

December 2023 Newsletter



St. John's Lutheran Church

1165 County Road D, Almond WI 54909

715-366-2480

<http://www.stjohnsalmond.com>

Our Mission

To celebrate the Gospel in Word and Sacrament which challenges us to cultivate ourselves and our community for Christ.

Deadline for the January Newsletter is 8:00 pm on Tuesday, December 26th.

Do you have something for the January edition of the Newsletter?

If so, there is a box located on the bookcase by the church office door. Simply place your announcement in the file folder labeled "Bulletin/Newsletter Announcements" or send an email to the church with NEWSLETTER in the subject box. stjohnsalmond@gmail.com



Pastor Dave Ficken

from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Plover is our Circuit Counselor. If you need pastoral guidance while we await a new pastor to come to St. John's, please feel free to contact him.

715-498-0093 or email
pastor@bsavior.onmicrosoft.com

In Service to our Lord

Elders: James Cesar and Alan Pagel

**Communion Set Up,
Greet and Usher:**

Patti and Randy Wohlfeil

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."
1 Peter 4: 10*

Please consider volunteering for any of the above positions for the January services by contacting Betty Daberkow (715) 335-4176. Thank you!

Altar Flowers

If you have flowers to donate or wish to purchase flowers for the altar, please notify Dianne Schultz by phone (715) 366-8077 or drop a note in the church mailbox located in the fellowship hall.



Heart Warmers

A gift to the poor is like a gift to God.

The Lord will increase your blessings.



Join us this Christmas Season!

Join us for Advent Services at St. John's. All service times and dates including Wednesday evening services and meals provided by the Ladies Aid before services are listed in the calendar near the back of this newsletter. Sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall if you would like to help. Thrivent Action Team grant funding is assisting, with free-will offerings going towards school backpack programs.



On your birthday, remember that you were wonderfully made by God and rejoice in his love.

Blessings on Your Birthday!

December Birthdays

12/1	Thomas Evertsen	12/12	Edward Schultz	12/21	Judy Kollock
12/2	Mark Roeske	12/14	SuAnn Pagel-Rast	12/22	Issabella Disher
12/2	Brody Warzynski	12/17	Sheila Beggs	12/24	Isabel Urban
12/11	Rolland Bacon	12/19	Cauy Huntington		



Your love and devotion to God are the reason why you are so blessed in life. Keep inspiring others, stay devoted and happy together.

Happy Anniversary!

December Anniversaries

12/6	Carrie and Jacob Omernik	12/16	Michelle and George Waggoner
12/14	Joan and Bob Rohde	12/27	Bonnie and Mike Warzynski

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed or is printed wrong please let us know. Put a note in the folder labeled, "Bulletin/Newsletter Announcements" outside the Church office.



GIVING ENVELOPES

St. John's will no longer be assigning giving envelopes to members beginning in 2024. Donations will still be collected at the church and properly recorded if members use one of the following options:

1. Place checks into the collection plate without an envelope (*make sure to note any special designations on the memo line if applicable.*)
2. Use your leftover envelopes from 2023.
3. Use customizable giving envelopes provided at the back of the sanctuary. *There are envelopes for general giving and special designations. (List your name on the envelope, choose a designation if applicable, and use as normal.)*

If you have any questions, please see an elder or a council member for assistance.



We're Hiring!

CUSTODIAN:

We are looking to fill the paid position of custodian for the church. You will earn extra pay for funerals and weddings. Flexible hours. For more information send an email to the church with CUSTODIAN in the subject box or contact any council member.

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Job description: provide administrative support to Pastor and St. John's Lutheran Church as a whole. Duties include but are not limited to general clerical, management of church membership, care of items in sanctuary and project-based work. Basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills are required. Basic knowledge of computer use, proficient with Microsoft Office software and PowerChurch software. Duties require proficient typing ability. Part time with flexible hours. For a more detailed description of duties send an email to the church with SECRETARY in the subject box or contact any council member.

church email address: stjohnsalmond@gmail.com

The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8-11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship



Ladies Aid Tidbits :

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Election of officers took place at the November 16 meeting. Continuing for the 2024 term will be:

- Society President Lynne Johnson
- Vice President Patti Wohlfeil
- Secretary Diane Fabich
- Treasurer Susan Martinson

Thank you, ladies, for your continued devotion to *Serving the Lord with Gladness*.

POINSETTIAS will again be decorating the sanctuary this Christmas season. Order forms are in the back of the church – each plant is \$10. Please give completed forms and payment to Diane Fabich or Dianne Schultz by December 10.



MISSION GIVINGS

The LWML group voted to distribute \$2000 to designated missions:

- \$300 Ashley Lehr LC-MS missionary
- \$300 David and Rachel Baker missionaries serving thru the LC-MS in Central Asia
- \$300 Orphan Grain Train WI Branch
- \$300 Joseph Hope Food Pantry
- \$800 to St. John's Lutheran missions support

ADVENT MEAL PLANNING

Serving Advent Meals for December 6th – Italian Night, and December 13th Hot Sandwiches. Serving from 5:45 to 6:45 pm. If you would like to help out there are sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall. Thrivent Action Team grant funding is assisting with the expenses. Free-will offerings will go towards the School Backpack Food Programs in Almond and Tri-County.

CHEER BOXES

will be packed Sunday, December 17 following the 8:30 am service. Please help Ladies Aid by providing 3 dozen cookies by that date for the cheer boxes and morning fellowship.



FUNERAL

The Ladies Aid served 100 people for Robert Helmrick's funeral luncheon on November 11. Our condolences go out to the Helmrick family.

RECYCLED CARDS

Please browse through our assortment of **CHRISTMAS CARDS!** A free-will donation for all recycled cards are accepted.



