

St. John's December Parish Visitor

December 2024

Newsletter Article for December from Pastor Cutler:

The King is Coming

Matthew 25:19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them."

I Timothy 6:13b-15 "I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time - God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords." II Timothy 1:6 "I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

Advent is a season looking with hope for the coming king. The reality is this: the king is going to come, whether we want him to come or not. We don't have an option. As Christians, we look with expectation for the coming king.

Our faithful king has given us everlasting life, through his suffering and death upon the cross. When the king comes, he will give to us the kingdom because of his grace. And yet, he will also ask for an accounting of all of his gifts while we lived here on this earth. The king will return for an accounting.

Now, this may really make us uneasy, because in our rebellious state, we want to be a people who are not accountable, or we want to pick and choose what we want to be accountable for. We tend to forget that we are not the ones who give out the gifts. The king does that. And he knows the gifts that he has given to us individually. There is no fooling God.

And yet, we do have a choice on whether we want to exercise a gift or not. I cannot exercise the gift or gifts that God has given to you. I can only be responsible for the gifts that God has given to me as an individual. As a preacher of the Word, I can only remind you to "fan into flame the gift that God has given to you." I can only remind you of the coming king, and that there will be an accounting.

The freedom of the individual Christian is to use the gifts that the king has given in whatever way that they feel that the king would want it to be used, to the king's glory and to the furthering of his kingdom. And yet, the facts of the king giving out the gift as well as his sure and certain return remain.

Christmas is a time of gifts and presents. The greatest gift that we could receive is God's only Son, Jesus Christ. We want to spread that gift to the ends of the earth. May God use us as his instruments in making disciples of all nations, until the king comes back in all his glory.

Serving the King of Kings,

Pastor Mark G. Cutler

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pastor.cutler@stjohnsnmayville.com

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Brotherhood, bearing witness about seminex, and brief district news

The Fall SWD Conference was different this year in a couple key ways. First, it was a combined Conference with both the South Wisconsin District and North Wisconsin District meeting, as well as including some pastors from the U.P. Second, in addition to the theme of Fraternity, or the Brotherhood (of the pastors), there were also presenters discussing the 1973 Walk-Out, which you may have also heard referred to as Seminex.

Our first several sessions were spent hearing about and learning about the benefits of living in brotherhood as brother pastors, practical ways to live out the brotherhood (together as pastors as well as with the men of our laity), and what problems can occur when brotherhood is not lived out. The presenter was Rev. David Buchs. Benefits of living out brotherhood include being able to name problems which are occurring without the risk of hurting feelings and living as examples for one another to strive to outdo. According to Rev. Buchs, meetings with co-ed company alter the ways in which proceedings would occur, with men feeling unable to express their blunt opinions with the presence of women in meetings in which both genders attend. But Rev. Buchs sees the benefits of men working together in one of the things he does at his parish. He looks up which men attend worship services at least half the year. He then distributes the names of those who are not attending at least half the year to the men who do and asks them to pray for the men and their families of those named. This is a way in which brothers in Christ can serve together (and this process gets rid of the untrue perception that it is only the duty of the pastors or elders to pray for or reach out to those who have not been coming).

Another way to live together in fraternity is through competition. In competition, men are in teams. They must learn to push and challenge each other (even, sometimes, to do things which they might feel is impossible). Some of these men must learn to lead the others without going so far out in front that no one can keep up. When competition is going as it should there is mutual up-building. Competition, in its truest form, is completely opposed to men tearing each other down or one of them bragging about how much better he is than his brothers, which is rivalry.

On the other hand, when brotherhood is not lived out, Rev. Buchs assessed three problems which can occur. First, there can be envy. When one brother sees the lavishing of love by a brother on the wife of his brother, the watching brother may become covetous and desire his brother's wife. Instead, Rev. Buchs encouraged striving to be like that brother. In other words, if you see your brother living in an enjoyable relationship with his wife, strive for having that same joy in your relationship with your own wife. Second, there can be misdirected fraternity. This can take place when brothers with a good cause go too far, such as with Simeon and Levi desiring vengeance for their sister. They desired vengeance, but decided to punish not only those who offended against her, but against the offenders' entire people. It can also be like at the Tower of Babel where a group of men came together for a cause, but it was a cause in opposition to the Lord's command of spreading out. Third is effeminacy. When men act in covert attacks against each other instead of talking it out with each other is an example. Instead, men are better off to speak (and shout it out) with each other so it can be dealt with on the table, than hiding it and/or gossiping about their brother.

The second half of our Conference was on Seminex, the Walk-out, which occurred at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1973. Our two presenters were both pastors who lived through the event. The first presenter, Rev. Daniel Gilbert, had been a first year Seminarian when the Walk-out occurred. He was among the few who did not walk out. He described how Seminary operations were continued following the event. But he also spoke about the reason why the Walk-out occurred. The Walk-out occurred in part because of a theological difference. But during his final year just prior to graduation, one of Rev. Gilbert's professors wisely said that the reason for the Walk-out was still on campus. It was hubris (arrogant pride). Rev. Gilbert warned us not to think that we are incapable of having another Walk-out or of living without pride. We are all sinners. We need to remember what happened and guard against it—through prayer and being in God's Word, and not thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought.

Rev. Gilbert encouraged us to consider and make use of three categories: Confession, Conviction, and Preference. Confession—we have a "Thus saith the Lord about it." Conviction—"I feel really, really strongly about this (without necessarily having a biblical command)." Preference—"I would prefer to do it this way." In each case, we should discuss what command we have or about our convictions or preferences with our brothers openly. This is a way to guard against hubris.

Both Rev. Gilbert and our last presenter, Rev. Richard Ramirez, described the Walk-out as a metaphorical Lutheran Civil War. There were (and are) literal brothers who fought (and are continuing to have disagreements to this day) over God's Word being inerrant, and because of ongoing hubris. (I will add that Seminex was so emotionally harmful that when I was at Seminary in 2007-2013 (30 years later) the professors would only say that if you want to know about Seminex, you should look it up yourself.)

