



St. John Lutheran Church

St. John Lutheran Church comes together to love God and one another, serve others and share God's word. We do these things by God's Grace that comes through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ

January 2021

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Pastor Paul Heine
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January 2021

**Sunday Morning
Worship 10:00 AM**

EPIPHANY



Policy Change for Worship - Everyone is expected to wear a mask into the church and following the close of worship as you leave the church.

Thank You!

Thanks for Your Support!

The global pandemic has caused us a lot of anxiety as we try to live our lives as safely as possible while still maintaining relationships. One of the blessings I have observed at St. John Church is the way you have been determined to care for one another and support the church financially even though you may want to stay at home for now.

Thank you for your financial support, and for the ways you check on friends and church family members, offering help, conversation, and prayers along the way. Because of you, our church is able to stay healthy and viable during this crisis.

There does seem to be some hope that COVID 19 will be under control in the future. I am already thinking of ways we will one day be able to return to the many activities you have been missing. Meanwhile, keep praying and supporting the church. We are still active and available to help you when you need us. The church is alive and well in new and creative ways.

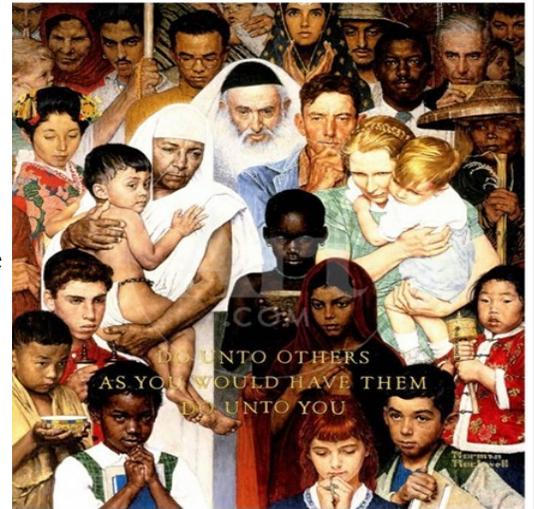
Blessings,
Pastor Paul Heine

Setting the Scene for Epiphany

Epiphany, January 6, is the day we celebrate the arrival of the three wise men to pay homage to the infant Jesus. The day often gets ignored in the Lutheran Church because it seldom falls on a Sunday. I, however, consider it a moveable feast and usually observe it in church on the closest Sunday to the 6th. It is a significant day for the life of the church.

The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is rooted in the observance of the twelve days of Christmas, ending on the eve of the 12th of January, the eve of the Epiphany. In Lutheran circles, Epiphany was the day to take down Christmas decorations and have a huge bonfire of Christmas trees to celebrate the day.

This year, I am thinking of all the issues we are facing around the world and at home. I will place the wise men in my nativity scene on the coffee table, but I am thinking that I need more people to show up. I want a crèche that tells the story in a way that relates to my understanding of the Gospel story today.



Epiphany is really a story of evangelism. The strange mystics, the Zoroastrian Magi, are not insiders in the nativity. They are strangers from a strange land who are seeking the truth about life. They are welcomed, and they pay homage as they are following the same star as everyone else. Here is an example of the inclusiveness of the Gospel. The good news of Jesus is for everyone. Matthew only tells us what happened during the first two weeks after Jesus' birth. Before Mary and Joseph scurry out of Bethlehem to hide out in Egypt, I want others to surround that tiny stable.

I'm looking for a nativity scene that includes my friends and family. I also want Hollywood stars and Holy Land pilgrims. For me, the story should include hospital workers from the intensive care units, store owners, the hungry from our streets, families from every neighborhood, representatives from Syria and Afghanistan, military personnel, politicians from every level of our government, and you.

In the end, I guess my whole house would be filled with tiny figurines representing people from all walks of life. They would have to stand on the mantle, the coffee table, the back of the sofa, on top of my books, and in every corner of the room, but I would welcome the company.

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If you find figurines that would help me fulfill my vision, let me know. Until then, I can imagine what it would look like when I think about the millions of people who will be gathered around altars participating in Christ's presence in the Eucharist celebrating Epiphany. That is the best scene of all. Those people will be real, and so will Jesus' presence.

Epiphany Blessings,
Pastor Paul Heine



THANK YOU

I thank you for the very surprising and generous monetary Christmas gift given to me from the church council on behalf of the congregation. I'm just the new kid on the block, but you still remembered me.

