



# St. James News

Equipping and Empowering Families and Students through Christ

Volume 65 Issue 10

December/ January 2020-2021

CHURCH@STJAMESHL.ORG  
320-543-2766

Pastor – Reverend Mark Loder  
web site: [www.stjameshl.org](http://www.stjameshl.org) - [revloder@gmail.com](mailto:revloder@gmail.com)

[SCHOOL@STJAMESHL.ORG](mailto:SCHOOL@STJAMESHL.ORG)  
320-543-2630

As you begin to ingest the ink of this Newsletter, you are either but a couple of days away or within the season of Advent. It's that time of year where the colors in church change from the long season of green to blue. Where the services are a bit subdued, but not too much. Penitential in nature but certainly not as pointed and deep as Lent. Advent brings joy in the anticipation of Christmas, the anticipation of family gatherings, the anticipation of whatever it is toward which we look for the fulfillment of memories and blessings.

Advent is a time of anticipation. And contrary to what we tend to portray and maybe even believe, the anticipation is of something greater than a tiny little baby lying in a manger. Indeed, we look forward to the message of Jesus' birth - we enjoy the ushy and gushy sentimental tingly feelings that thinking of a wee little bundle of flesh invokes. Or on the other hand, practically are brought back to our own child rearing years of tears and poop. Nonetheless, Advent certainly reminds us of the very fact that indeed, our Savior, Jesus Christ came into this world through the humble means of natural childbirth after a supernatural conception.

So, if we aren't waiting for the baby, for what are we awaiting? Well, simply put, the end. We are in a long-standing season of Advent as we await the return of Jesus to bring this world to an end and usher us into the eternal glory of heavenly bliss. That is what our focus does well to be. We live lives that focused on what is promised, upon that which has been won for us through the cost of the very body and blood of our Lord.

What does this mean? Well, it means that no matter the circumstances of your life, you have something toward which to always gaze, to which to always hope, in which you have comfort and joy - the end! No matter the immediate, you know that there is something greater. And though that may not change the current climate of your life, it indeed allows your heart, soul, and mind to have a brighter focus in the midst of darkness.

Yes, we wait. But let's be honest, if there's one thing this year has taught us is that much of this life is out of our control and we indeed must wait at times for things to change, get better, or get more comfortable. We struggle with waiting because we are a pretty instant gratified people. Pretty much anything we want is at our fingertips and but an Amazon day away from our doorstep. We are spoiled! And that reality makes it that much harder for us when there's the need to wait.

But, dear children of God, we must. We must wait. And while we do, be assured that your God loves you. He loves you so much that He's given His one and only Son who has lived, died, and rose again for the purpose of paying the ransom owed for your sin, freeing you from the eternal chains of the grave, and blessing you with the forgiveness of sin that gives you life eternal. And when you are having that rough day, remember that you always have a foretaste of what is to come in the precious body and blood of Jesus. Come, wait with the gathered. Wait with peace as you are blessed to receive Word and Sacrament week after week.

God's peace,  
Pastor

Our Church Records

### Church Attendance

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Saturday, October 30 | 200      |
| Sunday, November 1   | 78 & 79  |
| Sunday, November 15  | 56 & 122 |
| Sunday, November 22  | 64 & 48  |

### Communion Attendance

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Saturday, October 30 | 100 |
| Sunday, November 1   | 63  |
| Sunday, November 15  | 82  |
| Sunday, November 22  | 39  |

### Baptism

**Cameron Burnett Cardinal** infant son of Jesse and Angela Cardinal on November 12, 2020 by Pastor Loder.

**Adelynn Joyce Wurm** infant daughter of Jacob and Gabrielle Wurm on November 15, 2020 by Pastor Loder.

### Transfer Out

**Arvid and Violet Luhman** to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sheridan, WY on November 13, 2020

### Funerals

**Shirley Klammer** on November 14, 2020. She was called to her eternal rest November 9, 2020 at the age of 87 years, 9 months, and 8 days.

