

St. John's Lutheran Church  
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Pastor Jacob Tuma \*\* Email: [PastorTuma@stjohnspierce.org](mailto:PastorTuma@stjohnspierce.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship @ 9:00 AM \*\*Bible Study--Youth/Adult 10:15 AM**

**Sunday School 10:15 AM \*\*Adult Bible Study 2:00 PM**

Newsletter – Issue 14 – January 2021

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## ***From the Pastor...***

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Dear St. John's Family,

If you are reading these words, congratulations! You have made it (or you are a few days away from making it) to the year 2021.

Last year will likely not be fading from our memories anytime too soon. But as these memories cement their way into our mind and we look back at 2020 as a moment of the past, let us look to God's Word, Psalm 103:1-2.

**“Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And all that is within me,  
Bless his holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
And forget not all his benefits.”**

These words from Psalm 103 may prove to be a theme for us in this next year. In fact, they have already come up a few times as I and others have been preparing for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They certainly complement our anniversary's theme verse that we will come to know from Ephesians 1:3:

**“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.”**

The Lord has indeed blessed us with His endless benefits in our Lord Jesus Christ. The Christian faith that our ancestors passed on to us is still alive in the people of St. John's today. Jesus continues to bless us with His life-giving Word and Sacraments. He carried us through 2020!

Which brings up the question: how are we going to remember 2020? People are going to ask us or at least talk to us about it in the future. (I personally look forward to telling my daughter, Lydia, about the year in which she was born.) Will 2020 merely be a story about how hard life was? Or will it be a story of God's faithfulness: His working in our lives despite the circumstances and many times *through the circumstances*? Will we share a story in which we remember God's benefits to us? Will it be a story that says, **“Bless the Lord, O my soul,”** and blesses those who hear?

May the Lord guide us as we remember the past and follow Him into the future this year. May we bless His holy name. Happy New Year!

In Christ,

Pastor Tuma



## YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 3-5:15 pm

Come join us as we will be making homemade pizza and talking about attending the Higher Things Conference this summer, with the theme being “Forgiven”. All ages confirmed and up are invited to attend.

**Youth parents** are encouraged to join us at 5pm, eat pizza and discuss this conference and all the details.

It should be a delicious (and enlightening) time.

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News

Each month, right up until our 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, we will be having an “Anniversary Sunday”. Those Sundays will have special things planned, and some with special speakers. We hope you will start the celebration with us as God has blessed our congregation so much in the past 149+ years. First one is Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.



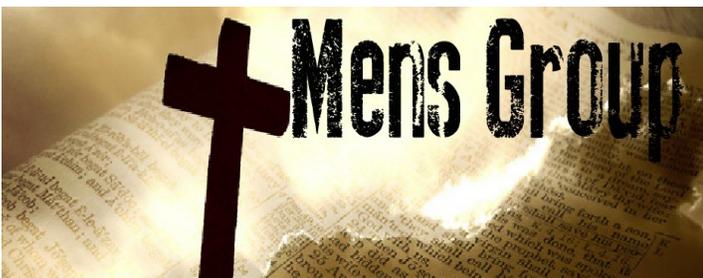
The 150<sup>th</sup> Committee is also selling 20 oz Tumblers.

If you haven't gotten one yet, contact Deb Zautke or the church office. Cost is \$25 with all proceeds going to help offset costs for our 2 day Celebration in September 4-5, 2021.

The next Anniversary planning meeting will be held on January 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings and be part of the planning celebration!

**Portals of Prayer** – Pick up your January-March Portals of Prayer booklets at the back of the sanctuary.



**Men's Group Breakfast Meeting**  
Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 am

**All men welcome!**

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## 2021 SPECIAL FLOWERS



This year we are going to try something a little different. As we have really enjoyed all the beautiful flowers that grace our sanctuary and altar, and we hope that continues, we are asking that if you would like to bring flowers to church for any special occasion, that you contact the church office and get on the schedule. We won't be having an actual sign-up sheet at the church this year, but we hope you will still share those special moments and memories with us.



### ONLINE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – IN JANUARY

With remarkable landscapes from islands, mountains, a plateau, densely populated cities, and more, **Gospel Adventures: Thailand Trek** is sure to be a journey to remember! Kids will be introduced to kids just like them living in Thailand who carry their faith with them through day-to-day life. Teach your kids about the foods, animals, people and places of Thailand with Gospel Adventures.

Interactive Printable Curriculum \* Videos to Explore \* Devotions for Older Children  
Register for FREE at [www.GOSPELADVENTURES.ORG](http://www.GOSPELADVENTURES.ORG) or talk to Pastor Tuma for more information.

## NATIVITY

If you did not get a chance to see our new Nativity Scene for the church, here it is! This Nativity was purchased in memory of Gerhardt & Iralane Carstens by their family. A HUGE THANK you to the Carstens family!