Rev. Ramirez, unlike Rev. Gilbert, went to study with the group which walked out. They had planned the Walk-out well enough in advance both that there were those who met them at the end of their walk the day of the walk, and that they quickly secured the University Club Building in downtown St. Louis to teach their own Seminary-level classes. Rev. Ramirez spoke passionately about the fraternity he experienced attending these classes. He would eventually see the errors of his ways when female ordination changed everything about how ministry was done in the denomination in which he was preaching. Rev. Ramirez, like Rev. Gilbert, warned that Seminex was not a good thing. He quoted someone's book as saying that the only reason one side "won" was because the other side walked away. If the group which had walked had remained and forced the leadership to put all 50 some-odd professors on excommunication probation and interrogation, it would have broken the back of the Seminary and the LCMS may no longer be here today.

In District news, the plans to move the District Office from Madison to CUWAA were never finalized under D.P. Wille before his death so there will now be a committee to determine the best location to which to move the District Office. Education Director Chris Cody updated us that 27% of students in LCMS schools are LCMS members; and 25% of teachers in LCMS schools are rostered (51% non-rostered, the others being emeritus or candidate). There is also consideration for a church plant in Slinger.

Like discussing history itself you never get the entire picture, this report does not do justice to what all was learned or said during this Conference. I pray that you receive something of benefit from these "Cliff Notes" and that you earnestly reflect on your own spiritual walk: are you living in hubris (arrogant pride)? If you are a man, are you living out the brotherhood Christ has given you in the church with your brothers here at St. John's? As the Seminary may no longer be here but for God's grace, so also you wouldn't be concerned with this article but by God's grace. Live in that grace of sins forgiven for the sake of Jesus Christ and know that you are forgiven and a child of God because of your brotherhood with Him! In Jesus' Name. Amen.



"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." - Colossians 4:6

As we reflect on this election season, it is important to realize that as Christians, we have a responsibility not only to live out civility in our communities but also to model it for the next generation—our children and grandchildren, who are watching and learning from our actions each day. In a world where division and disrespect often dominate, our role as ambassadors of Christ's love, peace, and humility is more crucial than ever. Our actions, our words, and our responses in challenging moments offer a template of Christlike behavior for the younger generation, helping them see what it means to be a true disciple.

Civility is about more than simply "being nice." It's about actively showing respect and care, even when disagreements arise. By speaking kindly, listening intently, and showing understanding, we communicate to our children that every person is a child of God, worthy of respect. Imagine your child witnessing a difficult conversation in which you choose to listen, ask questions, and respond without anger. Through these interactions, we teach them that they too can bring grace and understanding into difficult moments.

In Romans 12:18, Paul encourages us: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." When our children and grandchildren see us live by these words—prioritizing peace, choosing our words carefully, and valuing every person—they learn that following Christ means rising above petty divisions and embracing love over conflict.

Think about moments when children are watching us in our day-to-day interactions—whether it's speaking to a neighbor, interacting at the store, or discussing current events. When they observe us choosing respect and patience, they learn that Christians can impact their world by responding with humility and wisdom. As grandparents, too, we have a special influence; the stories we tell, the prayers we offer, and the perspectives we share shape their view of how faith plays out in everyday life.

Let us pray for God's help in being role models of civility, sowing seeds of kindness, patience, and respect in the next generation. May they see Christ in us and grow to be faithful stewards of His love and peace in their own communities.

Douglas Mageski

THANK YOU: Special thanks to all who supported Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Ministry.

School Christmas program (Grades 4K-8) takes place on Wednesday, December 11 (dress rehearsal at 1:00 pm and service at 6:30 pm) and Saturday, December 14 (5:30 pm). All services take place in the school gym. Seating will be limited, but all are welcome to join. Sign ups for families will go out prior to services. If you anticipate coming, and may require a ground floor chair due to mobility, please reach out to the school office to let us know.

2025-2026 School Year Enrollment Opens February 1: If you are interested or know of a family looking for a school home for the 2025-2026 school year, please contact the office at 920-387-4310. We participate in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program, the Special Needs Scholarship Program, and have scholarship opportunities available.



Ground Breaking took place on October 6th, 2024 at 12:00 noon!

CHILD CARE / YOUTH BUILDING



http://stjohnsmayville.com/youthministries/

Youth group is looking for volunteers and group leaders for St. John's Youth group in the next school year. Youth groups meet every other Sunday evenings and would assist in leading the youth in Bible studies and group activities during the events. We are also looking for youth retreat leaders/chaperones for upcoming events, which are; 7th-8th Grade Winter Xtreme Retreat at Camp Timber-lee (January 10-12), and a lock in (March/April). If anyone is able/willing to assist, please contact Doug Mageski at doug.mageski@stjohnsmayvill e.com

Through our Investing in Children Capital Campaign we have reached our first goal

\$1,556,974.28 through 158+ units! Thank you for your continued support.



St. John's Open Funds:

St. John's Church
(Activity Fund)
St. John's School *Specified
St. John's School Scholarship
LWML (formerly Dorcas)

Adopt a bill

LCMS High School

Maintainance Fund

Altar Guild

Building

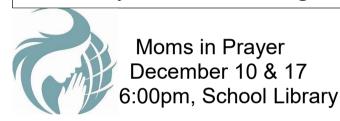
Living Trust Fund

Childcare / Youth

Ministry Center Fund!

Please utilize the Childcare/Youth Envelopes in your box of envelopes. Circle if it is a memorial, pledge, or a donation and your offering number, name and amount given. *memorials – include the name of deceased on envelope bottom.

December CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING Monday Dec. 23 at 6:30pm



Christmas Caroling

Tuesday, December 10

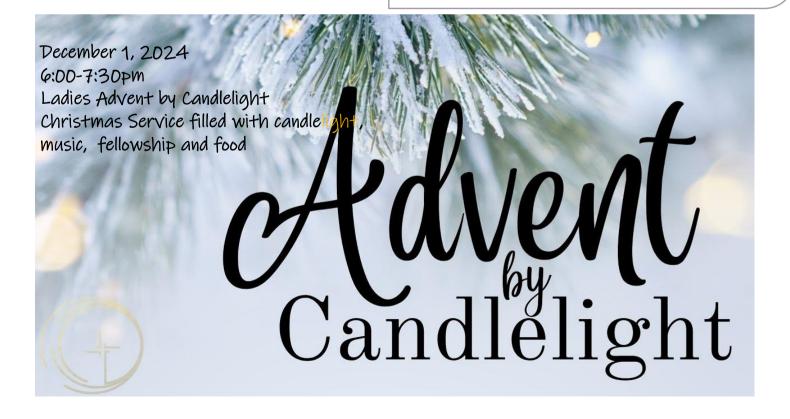
*meet at the church at 3:45pm (or go directly to Prairie Ridge), Mayville by 4:00pm All Welcome to share in song and bring joy to the residents [for more information please contact Marie Feucht at 920-960-4347



"HERE WE COME R-CRROLING!"

"Some to Be" Sundays: weekends which will highlight a particular group(s)/Board(s) every month.

These weekends are a chance for each Board and group at St. John's to say who they are, what they do, and how to join. (They're called "Some to Be" Sundays based on 1 Corinthians 12, where we hear that God the Holy Spirit apportions each of us with gifts and abilities that we may be the hands, feet, and other parts of the Body of Christ.)



St. John's Worship Opportunities

Saturday Spiritual Worship Service / Sunday "Traditional" Worship WORSHIP HOURS ~

Saturday Praise & Worship Service at 5:30pm Sunday Worship Service at Traditional Worship 8:15am Contemporary 10:30am

Monday Evening Worship at 5:30

><> Bible Believers 9:30 (Fellowship Hal) - [continues in Sept] <>< <>< Sunday Bible Class will be each Sunday from 8:00am-8:45am ><>

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Sun. Dec. 1 8:15am Traditional Communion Worship Service 10:30am Contemporary Communion Worship

Mon. Dec. 2 5:30pm Monday Evening Communion Service

Wed. Dec. 4 1:00 & 6:30pm Advent Worship ~ 'Jesus as True Man'

Sat. Dec. 7 5:30pm Praise & Worship Communion

Sun. Dec. 8 8:15am Traditional Communion Worship Service

Mon. Dec. 9 10:30am Contemporary Communion Worship 5:30pm Monday Evening Communion Service

Wed. Dec. 11 1:00 & 6:30pm School Christmas Program (at School)

Sat. Dec. 14 5:30pm School Christmas Program (at School)

Sun. Dec. 15 8:15am Traditional Communion Worship Service

10:30am Bible Believers Christmas Program w/comm.

Mon. Dec. 16 5:30pm Monday Evening Communion Service /

PreK 3 Preservice music

Wed. Dec. 18 1:00 & 6:30pm Advent Worship ~ 'Jesus as True God

Sat. Dec. 21 5:30pm Praise & Worship Communion

Sun. Dec. 22 8:15am Traditional Communion Worship Service

10:30am Contemporary Communion Worship

Mon. Dec. NO 5:30pm Monday Evening Communion Service

Tue. Dec. 24 *NEW 3:00pm Christmas Eve Service / Holy Communion

5:00pm Family/Children's Christams Eve (School Gym)

7:00pm Christmas Eve Service / Holy Communion 11:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Vigil / Holy Communion

Wed. Dec. 25 Christmas Day Festival of Lessons & Carols / Holy Communion

Sat. Dec. 28 NO 5:30pm Praise & Worship Communion

Sun. Dec. 29 *8:15am (only) Traditional Communion Worship



Sunday ~

9:30am--Bible Believers (Sunday School Program, at school) & Adult Bible Believer Class starts Sept. 8

9:30am-Bible Class (Fellowship Hall) "The Gospel of John"

9:30am- Pastor Cutler's "Men at Work"

Tuesday ~

9:30am-Ladies "Scripture Seekers".

Wednesday ~

6:00am- POP [Power of Prayer] (Fellowship Hal)I

10:00am-"Bible Class" "JAMES"

(Fellowship Hall)

JOYFUL JOURNEY ~

(Journey One Year for U Lord) Is a DAILY Bible reading, that gives you an Old Testament, New Testament, Psalm and Proverb reading.

The 'One Year Bible' is available in the church office for only \$15; or "the One Year Chronological Bible" is also available for the low cost of \$15.

Call a friend and take that daily walk together.
Your JOYFUL Journey will begin in Genesis and continue all the way through the Bible.

OR Daily Bible Readings can be picked up in the church office or in the Narthex for you to read cover to cover with only a few chapters at a time...

"Every Day" ~ One Year Bible / Chronological One Year Bible

PRAIRIE RIDGE CHAPEL Dec. 9
PRAIRIE RIDGE COMMUNION Dec. 23

Our WORSHIP SERVICE is available on

YouTube $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

The address is

St John's Lutheran Church LCMS, Mayville WI | Mayville WI | Facebook

Or https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsEvLuthernChurch

ONLINE SERVICES— Our new site is: "StJohnsLutheranMayvilleWI" YouTube page on which to upload our services They will now be under Posts in St John's Facebook page. Here are the links for our new YouTube page and the Posts page of our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsEvLutheranChurch, scroll down and on the right side—look for the dates at the end of the titles). We are looking for an Administrator to oversee this through the help and guidance of Pastor Frazee, if you are willing to assist with this please contact the church office / Pastor Frazee

St. John's website is www.stjohnsmayville.com Visit the website to see current school and church activities and events. Parish Visitor Newsletters, Events Calendars, SCRIP forms... [if you prefer a printed version of the Parish Visitor, limited copies available in church office and the Narthex]



LWML "Women in Missions"

Who Are We - The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) with a membership of over 250,000 is the official women's organization of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The LWML focuses on **affirming each woman in her relationship with Christ** to enable her to be in **ministry** among the people of the world. For over 60 years the organization

has been encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to financially support global missions.