GIVING TUESDAY: SOSS (Save our Septic System)

Our number 1 problem at Camp Luther is number 2!

This project in total will cost **Camp Luther** over \$100,000. This includes needed updates on the following parts: hardware & software in the lift station, upper tank, and control panels. Camp Luther will be using Giving Tuesday funds to kick-off this project and are asking you to prayerfully consider supporting their septic system getting these necessary updates. They have two ways you can support this project through Giving Tuesday:

1. **PRAY:** for the longevity of camp, for God to provide the funds to complete this project, and for safety of those that will be working on this project.
2. **DONATE:** From **November 28 – December 5**, you can give specifically to their septic system project. You can donate by check, write "Giving Tuesday" in the memo, or you can use their online giving portal. www.campaluther.com For online giving select the DONATE tab, enter or choose dollar amount, then "Giving Tuesday" as the campaign and select "Outdoor Ministry Fund" as the purpose.



Thank you to all who feel called to support this project!

“Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”
 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:30-31 (NIV)

Heavenly Father, we come to you in praise and prayer for courage, grace, faith, and healing within your will for:

Allan Erdman	Isabel Urban	Stan Hall	Bonnie Wellens	Jan Meyer
Gayle	Matt Weiss	Pastor Wayne and Eileen Schwanke		Doug Curwen
Derek	Rick Hotchkiss	Joleen Hunkins	Bob Kollock	Tony Sibble
Pam Bertotto	Pastor Ficken	David Walkowicz	Rita Walkowicz	Gary Schultz
Sara	Debbie Stiles			

We also pray for the leadership of St. John’s as they pursue options for our future, a secretary and custodian for our church, and for the missionaries serving God’s Kingdom thru the LCMS:

Ashley Lehr in Puerto Rico
 David and Rachel Baker in Central Asia



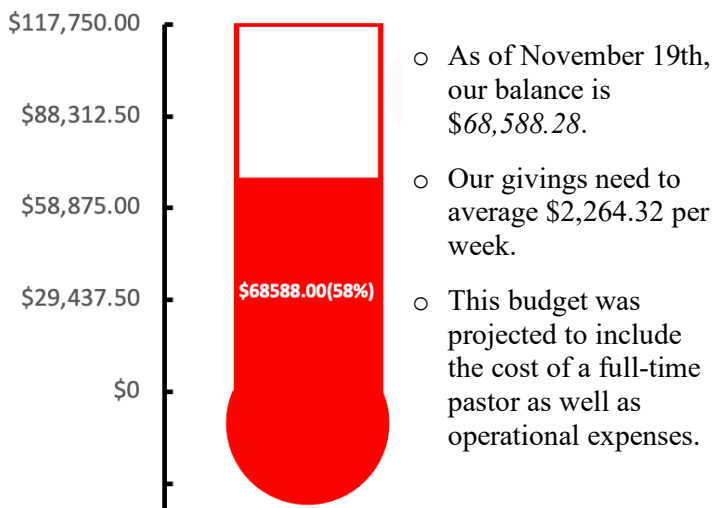
Please remember our shut-ins throughout the year with a card, note of cheer, or prayers.

<u>Verna Yonke</u>	Whispering Pines - #108 3450 Bridlewood Drive Plover, WI 54467	Dorothy Caves	Silver Lake Manor N2641 17th Lane Wautoma, WI 54982
<u>Scott Boelter</u>	1180 County Road D, Apt #5 Almond, WI 54909	<u>Isabel Urban</u>	N5480 Mount Morris Road Wild Rose, WI 54984
<u>Allan Erdman</u>	9576 County Road P Plainfield, WI 54966	<u>Bonnie Wellens</u>	10599 Big Arbor Vitae Drive Arbor Vitae, WI 54568

FOR PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have a request for the prayer chain team please e-mail or call Bonnie Warzynski. She may be reached at 715-966-3995 or mike-bonnie@hotmail.com.

Thank you to all who continue to support St. John’s!

THE NEW BUDGET NUMBER FOR 2023 IS
 \$117,750.00



Putting the “Ha” in Hallelujah!

GOD’S NOT DEAF

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents’ house the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers. The younger one began praying at the top of his lungs:

“I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...”
 “I PRAY FOR A NEW PUPPY...”

His older brother leaned over, nudged him and said, “Why are you shouting? God isn’t deaf.”

To which the little brother replied, “No, but Grandma is!”



December 2023

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

					1	2
<p>3 Divine Communion Worship 8:30 am with Pastor Bruce Lamont</p> <p>Fellowship following Service</p> <p>Confirmation Class 9:45-10:45 am</p>	4	5	<p>6 HCE 12-3:00 pm</p> <p><i>ITALIAN NIGHT</i> Serving meals from 5:45 to 6:45 pm</p> <p>Worship Service with Pastor Weden 7:00 pm</p>	7	8	9
<p>10 Divine Worship 8:30 am with Pastor Weden</p> <p>Fellowship following Service</p> <p>Confirmation Class 9:45-10:45 am</p>	11	12	<p>13 <i>HOT SANDWICHES</i> Serving meals from 5:45 to 6:45 pm</p> <p>Worship Service with Pastor Weden 7:00 pm</p>	14	15	16
<p>17 Divine Communion Worship 8:30 am with Pastor Weden</p> <p>Packing CHEER BOXES and Fellowship following Service</p>	18	19	<p>20 Worship Service with Pastor Weden 7:00 pm</p>	21	22	23
<p>24 Divine Worship 8:30 am</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00 pm</p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 8:30 am</p>	26	27	28	29	30
<p>31 Divine Worship 8:30 am</p> <p>Fellowship following Service</p>						

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Return Service Requested

