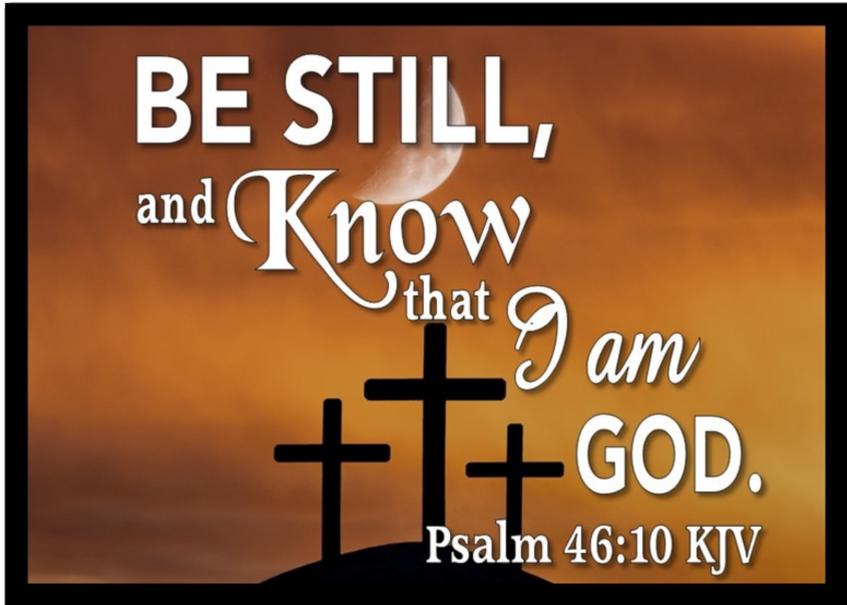


February 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church  
**Church Bell**



From the Desk of Pastor Ryan Clark



Does anyone else feel like life is moving along a lot faster than it used to?? More technology makes life and communication more efficient which in turn makes life move faster! The problem is: it never seems to shut off. Consequently, we have families who very rarely sit down for dinner together, and if they do, everyone is on their phones. And parents who try to institute a “No Phone at the Table” rule are oftentimes met with “But, mooooooom! Daaaaad, you don’t understand!”

*(cont. on Page 3)*

# St. John's Lutheran Church

302 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Buffalo, MN 55313

Phone: 763-682-1883  
Fax: 763-343-7885

Noah's Ark Preschool: 763-682-1883

[info@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:info@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

*Sharing a changeless Christ in a changing world.*

[www.stjohnsbuffalo.org](http://www.stjohnsbuffalo.org)



## Staff:

Rev. Ryan Clark, Senior Pastor  
[pastorclark@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:pastorclark@stjohnsbuffalo.org)  
845-549-0730

Rev. Chris Ryan, Pastor  
[christophermryan2@gmail.com](mailto:christophermryan2@gmail.com)

Kelly Thole, DCE, Director of  
Family Ministry  
[kthole@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:kthole@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

Paul Nelson, DCE, Director of  
Youth Ministry  
[paul@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:paul@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

Katherine Clark, Dir. of Special Ministries,  
*Assimilation & Small Groups*  
[katherine@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:katherine@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

Beth Langland, Office Administrator  
[blangland@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:blangland@stjohnsbuffalo.org) or  
[info@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:info@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

Noah's Ark Preschool  
[noahsarkbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:noahsarkbuffalo@gmail.com)

Jim Chapa, Treasurer

Amy Klemz, Financial Secretary  
[financesec@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:financesec@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

Kathy Klemz, Board Secretary

## Worship Times:

Saturday 5:00 pm (contemporary)  
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 am (traditional)  
KRWC 1360AM broadcast at 8:00 am

## President of the Congregation

Jan Larson  
Dave Haggerty, Vice President

## Board of Elders

[elders@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:elders@stjohnsbuffalo.org)

**Ryan Rutten, Head Elder**

Tracey Anderson

Bill Elletson

Dave Haggerty

Tom Kortisses

Jed Larson

Tom Merrick

Matt Russell

Tony Sabraski

Beau Schmidt

Roger Strege

Dave Teske

## Board Chairs

Altar Guild: Dorothy Bowman

Outreach: Open

Fellowship: Tanya Russell

Library: Shirley Elletson

Memorial Endowment/Investment:

Janice Marschel

Project Compassion: Sandi Baert

Decorating: Nicole Hills

Stewardship: Tim Vergin

Trustees: Scott Spadgenske

Technology: Ludovic Marquette

## Office Hours:

Mon-Fri. 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

## Newsletter Deadline:

Deadline for the March newsletter is **Monday, February 13th.**

**Bulletin Deadline:** Every Tuesday at midnight

*(cont. from page 1)*

If any of you parents or grandparents can relate, I want to encourage you. KEEP doing it! It's important to all of us adults and kids alike to unplug and stop from time to time.

Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Stillness is a spiritual discipline that is a rarity today. But, without it, the most important things that matter in life—family, health, relationships, and most importantly our relationship with God—get left behind.

Being still is what Lent is all about. Why do we meet every Wednesday for six weeks at church? "But, moooooom, we went to church on Sunday! Why do we have to go again?" Because we need time to "be still and know that He is God." We need time away to remember, focus on, and thank Jesus for what He did to win for us adoption into God's family and eternal life! **Ash Wednesday is February 22.** We hope that you will make plans to join us this Lenten season!

Be Still,  
*Pastor Ryan Clark*



**St. John's  
Tubing Event  
at Powder Ridge  
in Kimball!  
February 4th from  
11 AM—1 PM**



St. John's reserved the Powder Ridge tubing hill! This event is open to anyone—any age! The cost is \$20 per person (ages 5 and under are free) and people should arrive by 10:45 AM. Bring the whole family! *Register/Fill out the form on our website at: [www.stjohnsbuffalo.org](http://www.stjohnsbuffalo.org) and click on the Snow Tubing Banner*

**Lenten Suppers**

Enjoy a good meal and good company!  
**Served Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 pm**  
**Free-Will Offering**  
**Beginning February 22nd (Ash Wednesday)**  
**with a pulled pork supper.**



We will need cookies, bars or any other treat that you might be able to donate for each supper. If you can help, please call Paul Nelson at 402-910-6530. Funds raised support the 2023 Youth Mission Trip.

- In Concert -

remedy  
drive



Sunday, February 5, 4 PM

National recording artist REMEDY DRIVE will be performing in concert on Sunday, February 5th at 4:00 pm at St John's Lutheran Church Family Life Center. Remedy Drive is an American Christian alternative rock band based in Nashville who have performed throughout the country. They also partner with The Exodus Road, an international organization working to prevent human trafficking.

St. John's Lutheran Church Family Life Center  
302 NE 2nd Street, Buffalo

Tickets: \$10

Purchase tickets at the church office, Setterberg Jewelers or on i-tickets.com



[www.stjohnsbuffalo.org](http://www.stjohnsbuffalo.org)

763-682-1883

Click this link or scan QR code for the playlist:

<https://spoti.fi/3iXHF9y>



# February

## Ushers

8:00 Brad Hoseck, Scott Spadgenske

10:30 Todd & Steve Jones, Beau Schmidt, Ben Schmidt, Jared Topp, Matt & Tonya Russell

## Technology

The Sound & YouTube Team

Dixie Abrams  
Tim Berteau  
Robbie Ferdig  
Milt Hagen  
Trent Johnson  
Dave & Cindy Korbel  
Tom Kortisses  
Jill Marketon  
Ludovic Marquette  
Bill & Melissa Morris  
Bobbi Lindgren-Stevens

## Contemporary Worship Team

The Team

Josiah Clark  
Pastor Clark  
Lee Claseman  
Claire Erickson  
Aaron Kubasch  
LeAnn March  
Melissa Morris  
Abi Nelson  
Paul Nelson

## Organists/Pianists

The Team

Lois Borner  
Deb Chapa  
Josiah Clark  
Penny Steele



## Welcome Center Attendants for February:

Diana Ashwill  
Holly Bode  
Doreen Claseman  
Kathy Klemz  
Lorrie Lepinski  
Lynnette Smith  
Nancy Zumbusch

## PEP

### Come join us!

Enjoy some relaxed fun with **PEP (People Enjoying People)**. PEP meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in Room 119 by the Fellowship Hall. We begin with a brief Bible study followed by a variety of activities which may include joke telling, cards and games. **In February we meet on the 7th and the 21st from 9-11:30 am.**

Coffee is served; come whenever you can; stay as long as you want. There is no regular commitment. The more the merrier.

