



St. John's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

1165 County Road D, Almond, WI 54909

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<http://www.stjohnsalmond.com>

PASTOR RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW

His Mercy Monthly

JANUARY 2025

Our Mission

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

**Deadline for the
February Newsletter is 8:00 pm on Monday, January 27th.**

Do you have something for the February 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

What a joy it was to have the Sunday School and Confirmation Class participate in the Christmas Program!

Thank you to the teachers, students and everyone involved including those that provided treats afterwards. It was wonderful to see all of the youth interact with the congregation during the program and afterwards in fellowship.



In Service to our Lord

Elders: James Johnson, David Marr,
Jim Cesar and Alan Pagel

Communion Set Up, Greet & Usher:
Dianne and Ed Schultz

*Please consider volunteering for any of
the above positions for services by
contacting Betty Daberkow at
(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

If you find stumbling blocks in your path, use them as stepping stones to move closer to God and all that is good.



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1/02	Sandra Poock	1/09	William Omernik	1/20	Anniston Heise	1/25	Randy and Carol Ellie
1/03	Krista Bradley	1/10	John Waggoner	1/20	Cora Heise		
1/03	Daniel Erlandson	1/13	Bill Brandl	1/20	Jason Stiles		
1/05	Dustin Huntington	1/13	William Goman	1/23	Evan Pagel		
1/07	Jean Erdman	1/14	Lance Cayce	1/25	Chris Anderson		
1/08	Jon Pagel, Sr.	1/14	Ethan Warzynski	1/27	Jeff Heise		
1/09	Jackie Cayce	1/15	Lynne Johnson	1/29	Dave Johnson		
1/09	Barbara Footit	1/17	Kevin Fenske	1/29	Michelle Waggoner		
1/09	Susan Lemke	1/18	Jim Cesar	1/30	Lacie Bradley		



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.

Repenting of "Feasts that Know No Fast"

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December's celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

"Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ..." This hits us hard, doesn't it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside

for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

"For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ..." In "The Parable of the Sower," we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn't take its corporate responsibility seriously?

"For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal." This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Ladies Aid Tidbits:



Did you remember to save your postage stamps from the Christmas Cards you received? There is a collection box in the fellowship hall along with boxes for used ink and toner cartridges. The recycled ink and toner are turned in to Staples and in return St. John's gets rewards to purchase office supplies.



The Advent meals raised \$706 to benefit the Ladies Aid Sunshine Ministries. Thank you to all who attended the meals, we hope you enjoyed them! Thank you to everyone that signed up to bring food and to those that participated in preparation and clean-up to make these meals a success. Thrivent provided seed money to purchase food supplies.

Cheer Boxes were packed and delivered on December 15.

A big THANK YOU to those who donated cookies and treats to make this heartfelt project memorable. There were enough goodies left over to share for fellowship.



Proceeds from the November
TAKE ORDER



Totaled \$1,345.00 and were equally divided among the five missions St. John's supports:

- AbleLight
- Camp Luther
- NWD/LCMS
- Peace Lutheran Campus Center
- St. John's Local Evangelism

Per our decision at the November meeting, a year-end distribution of \$2600 was gifted to:

- \$300 each to LCMS missionaries Ashley Lehr (Puerto Rico) and David and Rachel Baker (Central Asia)
- \$500 each to Joseph Hope Food Pantry, St. John's Missions, Orphan Grain Train Wisconsin Branch, and NWD Disaster Response. The sales from the Tater Toot Bake Sale raised most of these funds.



Ladies Aid meetings will be held at 1:00 pm in January and February.

May God bless you with a Safe, Healthy, and Joyous New Year!

St. John's Ladies Aid

“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:

Isabel Urban	Bonnie Wellens	Matt Weiss	Bob Kollock	Sara
Jon Turzinski	Scott Boelter	Judy Daberkow	Brett Lesniak	Helen Hutkowski
Dorothy Tess	Dee Erlandson	Judy Fenske		

We also pray for the leadership of St. John’s, we pray that someone will come forward and take the positions still vacant (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.

Verna Yonke Whispering Pines - #108
 3450 Bridlewood Drive
 Plover, WI 54467

Dorothy Caves Silver Lake Manor
 N2641 17th Lane
 Wautoma, WI 54982

Bonnie Wellens Country Terrace
 8730 Packing Plant Road, #8
 Minocqua, WI 54548

Scott Boelter 1180 County Road D,
 Apt. #5
 Almond, WI 54909

Isabel Urban N5480 Mount Morris Road
 Wild Rose, WI 54984

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.



Putting the "Ha" in Hallelujah!

A man goes out ice fishing one morning. He reaches the ice and is about to cut a hole in it when he hears a voice from above, "There are no fish here."

The fisherman is shocked but gets up and moves to another spot. As he's about to cut a hole, he hears a voice from above again, "There are no fish here either."

He gets up and moves to a third spot. Before he's even finished walking, the voice says, "I'm telling you, there are no fish here."

The fisherman says, "God, how can you be so sure there aren't any fish here?"

The voice replies, "This is the ice rink manager."



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

The projected yearly expenses for 2024 is \$93,311.75. This figure has been adjusted for our current pastoral expenses as well as church operational expenses.



2024 GIVINGS THERMOMETER PROGRESS

- As of December 22nd, our balance is \$92,494.47.
- Our givings need to average \$1,794.46 per week.

January 2025

Sunday

Monday Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 	2	3	4
5 Sunday School 8:45 am Classes for Children and Adults Divine Communion Worship 10:00 am Fellowship following Service	6	7	8 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Elders Meeting 7:00 pm	9	10	11
12 Sunday School 8:45 am Classes for Children and Adults Divine Worship 10:00 am Fellowship following Service	13	14 Golden Needle Quilters Workshop 9:00 am Meeting 1:00 pm	15 Confirmation Class 6:0 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm	16 Ladies Aid 1:00 pm	17	18
19 Sunday School 8:45 am Classes for Children and Adults Divine Communion Worship 10:00 am Fellowship following Service	20	21 Quilting 9:00 am	22 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 8:45 am Classes for Children and Adults Divine Worship 10:00 am Fellowship following Service	27	28 Quilting 9:00 am	29 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm	30	31	

St. John's Lutheran Church
1165 County Rd D
Almond WI, 54909

Return Service Requested