St. John's is part of the **South Wisconsin District**. The District is divided into groups called Zones, with about 6 churches each. Each church has a society organization that is affiliated with the LWML. We participate in Spring and Fall Rallies and host on a rotation basis with the other churches in our Zone. The District hosts the Fall Retreat, Young Women's Retreat and SWD Convention.

WEB PAGE: (www.swd-lwml.org).

FOR MORE LWML INFORMATION check out the purple bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall

MEETING NIGHT - 2nd THURSDAY of each Month! -



Challenge

Fill aMITE BOX

You are encouraged to continue to 'fill a Mite box' all year through. The Mites collected from each of the LWML groups are used for many missions throughout the year.



Sharing God's Love throughout the World

Don't forget to grab a MITE BOX... find that spare, lost or extra change to help others through the MITE BOX Missions.

We would also "WELCOME" any new members to the LWML Dorcas Ladies. We meet on the 2nd Thursday

of each month at 6:00 pm from September thru May.

After a devotion, we discuss ongoing LWML activities in the area, as well as District and National Events.

Please attend a meeting to see what the LWML Ladies are all about.

Special THANKS to all who supported our chili dinner...

Thank you to all those who helped in the kitchen, served, hosted, sold tickets, cleaned up, and to those who brought delicious desserts and donated in any way. \$2100.00 will be shared with the Mayville Food Pantry, LCMS Hurricane Fund and St. John's Childcare/Youth Center! Thank you for your support! Thank YOU to all who bought tickets and enjoyed the chili and desserts.

LWML MEETING NIGHT ~ the 2nd THURSDAYS of the month at 6:00pm! (all women invited to attend)

BOXED CHRISTMAS and Greeting Cards...\$5.00 in the church office. Buy 10 cards from either rack in office or fellowship hall and get 2 FREE...

RADA CUTLERY ~ available for purchase, (located in the Fellowship Hall) Made in the USA! Great gift ideas, for Showers, Birthdays, Christmas, EVERY DAY use! *Available through the Church Office or the Dorcas Society. (Sportsmen knives are also available!) GREAT ANYTIME GIFTS, including Shower gifts, Bingo prizes...

Birthday Blessings / Anniversary Celebrations

Birthdays are special days. Whether you are celebrating a milestone birthday or a regular good ole' birthday, each of us have been blessed with this special day, the day our Heavenly Father blessed your parents with YOU Why not honor your birthday age, with a gift to the church?

What an awesome statement of your faith, by thanking God through St. John's with a monetary gift.

These moments of celebration, are just that....

CELEBRATION of each person that God has shared with us.



MEET YOUR ELDERS ~
On the wall of the elevator
we have pictures
of our current Elders.
You can now match a name
with a face.
If you have concerns
or questions,
we encourage you to
reach out to an elder.

Gentlemen ~
Is the Lord calling you to help in the Elder ministry?
Please contact one of the Pastors, or one of the elders for more information.
Elders Needed!

Bingo Fun-December 17

At 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall - All WELCOME! A food pantry item is appreciated. Come for fun, fellowship & prizes!

Please include in your phone / or some place that you are able to find the following numbers in case of an emergency:

St. John's Church: 920-387-3568
Pastor Mark Cutler 406-212-7374
pastor.cutler@stjohnsmayville.com

Pastor Joshua Frazee 920-583-0030 pastorjoshfrazee@gmail.com

If you have changed your address or have gone from a land line to a



cell phone please let the church office know by either calling the church office at 387-3568, filling out the back of the communion card OR mailing a note to help keep our records up to date.

Parents—if your child is no longer living with you, please let the church office know so that updates to our computer system is kept up to date.

WHERE MIGHT YOU BE ABLE TO HELP?

St. John's Quilters are looking for someone to cut squares for the quilts...(this project can be done in the convenience of your own home!) Contact the office 920-387-3568 for more info.

Our Ushering Teams are in need of members, contact the church office to be placed on one of the teams needing help. (920-387-3568].

St. John's Altar Guild is looking for a few members to be added to some of the teams... (this is a rotating basis, so approximately every 9 months the team you are added to will assist with preparing the communion ware for worship)... contact Bev Christian 920-517-5004

St. John's LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) or formerly known and still known as Dorcas is looking for faith based – mission minded women, also helpers for funerals...contact the church office for more information.

We continue to look for volunteers to assist with video taping and power point, contact Pastor Frazee in the church office.

YOU are a valuable member of our church family, and YOU are needed...just contact us, we will find the right place for YOU!

Meals on Wheels and AbleLight (Bethesda) are also looking for volunteers... YOU, Your time and servant's heart are blessing to many...

But the righteous gives and does not hold back. Proverbs 21:26b

MERRY BASKET delivery ~

Baskets will be delivered on TUESDAY December 17th.

We need your support for our Merry Basket Project! The preparing, packaging, and delivery of the Merry Baskets is a long time Christmas tradition at St. John's School! All students are involved in the preparation of items to be packaged into the Merry Baskets for the 7th and 8th grades to deliver.

This special gift to seasoned members of our church family can't happen without you! Please help us gather supplies to make this project possible. Delivery lists are being finalized and tallied, cookie dough ordered, and we are currently asking for donations to fill the baskets. Items needed include boxes of cereal (Rice, Wheat, or Corn Chex, and Cheerios), pretzels, garlic chips, mini bread sticks, nuts, butter, Lawry's seasoning salt, Worcestershire sauce and garlic salt. Any of these items would be much appreciated and can be dropped off at the church or school office NOW!