# LWML/WIM/St. John's Women



## Women in Mission "Mites"

Our Women in Mission will offers a "Mites Sunday" once per month to provide monies for the mission grants voted on at the LWML Minnesota South District Convention. **For February: Generating a JESUS**

**Generation Student Tuition Aid.** Each year Martin Luther High School awards tuition assistance to needy families who, without these scholarships, would not be able to have their teens be blessed with a Christian high school education. A grant from the Minnesota South District LWML is very beneficial in helping MLHS meet the needs of families, operate in a fiscally responsible manner, and carry out our Mission. **Please consider giving an offering in our Mites Offering box as you leave worship or take home a box of your own and turn back in!**

## Are you willing to help out with funerals at St. John's?

We have a need for people to bring in bars for funerals and also for people to sign up to work in the kitchen. If you are interested in being on the call list for bars, please contact Julie Larson at: (763) 614-9110 or [julielarson280@aol.com](mailto:julielarson280@aol.com)

If you are interested in being on the call list for helping in the kitchen, please contact Clarine Meyer at: 612-202-8810 or [clarinemeyer@gmail.com](mailto:clarinemeyer@gmail.com)



*thank you!*

Thank you to Pastor Clark, Pastor Ryan and our church family for all the prayers and cards. Also, a thank you to those that served in the kitchen and brought bars. We are truly blessed.

- RaVae Megaw & family



## Serving Opportunities at St. John's

Looking for an easy way to sign up to volunteer at St. John's? Many of our teams are utilizing our Sign Up Genius tabs. Use the QR code to view and sign up for any of the listed opportunities!

**SERVING**  
*Opportunities*

@St. John's

- **Coffee Servers/Drop off baked items**—Contact Tonya Russell
- **Fellowship Team**—Contact Tonya Russell
- **Greeters** —Contact Todd Jones
- **Make bars for funerals**—Contact Julie Larson
- **Help in the kitchen for funerals**—Contact Clarine Meyer
- **Library Volunteers**—Contact Shirley Elletson

## Two Opportunities for Thrivent Members:

Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who have designated **Choice Dollars**:



If you haven't already done so, be sure to direct your designated Thrivent Choice Dollars. New dollars are added to your account each quarter. Don't miss this opportunity to help support St. John's Lutheran Church or Noah's Ark Preschool. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call 800-THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice®." Deadline for requesting your yearly Choice Dollars is **March 31, 2023.**

Eligible members of Thrivent Financial **Action Team Visa Cards**:

As a new year rolls over EVERY Thrivent member is again eligible to apply for **TWO** \$250.00 Visa cards to be used for a charity. Please contact Janice Marschel if you are willing to use your cards this year for projects at St. John's. She will help you with the process, which is very easy to follow. We have an ongoing list of projects to use these cards. Also, let her know if you have an idea of how you would like to use your cards.

## Reserve your 2023 dates for KRWC Broadcast Sponsorship!

Our 8:00 am worship services are broadcast on radio station KRWC AM1360 for the benefit of those unable to attend church. Each broadcast costs us \$150.00. Here's how you can help to keep this important ministry going:



- Contribute \$150.00 to sponsor a broadcast for an available date of your choosing with a personal dedication announced on air.
- Contribute any amount of money toward the Broadcast Ministry Fund and we will use it as needed.

To be sure you get the date you want , call Beth at the office: 763-682-1883.

## Fellowship



A promotional graphic for a pickleball event. The background is a dark blue and green pickleball court. In the center, a red pickleball paddle and a yellow pickleball are shown. The text "Join us for Pickleball" is written in large white letters at the top. Below the paddle and ball, the text "Mondays 6-8 PM FLC" is written in white. At the bottom left, it says "Ages Middle School to 90+ Welcome!" in white.

Did you make a New Year's resolution to get more exercise and have fun doing it? We have the answer.... **Pickleball!** No experience necessary. Come join us in the Family Life Center on **Mondays from 6-8 PM**. Instruction and equipment all provided. From middle school to age 90+ welcome!