I am going to use the gift to buy a new phone. My T-Mobile phone does not get a signal in Ingomar or the surrounding area. It is time to switch to Verizon. The switch has become a symbol for how I want us all to stay connected during these challenging times.

Blessings,
Pastor Paul Heine

Thank you to the congregation of St. John for the gift cards that I received for Christmas. It was most thoughtful of all of you and very much appreciated.

*Yours in Christ,
Carol McKinley*

**Thank you for the gift cards for Christmas!
Chris Ingram**

What a different year we have all had to live through. Christmas is almost here - by the time you read this we will be past 2020 and 2021 will be starting. I am praying that it will be a much better year for all of us.

I missed the carolers this year. Also miss each and every one of you.

I want to thank all of my St. John friends who sent me cards and gifts and also those who have called or visited me. I am so Blessed, each of you have a special place in my heart.

**Thanks again.
Reenie**

Thank you everyone for all the cards and prayers. I look forward to seeing you all in February!

**Thank
you!**

JONATHAN & MICHELLE

UPDATE

Dear Friends and Family,

We pray that you are having a wonderful Christmas celebration and that your home is filled with PEACE as you reflect on the Light that has come into the world through Jesus.

The Voges are back together again! Michelle was able to return back to Cyprus as planned. We are so thankful that she received special permission for this and that we could be together to celebrate Christmas. Thank you for praying for this! We really saw how timely it was for Michelle to be in the States and to be with her family to support them during the initial stage of her father's battle with cancer. There was a lot of practical help needed, as well as just being a strength and encouragement. It was the first time that Michelle and her siblings were altogether in the last 4 years. So this was also a highlight and an encouragement to her parents. Please continue to remember Michelle's father in prayer.

What a year it has been! Throughout the year, we have had to pivot and adjust to constantly changing restrictions. (As you have you all most likely!) The plan has basically been to be flexible and hold everything loosely before the Lord. But time and time again, we have seen God's faithfulness. We are so thankful that we have continually been able to pour into the refugee community we love even amidst these constantly changing restrictions. It has been a fruitful year and we have seen lives impacted for the Kingdom of God. We look forward to what the Lord will continue to do in this coming year.

Much love and blessings to you!

The Voges



Month	Activity
JAN	Change water filters. Filters can be purchased (10 micron and 5 micron) at Ace.
FEB	
MAR	Pickup sticks and limbs and put in fire pit and burn. Could be a group work day.
APR	Turn ALL flower beds and playground (hand cultivator) and apply Preen (six month type). Blow off brick surface of prayer garden and spray every brick. Cut out North and West fence line and burn; evaluate every 3-4 years. (2023)
MAY	Review playground equipment safety Spray all gravel surfaces, every prayer garden brick joint and A/C enclosures Clear debris and blow off brick surface of prayer garden Bleach wash and stain playground lumber every 5 yrs. (2024) Probably the best option, due to safety, at this time would be to disassemble the equipment and, either replace or return area to grass. Touchup paint sanctuary walls and trim Review the need for additional gravel at shelter and A/C area every five years (2024)
JUN	Spray all gravel surfaces, prayer garden bricks and A/C enclosures Clear debris and blow off brick surface of prayer garden Weed all flower beds and the playground (Mut does the church front)
JUL	Change water filters and UV bulb. Erin orders UV Bulbs.
AUG	Spray all gravel surfaces, prayer garden bricks and A/C enclosures Clear debris and blow off brick surface of prayer garden Weed all flower beds and the playground Restripe lines on concrete parking pad (yearly)
SEPT	Spray all gravel surfaces, prayer garden bricks and A/C enclosures Clear debris and blow off brick surface of prayer garden Weed all flower beds and the playground
OCT	Spray all gravel surfaces, prayer garden bricks and A/C enclosures Clear debris and blow off brick surface of prayer garden Weed all flower beds and the playground
NOV	Erect outdoor nativity with Mut
DEC	

Done by observation or comment this year: Repaired window in church entry, swept out shelter floor, wiped down picnic tables in shelter, cleaned out shelter flower beds, dug out dead prayer garden rose bushes and replaced with hostas. Replaced security lights on the south and west side of fellowship hall. Built a platform in basement to keep manger characters off the floor. There are opportunities like this each year.