Donations of fruit (apples, oranges, bananas, grapefruit...), fruit cups, applesauce cups and hard candy can be brought in on Monday-Thursday, Dec 4-8. We will gladly accept any monetary donations to offset any costs or for supplies that we need to pick up. DELIVERY DATE Tuesday December 17th!

2025 Offering Envelopes will be available in December Please pick up ALL that pertain to your family. IF you have not been issued offering envelopes and would like to receive some, please be sure to contact the church office: (920) 387-3568.



Please THROW OUT your 2024 envelopes in January ... offering envelope numbers may change from year to year.



Offerings will be credited to the number on the envelope. INCLUDED in your 2025 Offering Envelopes is a **green bordered** envelope that includes an **Investing in Children* line for memorials and donations.

IF YOU USE THIS ENVELOPE AS A PLEDGE ENVELOPE PLEASE CLEARLY MARK <u>PLEDGE</u> on it, or contact the office for extra envelopes from last year.

ENVELOPES WILL BE READY TO PICK UP the first week or so in December ... Located in the Fellowship Hall.

ACH participant's, you still have offering envelopes! Please use them for MEMORIALS, CELEBRATION gifting, and for the Capital Campaign giving.



Ordered poinsettia plants may be picked up following the Christmas Day service. *Reminder that the church office is NOT open Thursday, December 26th, 2024.... keep this in mind for your office needs, SCRIP and Poinsettia pick up.

Advent Midweek Services: "The Nature of Christ"

Wed. December 4 1:00 & 6:30pm "Jesus as True Man" (Hebrews 4:15)

Wed. December 11 1:00 & 6:30pm 'SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM" in school gym

Wed. December 18 1:00 & 6:30pm "Jesus as True God" (Philippians 2:9-11)

St. John's School will present:

'Christmas Jubilee'

Presented on Wednesday, December 11 at 1:00 & 6:30pm and on Saturday, December 14 at 5:30pm

christmas eve

Family & Children's Christmas Eve Service (School Gym) 5:00pm [No Communion]



Christmas Eve Communion
Worship Service
*New added time- 3:00pm
and 7:00pm

"Good News of Great Joy"

Luke 2:10

December 15, 10:30am Communion Service Bible Believers "Fear Not"



Candlelight Vigil Communion
Service Christmas Eve
December 24
11:00pm
"The Word Became Flesh" John 1:14

Christmas Lessons & Carols

Christmas Day Festival of Lessons & Carols Communion Worship December 25th, 9:00am Dec. 29 Sunday Morning Communion Worship 8:15am ONLY



New Year's Eve Communion Service 4:30pm

SCRIP Fest Giveaway Nov. 4-Dec. 8 added 'in stock', plus expanded \$10 gift card options.

Fadango \$25 Marcus Theaters \$25 Ulta Beauty \$25 Home Depot \$25 Buffalo Wild Wings \$10, \$25 Taco Bell \$5, \$10 Hardees \$10 Old Navy/Gap \$25 Dunkin Donuts \$10 Cousins \$10 (NEW) Tractor Supply \$25 VISA Pre-paid \$25/\$50 Jug's Hitching Post \$25 The 'Meating' Place / Mayville Golf Club \$25, \$50 Ross (dress for less) \$25 Marshall's/TJ Maxx \$25 AND MORE!

10 WINNERS will be chosen for Scrip Prizes! Each \$500+ order placed will be

entered for an EXTRA ENTRY into our giveaway! Scrip winners will be randomly chosen from qualifiers by coordinator and awarded pre-selected \$25-\$100 Scrip Packages at end of promotion!

FUNDRAISING WHILE YOU SHOP! Available in the church office, on the RaiseRight App or contact Kathy! Help raise an extra \$7,500 this season! SUPPORT THE CHURCH, THE SCHOOL, YOUR TUITION... All rebates will be applied according to your current scrip agreement. TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO SHOP AND GIFT WITH SCRIP THIS CHRISTMAS and ALL YEAR!

St. John's **SCRIP** program is alive and doing well.

Please make sure you are utilizing SCRIP for your everyday shopping needs, including for groceries, prescriptions, gasoline for your vehicle improvement projects, clothing, fast food, etc...

USE SCRIP FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS!

Support St. John's Church (a tax deduction), support your student with aution credit or receive cash back. Inquire in the church office for more information, or call Kathy Dobbratz 920-382-2816. Our scrip program is operated by volunteers to support the mission of St. John's Church, School and Childcare and we encourage all purchasers to designate a portion of their rebates to church as a donation.

YOU decide how your rebates are distributed: *church donation, school tuition or cash back.* [This is found on our *PINK* SCRIP 'rebate' sheet; once you have filled out the pink sheet it will be directed to your wishes until you update it, (with the exception that if helping a school family with tuition, and they are no longer in our school, have moved etc...)]. Changes to your scrip rebate sheet is for future purchases, we do not apply changes to previous purchases.

Currently we have over 40 in-stock retailers for your convenience, gas, clothing, pharmaceutical needs, building projects, grocery stores, fast food, from hobbies to 'hubbies' (Fleet Farm, Cabella's, Menard's etc). You can even plan your vacation needs through Scrip! Great for budgets, for gift giving, for EVERY DAY NEEDS!

Several options are available for your needs online at www.RaiseRight.com or with a free APP for your phone or tablets called RaiseRight. LOG IN with your current ShopWithScrip account username and password. Or SIGN UP at www.RaiseRight.com. Contact the office or Kathy Dobbratz for our enrollment code. SHOP E-cards and reload brands you can use right from your phone and pay through the app.

