-12:30 pm

**Christmas Office Hours for December 28-30 will be 8:00am-12:00pm**

Thursday Worship—6:30 pm

Sunday Worship—8:00 am and 10:15 am

**Special December Services**

**Christmas Eve Worship Services—10:15 am, 3:15 pm, 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm (Candle Light Observance) - Must register with our office(754-4432/754-4568) for these services.**

**Christmas Day Service—9:00 am**

**New Years Eve Service with Communion—1:00 pm**

## FROM PASTOR ADEN'S DESK—



LOOK WITH THE EYES OF FAITH

**"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us'). [Matthew 1:22,23]**

We treasure these familiar words from the Christmas story. What joy to remember how God came down from heaven when the time had fully come and a child was born of a virgin. The wonder continues for us each year as we marvel at the cherished details of that birth, recounting the who, where, and how God brought love down to us through the miraculous birth of his Son.

And then God who made the world, made his dwelling in the world and lived among us. Though most of the world did not recognize him, by God's grace we do. With God's help we will ponder these things again and be given at least a little understanding of God's power, wisdom, faithfulness, and love for us. The fact that "God is with us" is shown most often in his power, wisdom, faithfulness, and love.

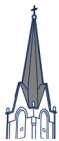
It is rarely easy for us to see that God is with us in the midst of life. I'm sure it was not easy for Joseph and Mary to understand God's plan as they made a late pregnancy trip on foot to Bethlehem, found no room in any inn, or as the time came for the baby to be born while they stayed in a lowly stable. It's always a challenge to see the full beauty of God's plans while they are in the midst of it being carried out.

But when we keep trusting the Lord and start to look back at the details of life, some of God's power, wisdom, faithfulness, and love become apparent. Mary would ponder all those events and eventually treasure them in her heart. It would be in the details that the beauty of God's plan were found. (Isn't it why we long to hear this beautiful story each year for ourselves?) While we have not found our way through God's plan for us in 2020, I want to encourage you to keep trusting the Lord and start to look back at a few of the details.

God has been with us and has led us to a number of wonderful blessings in the last nine months. Our congregation has been blessed with a number of new members in 2020. The need to update our audio and video capabilities could no longer be ignored, and now we are able to post services each week online. We've needed to discover many other ways to do ministry and serve one another. We continue to discover more. Many of you have shared with me that you hope that some of those changes will remain, even after they are no longer mandated. God is with us and has found a way to move us forward.

We have more to go, but even now when we look with the eyes of faith, we can begin to see God's power, wisdom, faithfulness, and love. I invite you to look with faith and find the many other reasons to thank God in your life today and into the new year.

[Regularly God's people are placed in a situation to offer a gift to our congregation. A "Wish List" is often requested, so the Stewardship Committee was asked to develop and continue to update such a list. In the last nine months they evaluated the needs and wants of our congregation—particularly facility and equipment. A number of "wishes" that were on the list have already been met as mentioned above. The Council has asked that we share the list with you, so that you might pray for your church. Give us your feedback, let us know your priorities, and share your "wishes." God *"is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine."* (Ep 3:20) We invite you to join us to look with eyes of faith to celebrate God's power, wisdom, faithfulness, and love as He grants the blessings of his plan for SJSJ. The "Wish List" is included in the newsletter.]



# St. John-St. James Lutheran Church



## Below are “Wish List” Items with an estimate of cost:

**Contemporary Music System** We have greatly improved our Audio and Video capabilities for worship! As with many upgrades, with new components, the older parts of the system show their age. The keyboard used in our Sanctuary is an example. The recording software still uses “Floppy Discs” and the monitor capability now that the sound is amplified is lacking. [estimated cost: \$9200 (or last year’s model currently available for \$5800)] [Additional microphones, monitor speakers, and instrumentation could also be used. Each microphone has an estimated cost of \$500, speakers and instruments vary.] (The system upgrade is a great blessing and currently functions; these are things for the wish list when those interested in supporting our worship/music ministry with a gift might ask.)