## February Birthdays

Harlow Bremmer	2/1	Eric Ebeling	2/10
Joy Decker	2/1	Curt Johanson	2/10
Dolores Puffer	2/1	Nancy Yonak	2/10
Gerald Root	2/1	Hanna Klatt	2/11
Wayne Bauernschmitt	2/2	Abbey Davidson	2/12
Jerald Ferdig	2/2	Carol Schleif	2/12
Ryan Ebeling	2/3	Owen Glenz	2/13
Ben Henson	2/3	Mary Lambert	2/13
Tyler Korbel	2/3	Brian Anderson	2/15
Betty Loreda	2/3	Emmett Elletson	2/15
Shannon Valley	2/3	Sebastian Fouquette	2/15
Drew Holland	2/4	Nora Klaers	2/15
Amy Klemz	2/4	Braxten Mader	2/15
Sullivan Marx	2/4	Diem Miller	2/15
Raef Rutten	2/4	Julia Peter	2/15
Beau Schmidt	2/4	Lee Peterson	2/15
Amanda Hommerding	2/5	Marti Ryan	2/15
Marie Marquette	2/5	Kaleb DeBoer	2/16
Nick Spadgenske	2/5	Sarah Hoppe	2/16
Jordayn Spike	2/5	Connor Reese	2/16
Lila Swanson	2/5	Nicolle Riopelle	2/16
Lori Steinhibel	2/6	Bailey Anderson	2/17
Tim Berteau	2/7	Leland Bomstad	2/17
Ruth Bonk	2/7	Shawn Hannah	2/17
Kayla Erickson	2/7	Wayne Muelich	2/17
Millicent Jurgens	2/7	Ron Enter	2/18
Jennifer Saunders	2/7	Don Streich	2/18
Mackenzie Carlson	2/8	Mason Holland	2/19
Leslie Gearey	2/9	Vienna Stoppelman	2/19
Zackery Groshens	2/9	Jeff Erickson	2/20
Brian Kenmir	2/9	Stacey Bertsch	2/21
Beth Langland	2/9	Maya Gerold	2/21
Adeline Ricksham	2/9	Hope Matter	2/21
Cami Jo Davidson	2/10	Saylor VanLith	2/21

Gary Bonk	2/22	Kari Triplett	2/25
Sheila Hamilton	2/22	Michael Endreson	2/26
Jaxx McKenzie	2/22	Riecker Handt	2/26
Jenna Mehr	2/22	Traci Heidebrink	2/26
Marilyn Sotebeer	2/22	Holden Stodola	2/26
Anna Baumgard	2/23	Dan Hewett	2/27
Jed Larson	2/23	Shirley Holland	2/27
Robbie Ferdig	2/24	Samantha Klatt	2/27
Eliana Loberg	2/24	Blake Miller	2/27
Iris Whitney	2/24	Randy Otten	2/28
Bill Henson	2/25	Maverick Ricksham	2/28
Joyce Stecker	2/25		

## Anniversaries



Marvin & Alise Zachman	2/1
Larry & Marlis Thomsen	2/5
Morry & Nila Ellis	2/7
Brian & Jessica Anderson	2/9
Gene & Debbie Ebert	2/12
Ludovic & Yueping Marquette	2/14
Todd & Kari Peter	2/14
Rollie & Sandy Halsten	2/18
Mike & Pam Mensinger	2/18
Verdeen & Beth Langland	2/19

## **Saturday SUPPER CLUB**

*Join us on the 2nd Saturday of the month after  
Saturday night service for dinner and fellowship.  
Location will rotate.*



# Noah's Ark Preschool



## February 2023

Our Bible theme this month is:  
"Jesus is our Good Friend!"

During Jesus Time we will talk about how Jesus is our friend. In the classroom and at chapel we will hear stories about the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, Jesus Blesses the Children, and Zacchaeus.



---

## What is happening this month?



February is "I Love to Read" month! We will be discovering new books and exploring new authors throughout the month. We will even have a few surprise "readers".

### **NOW ENROLLING!**

Online registration for the 2023-24 school year starts Feb. 6th. Call today to set up a visit to learn more about our preschool and enroll for the new year. We can't wait to meet you and your family. Register and more info at: [stjohnsbuffalo.org](http://stjohnsbuffalo.org) or call 763-682-1883.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**NO SCHOOL:** February 20th

# Children & Family

## Sunday School Offering Project

During the months of **January & February** all the money collected in children's and Sunday school offering



will go to feed kids through Feed My Starving Children.

**Just follow these steps...**

1. Students pick up a tube of mini M&M's
  2. Take the M&M's and eat them.
  3. Fill the tubes with Quarters.
  4. Bring back the tube back by **February 26th**.
- Need a Tube? Have Questions? 763-682-1883



Operation  
**Christmas  
Child**

## Operation Christmas Child Items for February:

For February, we will be collecting **new, full-size, wrapped bars of SOAP!** Thank you for continuing to donate throughout the year so that we can fill our boxes for this wonderful mission outreach!