**Elaine Roepke** on November 24, 2020. She was called to her eternal rest November 17, 2020 at the age of 92 years, 5 months, and 1 day.

## *Advent & Christmas Schedule*

### *Sunday Worship*

At 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM, Sunday School @ 9:15 AM

### *Midweek Advent Worship Wednesdays*

December 2, 9, 16 & 23 at 1:30 & 7:00 PM

### *Children's Christmas Program*

Sunday School ~ Sunday, December 20 @ 10:30 AM

### *Christmas Eve, December 24*

Christmas Eve Service & Communion at 3:00 & 5:00  
Lessons, Carols & Communion at 7:00 PM

### *Christmas Day, December 25*

Divine Service at 9:00 AM

Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League

"We've Got Good News to Tell." Vicar Dub led the Quarterly Bible Study at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of LWML members, encouraging all to share the Good News of Jesus' birth just as the angels did. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to boldly share the Good News of our salvation.

Generous offerings received at the LWML Sunday service on October 4 will be added to the Thankoffering received at the November LWML meeting. These donations will be used for Christmas mission gifts and appreciation gifts to St. James Church and School staff.

Card ministry involves the sending of 37 to 57 greeting cards each month to shut-ins, elderly and those who may need a cheery note. This is another way to share the Good News of Jesus' love to us and for others.

A Christmas celebration will be held in the church on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M. Visitors are welcome. Social distancing will be observed.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation; Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7



We are in search of someone who will serve as the Sexton for the St. James Cemetery. This would involve tasks such as cataloging plot sites, identifying plot sites when needed, and ensuring that maintenance is kept up. If you are interested in using your time and talents for this opportunity, please contact the Church Office or speak with our Trustee Directors; Jeremy Cardinal and Mark Burau.



Lutheran Hour  
Ministries

## THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on KRWC-1360 Buffalo.

The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO -830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public marketplace. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions.

December 6

### **"Seek My Face"**

We sometimes hear the voice before we see the face that goes with it. Seek God's face where you hear God's Word. (Daniel)

December 13

### **"The Prophet's Paradox "**

The prophet Daniel illustrates how to face the facts while never losing faith in how the story ends. (Daniel: 10, 11 and 12)

December 20

### **"Experience God "**

We will never fully grasp the idea of God, but that doesn't keep us from experiencing God's love for us in Christ. (John 1:1-18)

December 27

### **"Welcome to the Family!"**

The book of Galatians gives us a glimpse inside the family of God. It describes the Christian family as one that stands firm in Christ's freedom, walks united in the Spirit, and bears one another's burdens in love. (Galatians 4:4-7)

## The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

### LCMS Stewardship Ministry

#### Newsletter article – December 2020

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God

provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.



**December:** Nicholas Eckhoff (1), Matty Lanars (2), Mary Jo Painschab (2), Bailey Anderson (3), Rick Baumann (3), Matthew Drusch (3), Allan Uecker (3), Jaime Diers (4), Christina Gruenhagen (4), Mary Marschel (4), Timothy Munson (4), Jessica Stueven (4), Kim Wooden (4), Bernard Marketon (5), Kyle Schumann (5), Carol Zander (5), Steven Bonnick (6), Shelley Lauzer (6), Keenan Zillmer (6), Tyler Miller (7), Ethan Peterson (7), Ashley Nowak (8), Cora Glessing (10), Kaitlyn Marschel (10), Holly Zillmer (10), Kathryn Lutter (11), Ruth Oestreich (12), Kurt Bobrowske (15), Britton Glessing (16), Cody Jones (16), Ruth Latzig (16), Thomas Comstock (17), Loren Stueven (17), Ben Halverson (18), Bonnie Kobow (18), Marie Longfors (19), Jesse Cardinal (20), Joey Drusch (20), Joshua Stillwell (20), Connie Gruenhagen (21), Darrin Blanchette Sr. (22), Amy Fredricks (23), Justin Yager (23), Nicole Bobrowske (24), Travis Kotila (24), Syrrillis Reek (24), Brian Barth (25), Ricky Wolf Jr. (25), Jacob Boss (25), David Doster (26), Grace Marketon (26), Amanda Skiles (26), Donna Munson (27), Alexander Ogle (27), Daniel Doster (28), Helen Zander (28), DuWayne Latzig (29), David Oestreich (30), Bridey Boese (31), Josiah Hagemann (31), Scott Salmela (31) **January:** Nancy Diers (3), Crystal Jones (3), Wayne Koosman (5), Christine Hassa (7), Jennifer