**Altar Paraments** Our white set of altar paraments has been feeling its age for a while. It has been stained and cleaned multiple times. Those who care for it, realize it is time to consider replacing them. [estimated cost: \$3000]

**New Folding Chairs** We currently have a three year plan to upgrade our folding chairs which we use for overflow seating in the Sanctuary and for occasional large services that are hosted in the Gymnasium (e.g. Children’s Christmas Eve Service, All Church Sunday). Our plan is to eventually purchase 150 (50 chairs each year—we have purchased the first 48.) [estimated cost: \$85 per 4 pack]

**New Church Doors** We would like to replace the old church doors with glass doors that would “match” the new doors in the Commons. This would also allow us to remotely unlock the west church door from the School Office [estimated cost for two sets of doors: \$10,500] [estimated cost for locking system: \$3,000] (We are still evaluating this issue, but initial work is being done to establish cost and options.)

**New Hymnal Project (Fall 2021)** It has been years in the production, but a new hymnal from our Synod will be available in the Fall of 2021.

Replace **Hymnals** currently in our pews (53 pews: 320)--\$8,000\*

**Organists** (Accompaniment for hymns, Psalms, Keyboard= 2 copies)--\$680

**Altar books** (Replace current resources {more available})--\$255[estimated cost: \$850]

\***Service Builder** (For printing, licensing, & “HymnSoft”)--\$900\*

[estimated cost: \$1825\* or \$9825]

**Mailboxes** We would like to install wooden mail slots for each household. We regularly disseminate information to the entire congregation. This would allow us to cut down on direct mailing information. We could make offering envelopes, annual reports, etc. available to each family when they are on campus. [estimated cost: \$5,000]

~Continued on next page

**Smartboards for School** Technology continually needs to be updated. Our smartboards (interactive screens for projectors) are showing their age and due to be replaced. There is a school technology fund that would help with these costs, but if someone were interested in donating a smartboard we would be able to move ahead more quickly with our replacement plan. [estimated cost: \$5,000]

**ChromeBooks for School** As said before, technology continually needs to be updated. Our ChromeBooks are showing their age and due to be replaced as well. ChromeBooks are the one to one computers that we use in our classrooms (our students use computers in their classrooms even down to our 3K classroom). There is a school technology fund that would help with these costs, but if someone were interested in donating ChromeBook we would be able to move ahead more quickly with our replacement plan. [estimated cost: \$5,000]

**New Lawnmower** We have replaced our 18 year old 60" lawnmower. We're looking to cover the remaining costs. [estimated cost: \$1,100] (Cost is the remaining balance, if not met by gifts, it is anticipated it will be given by Cemetery Committee next year.)

## OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

This year has been very different. Our daily lives have some new things, Masks, Social Distancing and Hand Sanitizer. Things were also very different for churches in our country. We were shut down for about three months. Our church has been open since June, but things are different with social distancing and church capacity limits. Some of our members are not coming to church because of health reasons with the pandemic. Right now, I'm one of them. Because God has given us technology, we can watch the services online. We are very grateful for that. But there is a lot of good news. Our summer outdoor services were very well attended. People with health conditions even came because we weren't inside.

I don't like to talk a lot about money but I'm going to say a few words about it. During the shutdown and now with attendance being down, our members have been sending in their offerings. As a result, we are holding our own. We didn't have to borrow any money from our line of credit to cover expenses. What a wonderful blessing. We thank you very much. From a business standpoint, Our members in the past have brought very good year end offerings. As a result we have a nice checkbook balance on January 1<sup>st</sup> which helps carry us through to our Lenten Services and Easter. Despite the pandemic, we hope and pray that this will happen again this year. Just a reminder, this year we forgot to include a New Years Eve offering envelope. You can use a plain envelope or use a leftover envelope that you have and mark it NEW YEARS EVE. Enough about finances.