- 1. You can order online or in the app and pay with your bank account (.15 per order) or credit card (2.6%). Call/email/text Kathy for support 920-382-2816 jackdobbratz@sbcglobal.net.
- 2. There are a lot of e-cards and reload options available. If you order a Raise Right Kwik Trip Card these are reloadable.
- 3. You can also place an order for physical scrip in this way to reduce check handling by the office or our scrip workers. Give us a day or two to fill your online physical scrip card order. We will call/text/email you to let you know your order is ready and arrange

Families can direct their rebates toward the general fund at church as a donation, the tuition of a specific family, cash back or a combination of these. Want more information? Contact the church or school offices or Kathy Dobbratz to see how you can become involved in this gift card fundraising program.

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SCRIP REBATES 2024~

*January 2024-Tuition Reimbursement is \$773.22 St. John's - \$724.85

*February 2024-Tuition Reimbursement is \$848.59 St. John's - \$575.41

*March 2024-Tuition Reimbursement is \$863.27 St. John's - \$863.49

*April 2024-Tuition Reimbursement is \$896.77 St. John's – 881.17

*May 2024-Tuition Reimbursement is \$649.25 St. John's ~ \$724.67

*June 2024-Tuition Reimbursement is \$861.68 St. John's ~ \$845.79

*July 2024-Tuition Reimbursement is \$836.07

St. John's ~ \$783.27

*August 2024-Tuition Reimbursement is \$1009.81 St. John's ~\$838.11

*September 2024 – Tuiton Reimbursement is \$1066.89 St. John's ~ \$767.54

*October 2024 – Tuition Reimbursement is \$824.51 St. Johns ~ \$855.43

SCRIP PURCHASERS – did you know that 'St. John's' Reimbursement really adds up?

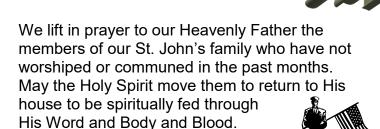
Do you realize that we truly appreciate ALL THOSE FAMILIES that continue to utilize the SCRIP PROGRAM especially after their child is out of St. John's School because this is an ON-GOING fundraiser to benefit the church, and for those who use it for their child's or to help another student's tuition?

Haven't tried SCRIP yet? It is very simple... do you go to Piggly Wiggly, Walmart, Meiers, Roundy's Pick n' Save, Target? Do you get gas at BP, Kwik Trip, Shell; do you have Home Improvement projects or generally need tools or products? We have Menards, Fleet Farm, Mayville ACE Hardware? Do you occasionally dine out or need a quick drive thru? We have McDonalds, Arby's, Hardees, Culvers, Taco Bell, Applebees, Jugs? Are you an AMAZON shopper? WE HAVE SO MANY SCRIP options (too many to list) for you to use in your everyday life. Stop in the church office; we can explain it to you...

*taking a vacation to Disney? We can help with that too! Special ordered Scrip can be in by the next week - simply fill out sheet/pay for it/ order will be in the next week! You fill out the order sheet with what you need, write a check or cash, we give you the cards you ordered and you use the cards like you would cash/check in the stores.

OUR Homebound:

LaVern Gubin, Darlene Franke, Marie Pusateri,





Giving, Loving & Living

Are you or a loved one facing a difficult time: an illness, a death, loss of a job, or some other challenge in your life that is overwhelming?

Please call the church office at 387-3568 and make an appointment with Pastor Cutler or Pastor Frazee for them to offer encouragement, help with guidance and share in prayer.

We pray for our St. John's family's members and all those who are serving our country in the military:

Timothy Behnke (Army), Andrew Behnke (Coast Guard),

Jessica Sullivan (Air Force National Guard)

and others who are in any branch of service.

We thank God for these men and women who willingly serve our Country.

We pray for strength and healing for those undergoing medical testing, procedures, treatments, those hospitalized, those recovering, and those with on-going health conditions

WE Pray

We welcome into our church family through the waters of Holy Baptism:



Those called HOME
We remember in our prayers the family and friends
of

OUR MEMBERS LIVING IN OR RECOVERING AT NURSING OR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES:

Clearview – [198 County D F, Juneau] ~ Karen Liebenow, Sig Semrau (A109)

Crossroads Fond du lac- [115 E. Arndt St. Fond du lac WI 54935] ~ Jeanette Gruenewaldt (221)

Hope Assisted Living – [475 Grove St., Lomira] ~ Phyllis Ewert (201), Elinor Zahn (105), Jerry Barker (112)

Prairie Ridge, [1175 Breckenridge St. Mayville] ~ Joyce Wucherer (25), Phyllis Mueller (6), Margareta Toepfer (17),

New Perspective – [2130 Continental Dr. West Bend] Betty Christian (139)

MAILINGS for Dale Rindfleisch - [Dale c/o David Rindfleisch N53W35240 Lighthouse Ln. Oconomowoc, WI 53066]
TO VISIT DALE – Riverside Lodge 420 N Main. St. #122 Dousman WI 53118

Patriot Place – 609 Broadway St. #40, Berlin, WI 54923 ~ Eunice Okon [mailings should go to W4318 Chappa Rd. Berlin WI]

Prairie Ridge Chapel Service Dec. 9 10:00am

Prairie Ridge Communion Service Dec. 23 10:00am

St. John's Membership 829 Communicant Members 715

<u>December</u> ~ 'Baby, it's cold outside!" *Baby Products, food, diapers, wipes, formula, cereals...*

Please note <u>ALL food items</u> are needed and appreciated through-out the year, the focus for the 'monthly' specialties are to aid the Mayville Food Pantry in helping to stock their shelves for those in need.

ALL DONATIONS are appreciated through-out the year.

Ladies ~ Feminine Hygiene Products are appreciated.

Another help to the FOOD PANTRY: Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Gloves, Socks also collected.

HERE ARE VERY IMPORTANT "OTHER" ITEMS NEEDED FOR FOOD PANTY, so please keep these also in mind:

MILK & BUTTER (there are lots of donations of Mac & Cheese, but milk and butter are also needed).

BOXED MILK (lots of donations of cereals, boxed milk is a treasure)

CANNED FOODS, should be popped topped or donate can openers for the other canned items.