Wikoff (7), Dale Burau (8), Lois Strohschein (8), Mark Luchsinger (10), Isabella Wellnitz (10), Hannah Bobrowske (11), Amy Kruetter (11), Aleah Lanars (12), Steven Comstock Sr. (12), Erma Hechsel (12), Tanner Koch (13), Keith Koosman (14), Lois Engel (15), Rhonda Frey (15), Noreen Horsch (15), Kelly Marketon (15), Daniel Schmieg (15), Donna Carlson (16), Wayne Diers (16), Steve Koosman (16), Bruce Burau (19), Terry Thorson (19), Maggie Miller (20), Jessica Morrisette (20), Abby Niesen (20), Connie Koosman (22), Owen Davis (23), Lois Oltmann (23), Kylie Gulso (24), Myra Laway (24), Kelly Wiegand (24), Abbie Bobrowske (25), Christine Cardinal (25), Johnny Heber (25), Susan Bonnick (26), Randy Gruenhagen (26), Carson Hirsch (26), Beth Koch (26), Nathan Marschel (26), Paulette Goepfert (27), Kylah Zillmer (27), Brian Borg (28), Jeffery Diers (28), Jennifer Power (28), Jenna Brabec (29), Russell Miller (29), Mike Thorson (29), Doris Schendel (30), Bruce Dahlin (31), Kayla Hooser (31)



12/1 Gerry & Michelle Brady  
12/1 Brad & Christena Dickens  
12/6 Robert & Doris Schendel  
12/7 Bradley & Dellarae Brabec  
12/13 Travis & Sara Kotila  
12/18 Dana & Kim Wiegert  
12/20 Dan & Seena Glessing  
12/27 Dwane & Lisa Kotila  
12/30 Barry & Teresa Schmieg  
12/31 Joel & Stacy Hirsch  
1/4 Mike & Ruth Young  
1/15 Donald & Noreen Horsch  
1/27 Wayne & Connie Koosman



Greetings from Saint James Third and Fourth grade room!

By the time you read this month's newsletter, the month of November and the Thanksgiving holiday will have come and gone. During the month of November, the students and myself spent some time reflecting on what we were thankful for. This year of the pandemic and election has proven to be challenging for many people. The students have witnessed and experienced these challenges just like the adults have. Despite challenges of the year 2020, the students were able to find plenty to be thankful for!

As part of our discussion on thankfulness, the students and I discussed the meaning of the term **silver lining**. We discovered that a **silver lining** is a sign of hope or a positive aspect in an otherwise negative situation. The phrase is often seen as part of the proverb "every cloud has a **silver lining**", meaning that there is hope or something good to be found in every bad situation. The students were able to verbalize many **silver linings** to the challenges of this year. Leave it to kids to see the positive and bask in the assurance of God's presence! I thought it would be nice to share their perspectives. Here are some of their thoughts:

- People have been able to get projects done.
- We do not need to worry as much about Covid because kids do not become very sick from it.
- We can get things done at our house.
- We do not need to worry about the election because it is in God's hands.

- One good thing that came out of Covid is how fast they discovered a vaccination.
- In quarantine, we can get stuff done that we could not before.
- We have been able to enjoy the nice weather.
- The good thing about quarantine is that we can stay home and not get sick.
- The doctors are able to take away the virus.
- There are two vaccinations.
- Doctors will find out things they did not know before.
- We are able to discover hobbies we did not have before.
- We are able to be at home and stay safe.
- When we are at home we can discover new things to do.
- Life is sometimes better when we are not so busy.
- We get to spend more time with our family.
- God is with us!