## Children & Family



### VBS PREP help needed!

Kelly is seeking a handful of people who love getting our building ready

for VBS. No need to be crafty or creative— just a willingness to help and have some fun along the way. We will have several work days in the coming month to prep for decor. Want to know more? Have questions? Contact Kelly today!



The First Faith Steps Class will be taking a break for a while this winter and will return starting in March. We look forward to seeing you again soon!



## Youth



### Lenten Meals!

On Wednesdays during Lent (beginning on February 22), youth going on the 2023 mission trip are serving meals from 5-6 pm to support our summer mission trip.



Youth are asked to help serve each meal, clean dishes, and other tasks from 4:30-6:00 PM, and then clean up after worship! This is primarily for Sr. High youth. Sign up on the youth bulletin board outside the youth room or here: <https://bit.ly/3kE8y2z>

Jr. High Youth Group: February 12  
Sr. High Youth Group: February 1, 8, and 15



**6th-12th grade youth** have a special opportunity to participate in the first Buffalo Youth Together event! **Winterpalooza will be Sunday, February 19th from 2-4 PM** with a custom sled race/competition, broomball game, gaga ball, 9-square, hot chocolate, and hot dogs!

Register for free here: <https://bit.ly/3JdX8Ns>

**FEBRUARY YOUTH EVENTS**

<b>JR. HIGH</b> Youth Group-2/12 Feed My Starving Children February 25th 3:30-7:30 pm	<b>SR. HIGH</b> Youth Group-2/1, 2/8, 2/15 Ash Wednesday Meal-2/22
<b>BOTH</b> Buffalo Youth Together Winterpalooza February 19th 2-4 pm	

HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY! 

**Jr. High Youth** are headed to **Feed My Starving Children** on **Saturday, February 25th**. We will carpool from church at 3:30 PM and get back around 7:30 PM. Bring money for supper and also earn a S.W.E.E.T. point! Parents are welcome to join but must include themselves in registration. **Please sign up no later than February 22nd**. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3HrihCe>

## St. John's Altar Guild

The ladies of the Altar Guild are a dedicated group of workers behind the scene, but blessed to serve our congregation with the body (bread) and blood (wine) of Christ Jesus. I have not done this very often, but am sharing with you the list of dedicated ladies that serve you. Note how long they stay on the guild!



Shirley Elletson	1990	Lorrie Lepinski	1994
Becky Randt	1997	Karen Ladda	2011
Mary Lambert	2011	Bonnie Elfmann	2015
Mary Bremmer	2015	Joann Prigge	2015
RaVae Megaw	2015	Cyndi Bonk	2017
Randi Vergin	2017	Lee Ann Yager	2021

Dorothy Bowman 1974

God is good!

*Dorothy Bowman, Altar Guild Chair*

ST. JOHN'S GREETER MINISTRY

**Be the reason  
someone  
smiles today!**

visit [stjohnsbuffalo.org/serve](http://stjohnsbuffalo.org/serve)  
or scan the QR code to sign up!

Visit our website or find the signup sheets inside  
Door 1 and 4 to sign up!

# Special Ministries & Life Groups

LIFE Groups February 2023			
Day/Time	Location	Facilitator	Topic
Sunday 7:27 AM	Prayer Chapel (Room 210)	Katherine Clark	Prayer covering for morning ministries - join when you are able
Sunday 9:15 AM	Preschool Room (121)	Stacy Rutten	Gather Moms: Family Values
Sundays 6:00 PM	Borner's Home	Ed & Lois Borner	The Chosen Season 3
2nd/4th Tues 9:30 AM	The Glenn	Pastor Ryan	Varying Bible Study topics + games
Wednesdays 9:15 AM	Classroom 228	Katherine Clark	Women's study - Jennie Allen's <i>Get Out of Your Head</i> (Philippians)
Wednesdays 7:15 PM	Conference Room	Various	He Chose the Nails
Thursdays 7:00 AM	Perkins	Jed Larson	Men's Study - <i>Old Testament - Patriarchs, Prophets, &amp; Kings</i>
Thursdays 6:30 PM	Youth Rm	Pastor Ryan	Men's Study - <i>Judges</i>
Thursdays 6:30 PM	Conference Room	Katherine Clark	Women's study - Jennie Allen's <i>Get Out of Your Head</i> (Philippians)
Thursdays 6:30 PM	Jed & Del Larson home	Jed & Del Larson	<i>Unoffendable</i> (by Brant Hansen)
2nd Saturday 6:15 PM	Culver's	Yagers & Kubasch	Saturday Supper Club - ALL Welcome
For more information, visit <a href="http://stjohnsbuffalo.org/life-groups/">stjohnsbuffalo.org/life-groups/</a> or talk to Katherine Clark (Katherine@stjohnsbuffalo.org)			