OIL is a luxury SPICES, SALT & PEPPER are a real gift TEA BAGS & COFFEE are caring gifts SUGAR & FLOUR are treats TUNA & CRACKERS is a great lunch

Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without GROUND BEEF.

SANDWICH BREAD, (they get a lot of peanut butter & jelly but need something to put it on)

BUTTER and MARGERINE EGGS are a commodity!

CAKE MIX & FROSTING makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.

DISHWASHING DETERGENT is very expensive and always appreciated

FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS are a luxury STOVE TOP STOVING is always a favorite.

CASH makes it possible for the Food Bank to buy what's missing and buy in bulk.

Childcare / Youth Ministry Center Fund! Please consider this in giving memorials or 'thanksgiving' gifting. Reminder in your offering envelope box are 'Investing In Children' envelopes; please feel free to use them when donating to the Childcare/Youth Center. Please circle whether it is a Pledge, Offering or in Memoriam, include your offering number, name and amount. Running out of those special envelopes? We have many more in the office, please ask for some.





ELECTRONIC GIVING (ACH) ~ ACH is a great way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers individual congregation members convenience and affords much needed offering consistency for our congregation. Please contact the church office for more information OR to sign up. Contributions can be taken out the first of the month or the fifteenth or BOTH.

No offering envelopes to remember! St. John's Ministry benefits tremendously from continued support, while you are away on vacation, or unable to attend worship. *Reminder ANY Changes to the ACH, must go through the church office for computing.

Shoes for Belize



St. John's collects shoes: and a 'shoe' box is located in the Fellowship Hall.

We appreciate your donations, please only drop off gently used / clean shoes sandals and footware.







Dear St. Johns Families, I am writing to inform you that we are looking to add a few people to the school board. We believe that fresh perspectives and diverse experiences will help us better serve the school and its community. If you or someone you know is interested in contributing to the growth and development of St. Johns School, we encourage you to nominate yourself or nominate qualified individuals who are passionate about education and the well-being of our students. As a member of the school community, your input and participation are highly valued. We believe that a collaborative effort will lead to positive change and continued success for our students and staff. If you are interested or know someone who would be a great addition to the board, please submit your nominations to Zach Wenninger

at schoolboard@stjohnsmayville.com. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to St. Johns School. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our students. Sincerely, Zach Wenninger, School Board Chairman

Informational 'periodical' email ~ to be informed on events and activities and / or important information, please make sure the church office has your email address; if you want to receive school updates please also add that to an email to

barb.haessly@stjohnsmayville.com or write it on the back of a communion card.

This is extremely helpful for 'closings', 'voter's meeting reminders', and other 'need to get out quick' information.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION? We are always looking for your picture, cell phone, land line, marital status, address, email, etc. to keep us current. For changes or updates please email Barb in the office at Barb.Haessly@stjohnsmayville.com, or write the information on the back of a communion card and give to the usher.

"YouCan" make a difference! Please consider donating new or gently used pairs of shoes for Belize.

The shoes will be distributed at schools and in villages in Belize by a mission team from this area who is partnering with local leaders there. Belize is a small.

developing country in Central America where shoes are very expensive and often a challenge to get. Any sturdy casual footwear appropriate for a tropical climate is accepted and would be greatly appreciated. Tennis shoes and flip-flops for males (Toddler 12 - Men's Size 9) and females (Toddler 10 - Women's Size 7) are especially needed. As you're considering your donation, please understand it costs almost \$3 per pair to ship. Shoes should be in good enough condition to make that investment worthwhile. If possible, please rubber band or tie shoelaces together. New, never been worn socks, and/or monetary donations to help cover shipping expenses are also welcome and encouraged for this effort. Please email info@youcanmissions.org for more information. Be a part of this mission and spread the word!

Through the Bible in a Year – Chronological Order

October	November	December
1 ~ Esther 4-7	1 ~ Luke 14-17	1 ~ Romans 5-8
2 ~ Esther 8-10	2 ~ Luke 18-21	2 ~ Romans 9-11
3 ~ Ezra 1-4	3 ~ Luke 22-24	3 ~ Romans 12-16
4 ~ Haggai 1-2, Zechariah 1-2	4 ~ John 1-3	4 ~ Acts 20:3-22
5 ~ Zechariah 3-6	5 ~ John 4-6	5 ~ Acts 23-25
6 ~ Zechariah 7-10	6 ~ John 7-10	6 ~ Acts 26-28
7 ~ Zechariah 11-14	7 ~ John 11-13	7 ~ Ephesians 1-3
8 ~ Ezra 5-7	8 ~ John 14-17	8 ~ Ephesians 4-6
9 ~ Ezra 8-10	9 ~ John 18-21	9 ~ Philippians 1-4
10 ~ Nehemiah 1-3	10 ~ Acts 1-2	10 ~ Colossians 1-4
11 ~ Nehemiah 4-6	11 ~ Acts 3-5	11 ~ Hebrews 1-4
12 ~ Nehemiah 7-9	12 ~ Acts 6-9	12 ~ Hebrews 5-7
13 ~ Nehemiah 10-13	13 ~ Acts 10-12	13 ~ Hebrews 8-10
14 ~ Malachi 1-4	14 ~ Acts 13-14	14 ~ Hebrews 11-13
15 ~ Matthew 1-4	15 ~ James 1-2	15 ~ Philemon, 1 Peter 1-2
16 ~ Matthew 5-7	16 ~ James 3-5	16 ~ 1 Peter 3-5
17 ~ Matthew 8-11	17 ~ Galatians 1-3	17 ~ 2 Peter 1-3
18 ~ Matthew 12-15	18 ~ Galatians 4-6	18 ~ 1 Timothy 1-3
19 ~ Matthew 16-19	19 ~ Acts 15-18:11	19 ~ 1 Timothy 4-6
20 ~ Matthew 20-22	20 ~ 1 Thessalonians 1-5	20 ~ Titus 1-3
21 ~ Matthew 23-25	21 ~ 2 Thessalonians 1-3, Acts 18:12-19:10	21 ~ 2 Timothy 1-4
22 ~ Matthew 26-28	22 ~ 1 Corinthians 1-4	22 ~ 1 John 1-2
23 ~ Mark 1-3	23 ~ 1 Corinthians 5-8	23 ~ 1 John 3-5
24 ~ Mark 4-6	24 ~ 1 Corinthians 9-12	24 ~ 2 John, 3 John, Jude
25 ~ Mark 7-10	25 ~ 1 Corinthians 13-16	25 ~ Revelation 1-3
26 ~ Mark 11-13	26 ~ Acts 19:11-20:1, 2 Corinthians 1-3	26 ~ Revelation 4-6
27 ~ Mark 14-16	27 ~ 2 Corinthians 4-6	27 ~ Revelation 7-9
28 ~ Luke 1-3	28 ~ 2 Corinthians 7-9	28 ~ Revelation 10-12
29 ~ Luke 4-6	29 ~ 2 Corinthians 10-13	29 ~ Revelation 13-15
30 ~ Luke 7-9	30 ~ Acts 20:2, Romans 1-4	30 ~ Revelation 16-18
31 ~ Luke 10-13		31 ~ Revelation 19-22