Christmas will be different this year. We're having four Christmas Eve services. Large family gatherings will be replaced with smaller ones. Some people have told me that it's just not going to be the same. That's true, but then on the other hand, it'll be the same and also very joyful. That's because we get to celebrate the birth of our Savior which makes Christmas very joyful no matter what the other circumstances are this year. Have a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Daniel Duchow

## NEW TAX OPPORTUNITY FOR CHURCH OFFERINGS

In 2016 the U.S. Government passed a new law. This law can help people who are 72 years or older save money on their taxes.

If you are drawing funds for your retirement from an IRA or a 401K fund, you can eliminate paying some of the federal taxes on this. If you have your church offerings taken directly from your IRA or 401K, you don't have to pay federal taxes on this distribution from your retirement funds.

If you'd like more information on this please contact Dan Duchow at 920-754-4751.

~Submitted by Dan Duchow

## NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFERING ENVELOPES

New Year's Eve Service will be at 1:00 pm on Thursday, December 31. The 2020 offering envelopes did not have a special New Year's Eve envelope. If you wish to give an offering on New Year's Eve please use a blank postal envelope or one of your left over 2020 Offering Envelopes and mark it clearly as **New Year's Eve**.

Thank you so much!

~Submitted by Dan Duchow

## LADIES AID MEETINGS

There will be no Ladies Aid meetings in December, or January.

The Ladies Aid Christmas party is also cancelled but our Ladies of the Ladies Aid are welcome to drop off and pick up your Secret Pal Christmas gifts in the West Church Office.

It has also been decided that the Ladies Aid will keep the same officers we have now until we meet next.

~Submitted by Karen Prochnow

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

This year Christmas Eve—Christmas Day—New Year's Eve Services will be on:

### Christmas Eve

10:15 am

3:15 pm

5:30 pm

7:00 pm (Candlelight Service)

### Christmas Day

9:00 am—No sign-up needed

### New Year's Eve

1:00 pm with Communion—No sign-up needed

All services will be held in the sanctuary of church.

Please register your family online at [www.stjohnstjames.com](http://www.stjohnstjames.com), call the church office (920) 754-4568 or school office (920) 754-4432 and reserve your spot for whichever Christmas Eve service you prefer.

One of the services will be recorded and available online or on DVD in the school office if you wish to watch at a later date.

## IMPORTANT PAST BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OUR SYMPATHIES** – Lorraine Loose has gone to our Saviors arms on Sunday, November 1, 2020. Lorraine is the step mom of Darlene (Mark) Propson and grandparent of Briana and Heidi Propson(God-child also). \*Wayne R. Gilbertson, age 78 went into our Lord’s arms on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at Brillion West Haven Assisted Living. Wayne was the brother-in-law to Rachel Gilbertson. \*Myron (Mike) Loose was welcomed into heaven on October 30, 2020. Mike was a brother to Donald(Jeanette) and Randall Loose. \*LaVerne Treichel went into our Lord’s arms on Wednesday, November 11. LaVerne is a sister-in-law to Ervin Waack. \* Carl F. Kalies went into our Lord’s arms on Tuesday November 3, 2020. Carl is a brother to Virginia (Alfred) Ziemer. \*Luellis Meyer went into our Lord’s arms on Wednesday, November 18. Luellis is the mother of Delaine (Charles) Reis. \*Al Fischer went home to be with Jesus and his passed loved ones on December 1, 2020. Al Fischer’s immediate family survivors are his sisters-in-law, Joann Fischer and Lorna Bastian. Our most sincere condolences to all other family members and close friends of all the above passed members. We pray for peace in your hearts!

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**—Gifts were given to the Building fund in Memory of Ronald Sweetman, Betty Pritzl, Luellis Meyer, Maria Dolan (Sister of Pat (Arlie) Olp), LaVerne Triechel, Dianne Reinemann and Lenroy Haese. Thank you very much for your kind offering.

**GIFT GIVEN**—A gift was given to help cover costs for the fire pit.

**DOOR OFFERING**—\$227.00 was given for the Camp Philip door offering on Thursday, November 12 and Sunday, November 15. Thank you so much!