This is a copy of a Property report submitted by Buzz Wright and reviewed at the December council meeting. In December other property improvements were made including a water softener installed to reduce lime and rust build-up in toilet tanks. All toilet tank works were replaced as they were sticking and causing the water to run excessively, and 2 shut-off valves. Our sign in front was replaced with a new and improved one.

FINANCIAL		REPORT	NOVEMBER	2020	
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, INGOMAR					
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND					
BALANCE ON HAND 11.1.2019			13886.15		
RECEIPTS		NOVEMBER	14364.97	includes Trinity/Sign insurance	
TOTAL IN CURRENT FUND			28251.12		
CURRENT EXPENSES					
TWIN VALLEY BANK-ATM			380.00		
COPIER LEASE			86.87		
DPL		9/17-10/17	98.31	24 MO CD-12/18-\$11,134.70	
KNOX ENERGY		9/12-10/0	44.70		
SPECTRUM			171.38		
AMAZON-wine			25.59		
RICKY'S LAWN CARE		October	80.00		
PERSONEL CONCEPTS			11.69	AMERIPRISE-\$304,313	
SUPPLY PASTORS			526.00	11.30.19	+15,813
CHRIS INGRAM-P WORKER			931.00		
BROOKVILLE FLOWER SHOP			105.00	CURRENT OFFERING	
SERVKEEP			29.99	Nov. 19-5910.03	
RUMPKE			49.13	Nov. 20-14364.97	
AMERICAN CHURCH-ENVELOPES			242.67	Jan-Nov 19-69,357.43	
1517 MEDIA-LIVING LUTHERAN/		WOR .SUPP	243.11	Jan-Nov-20-88,473.64 *	
ED RIKE PLUMBING			740.62	*includes Trinity/Sign Ins	
PORTICO			4062.60		
USPS STAMPS			220.00		
ORGANIST/PIANOST			320.00		
KEVIN SCHEULLER-			5450.36		
MEDMART/TREASURER-LIFT			367.20		
PREBLE CTY ON AGING			20.00		
CASH FLOW					
				RECEIPTS-14364.97	
TOTAL EXPENSES			14206.22	EXPENSES-14206.22	
BALANCE IN CURRENT FUND			14044.9	+158.75	
BENEVOLENCE MEMORIAL DISCRETIONAR W/HUNGER STEPHEN					
BEG. BAL	0.0	6816	376.74	0	1629.18
RECEIPTS	1290	545	0	105	20
PAID OUT	1290	0	240.19	105	0
END. BAL	0	7361	136.55	0	1649.18
Disaster-40					
S.SCHOOL YOUTH ROOF MISSIONARY ORGAN					
BEG BAL	43.49	2664.87	39894.70	64	14991.33
RECEIPTS	0	0	0	220	80
PAID OUT	0	0	1916	200	0
END. BAL	43.49	2664.87	37978.7	84	15071.33
BENEVOLENCE PLEDGE 7004 G/WORKS PLEDGE 0					
PAID OUT 1250 0					
UNPAID PLEDGE 5754 0					



MEMBERS IN OUR PRAYERS

Marna Beneke	Emily Hittle	Reenie Halsey
Mary Buettner	Cleo Eby	Helen Comer
Catherine Dafler	Janet Ferguson	Bob Combs
Dale Cotterman	Buzz Wright	Lori Nelson

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF OUR MEMBERS

Paul Conrad	Diana Spencer
Charles Livezey	Wanda DeVilbiss
Martha Watson	Roger Dawson
Andy Eck	Dick Campbell
Cynthia Foster	Chris Shelton
Janet Hardin	Norman Warner
Macy Jaeggi	Bette Denius
Charlotte DeLonge	Kenzi Studebaker
Alan Metz	Ashley Combs
Rachel Myers	Cary Mohr
Linda Parks	Andrew Obst
Tom Schamel	Debbie Elmore
Melinda Studebaker	Shirley Jellison
Taylor Bunch	Cristal Cooper
Devin Sholly	Branson Bennett
Al & Marilyn McKinley	

THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING

Family of Susan Johnston and Janet Cornett (Stella & Wes Studebaker)

MISSIONARIES

Jon & Michelle Voge and family and Michelle's dad, Brian

In order to keep the prayer list up to date, nonmembers will remain on the prayer chain list for thirty days before being removed unless we are contacted otherwise. Please call the church office at 937-839-5321 or email at stjohningomar@swohio.twcbc.com