I am grateful for these **silver linings** and words of thankfulness and positivity the young minds of our classroom were able to offer. Yes, God IS with us!

Another **silver lining** to the challenges of this year is that our classroom and school have been blessed with many new students. Getting to know these precious souls and having them join us at Saint James has been a wonderful blessing. Enrollment is up at Saint James. We have 107 students enrolled this year. Here is the enrollment by grade, if you are interested in the size of our classrooms: Three year old preschool has 6 students. Four year old preschool has 11 students. Kindergarten has 14 students. First grade has 16 students. Second grade has 11 students. Third grade has 10 students. Fourth grade has 12 students. Fifth grade has 9 students. Sixth grade has 8

students. Seventh grade has 5 students. Eighth grade has 5 students.

Last January, thanks to the generous gift from the Wolfsteller estate, our congregation made the decision to offer free tuition to first year students at our school. In our wildest dreams we could not have realized that the reality of an unforeseen virus would allow many new students to be able to benefit from this gift to our school. A definite **silver lining** to this new reality is that many new students are able to be a part of our school and able to grow in the faith and knowledge of our Lord and Savior!

Another highlight of the month of November was the tremendous outpouring of our students in their chapel offerings and collection of Thanksgiving food items. The students' chapel offerings totaled \$353 earmarked for the Orphan Grain Train and they collected over 643 items destined for local food shelves.

As we look forward, the students have been working on preparing for the Christmas program. This year's program will be recorded and presented online. Many of you who could not have attended our program in person will be able to view this year's Children's Christmas Service. Although we will not be gathering in person, this is a **silver lining** to our Advent and Christmas preparations.

The challenges of this year may alter many of our plans...but those challenges CANNOT stop us from celebrating our Savior's birth. And of course, we remember the ultimate **silver lining**: the sadness of our Savior's death leading to the gladness of His resurrection and gift of forgiveness! The third and fourth grade and myself wish you God's richest blessings during this Advent. We hope you are able to find the **silver linings** in the upcoming days and beyond!

Saint James Third and Fourth Grade

Our national holiday of Thanksgiving is at hand, a time of meeting and feasting, spending time with loved ones, family and friends, eating too much turkey, whatever your family tradition is. Yet, this year will be different. If your family is like mine, perhaps the gathering will be slightly smaller. Perhaps more time will be spent on a screen, talking with those who are not near you physically, but nevertheless are with you in your heart.

Not only those who we can't see this year due to this virus, but maybe this year is different because someone is gone. Grandma, who always made that perfect green bean casserole, is in heaven feasting at the table of the Lamb. Or the uncle who always brought punch, resting now in peace. It is true, each year Thanksgiving looks different from the previous. However, there is one constant, one thing that never changes: love.

During these difficult times, it's easy to forget about love. In rough election years, we don't want to love our neighbor who is voting for the other person. We don't want to love those who break the law or those who reject us, call us names, mock us. We don't want to love that family member who is always trying to stir the pot, who just doesn't give us any peace and makes everything an argument. But we do. We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). Indeed, our whole being is wrapped up in such love, love that encompasses each person with whom we come into contact, purely for the sake of Christ!

Thanksgiving then, isn't just about remembering the wonderful things we've received in the last year, or the things we still have. Neither should it be just one day. "Oh

give thanks to the Lord for He is good, and His mercy endures forever!” This verse reverberates throughout the Psalms as the people of God remember what He has done for them. Psalm 136 repeats the saving acts of God throughout the Old Testament and recalls the promises He made that He shall be merciful. Each verse ends the same, “for His mercy endures forever.”

Let the reminder that God’s mercy endures forever be your guide through Thanksgiving and Advent this year. Give thanks not only for those who are still with you, but also for those who now rest from their labors and enjoy the fruits of faith in heaven. Give thanks like Job, who praised God in times of good and in times of suffering. Give thanks as Luther taught us to pray knowing that the Lord is merciful, “I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day, and I pray you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.”

Vicar Dub