**THANK YOU**—Thank you to LeRoy and Judy Stahl for the purchase of the brand new washer and dryer, gifts have also been given towards the set-up costs. Your gifts are much appreciated!

**FLOWERS**—Flowers were given in memory of Harold and Rosie Olp by their family members, and for the 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Lawrence and Sarah Bratz by their family. We thank you for the lovely flowers!

**NEW MEMBERS**—Please welcome our new members to St. John—St. James Lutheran Church! Welcome to our church family—Jesse, Bethany, Addison and Eric Christensen who transferred in from St. Matthew, Niles IL. Bethany is the daughter of Dan and Audrey Duchow. We are happy to welcome you back home!

**WORKING FOR THE LORD IN OUR COMMUNITY**—The Youth at SJSJ (grades 7-12) would like to help anyone in the community with various tasks around the yard such as raking leaves, shoveling snow, or any unfinished projects you might have in your yard. If you wish to use this service please fill out a form in the west office in church or on our website. Please return the form to the church office. Thank you!

**PRAISE CHOIR**—Praise Choir will not be singing for Christmas this year, but we hope to resume for Easter.

**PIANO**—St. John St. James is looking to purchase a new electric piano to replace the existing piano in church. Our present piano has served us well for about 20 years, and needs to be upgraded. The new piano will produce better quality sound, and with the changes in technology, better functionality for our pianists. The cost for a new piano with the functionality that we need, Lord willing, for the next 20 years, costs \$5,900.00. If you have any further questions please contact Phil Stuebs. Thanks!

**HOME BOUND LIST**—If you would like to send cards or letters to our home bound members there is a list provided for you in the West Church Office. Our home-bound members would love to hear from you!

**SJSJ CHRISTMAS CARDS**—We have available on the table in back of the Church our annual St. John—St. James Christmas Card sale. There are a couple of boxes left from 2019 that will be priced at \$4.00 and the new cards will be priced at \$4.25/box. Merry Christmas!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**—There will be no 9:15 am Sunday School on December 13th, 20th or 27th.





# December 2020



## 13 Sunday

8 am Communion Worship Service  
9:15am CREW  
9:15 am Adult Bible Class  
No Sunday School Today  
10:15 am Communion Worship Service



## 25 Friday

Merry Christmas!  
No School  
Church Office Closed  
9 am Christmas Day Service

## 14 Monday

4 pm Girls Basketball @ Wayside  
6:30 pm Virtual Church Council Meeting



## 27 Sunday

8 am Communion Worship Service  
No 9:15 am Adult Bible Class  
No Sunday School Today  
10:15 am Communion Worship Service

## 16 Wednesday

3:30 pm Public School Confirmation Class

## 17 Thursday

6:30 pm Worship Service

## 18 Friday

5 pm Basketball home vs Luxemburg (no girls A)



## 28 Monday

No School

## 29 Tuesday

No School

## 30 Wednesday

No School  
No 3:30 pm Public School Confirmation Class

## 20 Sunday

No Sunday School Today  
9:15 am CREW  
No 9:15 am Adult Bible Class  
10:15 am Worship Service



## 31 Thursday

Happy New Year's Eve  
1 pm New Year's Eve Service with Communion  
NO SCHOOL

## 21 Monday

No Ladies Aid Meeting

## 23 Wednesday

11:50am EARLY DISMISSAL  
No 3:30 pm Public School Confirmation Class

## 24 Thursday

Merry Christmas Eve!  
No School  
Church Office Closed  
10:15 am Christmas Eve Service\*  
3:15 pm Christmas Eve Service\*  
5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service\*  
7 pm Christmas Eve Service\*

\*Call office @ 754-4432 or 754-4568 to register for the above services.



## January 2021

### 1 Friday

Happy New Year!  
NO SCHOOL  
Church Office Closed

### 3 Sunday

8 am Worship Service  
9:15 am Sunday School  
9:15 am Adult Bible Class  
10:15 am Worship Service