## LIVE NATIVITY NEWS....

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual LIVE Nativity was another wonderful event! We had 651 cars go through our 2-day event. Our Committee would like to thank EVERYONE who donated time, talents and treasure to get the word out about Jesus' birth. Due to an abundance of financial blessings we were able to send \$500 to Rev. Dr. Gerald & Heidi Paul – LCMS Missionaries in the Cayman Islands. Please keep them in your prayers as they share the Gospel.





Reminder:  
ALL various Committee reports  
are due to the Office  
by January 15<sup>th</sup>. You can email them or drop  
them off at the office.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

is on break for the holidays.

No Sunday School on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Hope to see you all in church!*

## 2021 CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Jeff Kesting  
Vice President: Ty Zellmer  
Secretary: Jill McElhose  
Treasurer: Eric Kuehler  
Financial Secretary: Deb Zautke  
Incoming Elder: Nick Koehler  
Incoming Trustee: Larry Kesting

*Thank you all for your Service!*

## THANK YOU

...Members of St. John's for your kind words and prayers when  
my son in law, Fred Kern, was called to his eternal home.  
I appreciated your prayers and concerns during my COVID  
experience.

May you all be blessed as you have blessed me.

Carolyn Wenke



## CONGRATULATIONS to...

*Jeff DeJong and Ariel Doyle  
who were married in Omaha  
October 23, 2020.*

We pray God's blessings over your marriage.



### MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1: Virginia Koehler
- 1/3: Peg Carstens
- 1/4: Brian Zautke
- 1/7: Theresa Asmus
- 1/8: Meagan Fehringer
- 1/10: Marjorie Koehler
- 1/11: Audra Koehler
- 1/12: Carolyn Wenke
- 1/14: Mark Herbolsheimer
- 1/15: Heidi Waterman
- 1/17: Doug Marks
- 1/18: Beverly Buss
- 1/20: Wanda Riggert
- 1/21: Kent Luebe
- 1/23: Dave Asmus
- 1/26: Jasper Luebe
- 1/29: Dennis Koepke



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1/2: Rick & Bonnie Pospisil

### January's Church Servants Elder: Jeff Schulz

#### Acolytes:

- 1/3 – Kyle Kuehler
- 1/10 – Natasha Zamora
- 1/17 – Alexis Asmus
- 1/24 – Isabelle Kuehler

Communion is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sundays of each month.

***Don't forget to call the church office if  
you have switched with someone.***

## LUTHERAN HOUR

Would you like to sponsor the Lutheran Hour on WJAG during 2021?  
Reserve a broadcast date now by contacting Arlan Warneke at 402-329-6686.  
“Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church.”

### COVID Reminder

Due to the Covid Virus, if you are uncomfortable joining us in church for Sunday worship, you can still worship with us outside in your car on our radio station 88.9 fm. You must be at the church to hear this station. Bulletins will be provided at your car!

If you wish to wear a mask inside the church, you are encouraged to do so.  
Social distancing is still being recommended at this time.  
Don't miss out on God's word!

You can LIKE us on Facebook:

St. John's Lutheran Church Pierce Nebraska



Video Sermons are being posted each week!

***ALL Church Members – please join the Facebook group  
“St John's Member Information”  
as this is the best way to stay up to date on any schedule changes and  
help fellow members out with questions.***

February Newsletter items due to the office by  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> please.

Thank you to everyone who helps keep our  
newsletter active. You are all a blessing!

# KIDS CORNER



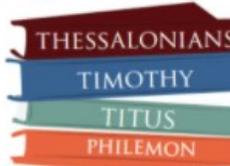
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This year, I thank God for:

## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH

### NEW TESTAMENT



U R J O H N S P H I L E M O N  
 C E A C T S T C J U D E S E M  
 K V K A F C H R O M A N S P A  
 N E W V I S E A M E S B C H T  
 P L C S H P S D M C M A O E T  
 E A C O L O S S I A N S R S H  
 T T H G A L A T I A N S I I E  
 E I E I W R L M D T H K N A W  
 R O B T T Y O A Q I Y P T N S  
 H N R A I F N J A M E S H S F  
 W T E L T L I S M O O Y I J C  
 K T W A U U A T A T Y N A O G  
 V O S G S K N S R H U S N H W  
 T U T K M E S D K Y X W S N T  
 B S P H I L I P P I A N S J M



Matthew  
 Mark  
 Luke  
 John  
 Acts  
 Romans  
 Corinthians

Galatians  
 Ephesians  
 Philippians  
 Colossians  
 Thessalonians  
 Timothy  
 Titus  
 Philemon  
 Hebrews  
 James  
 Peter

Johns  
 Jude  
 Revelation



How many books are in the Bible?

- 100
- 200
- 50
- 66



What is a Psalm?

- A Poem
- A Song
- A Children's Story
- A Band Name