"It's a WONDERFUL LIFE" Main Street Mayville Mayville Christmas Parade Sat. Dec. 7 at 5:00pm Down Town, Mayville CHECK OUT ALL THE FESTIVITIES and EVENTS in Mayville on Dec. 7th!



The Christmas Bus – Dec. 7, 6:00pm

The Christmas Bus will be traveling through the Mayville community on December 7th, after the Christmas parade, viewing the beautiful lights on the houses. It will take off from the Northeast corner of the Limestone Museum (Intersection of North Main street and Buchannan St.) This is a totally free ride and will start at 6:00 p.m.

You do need to sign up by calling 920-387-3568 and ask for Barb or by emailing to barb.haessly@stjohnsmayille.com.

Please reserve your space by Thursday, December 1st, by 4:00 p.m.

Drop-ins will be allowed to ride, only if there is room.

This will be approximately a thirty minute ride. If there is a great demand, we will have a later ride(s). Thanks to the Mayville School District, and St. John's Lutheran Church for sponsoring the ride. Christmas music and light refreshments may be served. Pastor Mark Cutler will be driving. Merry Christmas!

St. John's Adopt a Bill Program ~ OVER \$ 228,282.51



Adopt a bill to date (since Nov. 2004) What IS St. John's Adopt a bill program? And how does it work? In the Narthex on the wall, we have our 'Adopt-a-bill' Program with the graphics of Noah's ark, and helping "St. John's 'keep a'float". On the wall are miscellaneous bills that can be 'adopted' by those who would like to help out with some of our bills not necessarily covered by our 'ministry financial plan'. Most (if not all) of the bills to be 'adopted' are less than \$100. There are 'adopt-a-bill' envelopes to put your name, envelope number and selected bill and payment into. [bills 'adopted' will then be credited to your offering statement under 'adopt-a-bill]. Checks should be made out to St. John's Church [not to the recipient on the bill]; cash is also welcomed.

Our 'adopt-a-bill' program was started in 2004 and since then we have over \$228,000.00 of donations credited to miscellaneous bills.

January 2024 ~ \$393.15 February 2024 ~ \$1,170.79 March 2024 ~ \$429.95 April 2024 ~ \$238.06 May 2024 ~ \$532.24 June 2024 ~ \$231.11 July 2024 ~ \$408.68 August 2024 ~ \$382.75 Sept. 2024~ \$1,291.99 October 2024 ~ \$847.43

FAMILIES with school aged children ~ Please make sure the church office has YOUR CHILD'S information, including SCHOOL, GRADE ETC...

This helps up keep current with ministry activities such as 3rd Grade Bibles, Confirmation Classes etc...

Community Giving Tree

November 13-Dec 5

St John's has once again been given the opportunity to help those in the community who are less fortunate. In November a tree will be placed in the church office with the age of a child/adult, boy/girl, man/woman, and some wanted items they



have requested for Christmas. If you are interested in making someone's Christmas a little brighter by purchasing some gifts, we ask that you check out the Community Giving Tree, select a card (or more) and purchase all or some of the suggested items. Please bring the <u>unwrapped gifts</u> back to the church office, in bags or boxes with the tags SECURELY attached to the unwrapped gifts. Packages may be dropped off at St. Mary's School or Church or returned HERE. Your gifts will be taken to St. Mary's. ALL gifts must be dropped off <u>no later than</u>, (Tentative) Thursday, Dec. 5 *Donations of Wrapping paper, Gift Bags & Boxes are appreciated. No time to shop? Purchase Piggly Wiggly Scrip cards. They will be distributed to families involved.

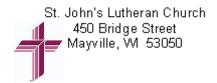
Give the Gift of Giving!

Friday, DECEMBER 6 - 6:00pm

JOIN US FOR OUR 25th ANNUAL COOKIE

EXCHANGE.... Bring 4 Dozen of one kind of your favorite cookie and get a 4 dozen VARIETY in return.

All cookies must be in the church kitchen by 6:00pm!



December Memory Verse:
"Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation."

Zechariah 9:9b





Phone: 920-387-3568 Fax: 920-387-2852 www.stjohnsmayville.com

"Reaching, Teaching, and Sharing the Gospel"

St. John's Lutheran



Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 7:00am— 4:00pm; FRIDAY 7:00-11:00 am [to avoid any inconvenience and to better serve you call ahead 387-3568 [If you need assistance, after posted hours please call 387-3568 so arrangements can be made]

The Church Office will be Open on FRIDAYS from 7:00am-11:00am, NO SCRIP will be available Fridays in November The Church OFFICE will be CLOSED Thursday, Dec. 26th and Friday, Dec. 27!