# Special Ministries & Life Groups

## Increasing our Connectedness

The link between our connectedness to others and our health and well-being is long established in science and experience. A study in 2014 showed that social isolation was worse for our health than "obesity, smoking and high blood pressure".

(See <http://ccare.stanford.edu/uncategorized/connectedness-health-the-science-of-social-connection-infographic/>)

On the other hand, increasing our social connections strengthens our immune function, helps us recover from illness faster, and lowers our rates of depression and anxiety. As the hardest part of winter sets in, we could all use support warding off the winter blues and worries!



This science is no surprise to our Creator who designed us to be in relationship with Himself AND with others.

Here are just a few examples:

- We are told the early church "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." - Acts 2:42
- Paul instructs us in Romans 12:16 to "live in harmony with one another" and in Galatians 6:2 to "carry each other's burdens".
- And Jesus makes it clear in the Gospel of John, "Love each other as I have loved you."

He intended for us to *do life together!* And our brains and bodies were wired with that togetherness in mind. If you're feeling isolated or lonely this winter, pick out ONE thing you can do this week to get more connected.

# Special Ministries & Life Groups

## Ways to Get Connected at St. John's this Winter:

- Go tubing on Feb 4 (or just go for the hot cocoa and conversation!)
- Join a LIFE Group (see the included schedule)
- Come out and try Pickleball on Monday nights from 6-8pm. (No experience needed!)
- Play cards on Thursdays from 5:30-7 PM
- Make plans to include a Sunday morning Bible study rather than just attending service
- Come hear a devotion from one of the pastors and stick around to play some games at 9am on the 1st or 3rd Tuesday morning at PEP (People Enjoying People)
- Join Project Compassion in preparing cards/gifts for our shut-in members
- Send a hand-written note to someone you haven't seen for awhile

Need help finding the right fit? Reach out to Katherine Clark ([katherine@stjohnsbuffalo.org](mailto:katherine@stjohnsbuffalo.org))

# SAVE THE DATE!



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ☕ MAR 10-11



# Board Meeting Minutes 12/20/2022

Call to Order: Jan Larson

Open with Prayer: Pastor Ryan

Review Agenda: Stands as printed

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Dave Haggerty and seconded by Janice Marschel. Motion was approved.

Pastor Clark's Report: Confirmation finished the 10 Commandments and will start Biblical disciplines in the New Year. Sunday Bible Class is finishing the study of the Names of Jesus. Visitations/ calls are being made by both Pastor Clark & Pastor Ryan. Several Baptisms & two funerals have been done. PEP is studying the Christmas accounts from Matthew & Luke. A New Member Class will occur again in the New Year. Upcoming Events: December 21 (9:30 am): Noah's Ark Christmas Program, December 24 (3 & 5pm): Christmas Eve Family Services, December 24 (7 & 9pm): Christmas Eve Traditional Services, December 25 (10 am): Christmas Day Service, December 31 (5pm): New Year's Eve Service, January 1 (10am): New Year's Day Service (same as New Year's Eve service).

Pastor Ryan's Report: Confirmation resumes on January 4<sup>th</sup> with Spiritual Disciplines/Confession & Absolution. SMP Update: Homiletics II December – February, Intensive Schooling – January 9<sup>th</sup>– 15<sup>th</sup>. Several Bible Studies: Thursday Men's Group: Judges, Sunday Men's Group: Resumes in Lent, PEP: Christmas Passages, Life Group at the Glenn: Assorted Passages, College/ Career Life Group: Christmas Break Service Project. Preaching continues with alternating with Pastor Clark: completed November 20<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> and coming: December 25<sup>th</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup>. Visitation calls & visits continue with both Pastor Ryan &

Pastor Clark. Pastor Ryan & Catherine will be on vacation January 16-20.

Youth Ministry: Paul reports Christmas Parties went well. ACT United is a Christian Organization about sex trafficking. They will be speaking to the Sr. High on January 11<sup>th</sup> and Jr. High (parents invited) on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Remedy Drive will be here February 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. \$10 tickets. Youth Leadership Council meeting is January 8<sup>th</sup>. Two youth have signed up for the Youth Conference in St. Louis March 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming Events include Wrapped in Love Servant Event Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> 1-3 pm, Luige's Pizza Fundraiser January 11-29 with delivery on February 10<sup>th</sup>, Jr. High River City Extreme January 15<sup>th</sup> 5-7 pm, Sr. High Lock-In January 20<sup>th</sup>. Paul was emcee for the Iowa District West Youth Gathering & attended a band concert, orchestra concert, choir concert, & basketball game.

Children & Family Ministry/Noah's Ark: Gingerbread Bash December 23<sup>rd</sup> for families with children ages 5-10. Christmas Program had 422 in attendance. Preschool Program Prep on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am. Christmas Break December 23<sup>rd</sup>-January 2<sup>nd</sup>. School starts again on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kelly out of office December 24<sup>th</sup>-January 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to those who helped with Children's programs & the teachers.

Special Ministries: Caroling went very well. Baggies stuffed with Candy Cane Gospel Tracts, mini candy canes, & Christmas Services were passed out. Caroling at the Glenn was put on hold due to iffy weather. Gifts were collected for the children at the daycare & orphanage in Mexico. Gifts delivered this last week by Clark's neighbors Mark & Paula Downs. Facebook page updated asking for RSVP to what

service you're attending to get it on the minds of others. January 15 will begin the next study group "Gather Moms: Family Values" with Stacy Rutten. Holiday Porch Pot was well attended & positive feedback.

Financial Secretary & Treasurer Reports:

Reports for the month of November include Contributions: \$78,063; Expenses: \$87,588; Net Income: \$9,526 (under); Missions: \$5,540; Checking: \$98,298; Savings: \$582,493. This month was a 4-week month. Debiture checks were sent out. \$2,700 for Penny to do handbells & choirs. Back up for Office Help: over \$20,000. Motion made by Dave Haggerty & seconded by Tonya Russell. Motion Approved. Housing Allowance for Pastor Clark 40%, Pastor Ryan 80%, Paul 90%, Kelly 65%. Motion made by Nicole Hills & seconded by Janice Marschel. Motion Approved.

New Business: New computer needed for security system/doors. Hoping to get one with a battery backup. Office to purchase a new printer/copier for the main office. Office computer contract up in May 2023

Elders: Welcome Beau Schmidt discussing he may be the 12<sup>th</sup> Elder. Membership Changes for September: Received by Baptism: Cooper Benjamin Ryan, Steve & Karen Torbit (transfer from Trinity Lutheran in Monticello). Removed: Mayella Yonak by death, Patty Ernst (transfer to Anchorage Lutheran Church in Alaska).

Trustees: What can we do to keep neighborhood kids away from the snow piles in the parking lot? All we can do is collapse the tunnels that are made. Last pew moved to its new spot. Sanitizer station moved to storage. Caulking new concrete area completed. Still pending is the leaking gutter above the Library. Caulking the sidewalks in Spring. Organ is in use. Waiting for the speaker mounts & covers. Raise bulletin board in upstairs hall. Wish list: \$450 for tables to replace

wooden structures, \$1,000 for rolling safety ladder.

Outreach: Discussed where we are to send Christmas Offering this year. Chose to make a designation of \$2,000. Motion made of set amount for Christmas Offering distribution by Dave Haggerty & seconded by Nicole Hills.

The motion was approved  
Stewardship: None at this time.

Fellowship: Weekly Card Night will begin in January. Volunteers are needed to drive to shut-ins to pick up people to come for some fun & to get out of the house. A new game every week will be played. This game night will be Thursday early evenings.

Women in Mission: Working on Country Fair results. The QR square has helped wonderfully.

Library: Cleaned out & organized the shelves. Pulled out all devotion books for anyone to take. Also going around town to the "Little Library" locations. Diane Smith is helping Shirley.

Technology: Seeing Pastor Clark on Youtube for Bible Class looks like the Church Basement. Please make a change by possibly jazzing up the background.

Project Compassion: Christmas project with Pastors doing some delivering. January meeting will be a February project.

Decorating: Thank you to the Trustees for helping with moving things. Undecorating will be January 9 with moving things to the attic on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Clark Meeting Adjourned at 7:11pm

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Klemz



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