

ST JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
GILLETT  
WISCONSIN

SERVING GOD, HIS CHURCH

*His People*

...AROUND THE CLOCK

*The Clock Church*

# Messenger

*Informing, Developing, and Preparing Disciples of the Faith*

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
(THE CLOCK CHURCH)



SHROVE TUESDAY  
PANCAKE SUPPER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 | 6 - 7:30 PM

THIS IS A FREE MEAL FOR EVERYONE,  
BUT DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED



February 2024

## *From the Pastor*

Welcome to February! Not often does Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday coincide, and many probably don't connect the imposition of ashes on their forehead and a reminder of their mortality as a highly romantic gesture. As followers of Christ, it points us to the most audacious act of love we could ever imagine. The greatest Valentine one could ever give or receive. As we hear the words recited, "From dust, you came to dust, you shall return," we are reminded of how God created us in His own image, but also the reality of the cost of the Fall. It is a reminder of the sin that is now born within us, which needs redemption. We all are destined to die, but in Christ, our death is not eternal. We will not die separated from the glory of God because of what was done for us on the Cross.

Some people find it difficult to focus on sin and our need for redemption, but, for me, it is a grand reminder of just how much has been given to me. It is a reminder of the great love that God has for me, even when I know I have messed up and not done what was right in His eyes. I am reminded that even though I do not measure up, God covers my iniquities and makes me whole. This is the truth for all who believe and trust in Him.

Though it may not be tied to the modern imagery of little cherubs with arrows and the exchange of lovely letters and notes expressing loving verse and words to those whom our hearts desire, I find the words that Christ spoke on the Cross to be the most lovely, "It is finished." Those words speak to



***"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."***

***Genesis 3:19, ESV***

Ecclesiastes 12:7, "and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it." It is God, the Holy Spirit, who fills us and renews us, and, in the end, those who are His are returned to Him. We are not the ones who choose this, but the One who loves us and has claimed us calls His own to Himself.

We cannot choose love any more than we can choose God. When I speak of love, I speak not of the love that we often call love in the world, which one day is here, and the next day has gone with the passing of emotion and passion. The love of God is an abiding love that enraptures the heart and is unending. With it comes the greatest joy and most pointed of pain. The love of our Lord is a love that sacrificed Himself so that we could be His for eternity. A love that chose those who rejected Him when faced with difficulty. The love that accepted you and me. This is the gift we celebrate. God's love letter and valentine for us all.

To be put on the prayer list in the bulletin or newsletter, or to start the prayer chain, we need the consent of the person in need of prayer. If you know someone who could use prayer, a call, or a visit, please get their consent before letting the office know. Their name will not be put into our publications unless they agree to it. This is the same policy for pastoral calls & visits. **If someone on the list has had prayers answered, please let us know so we can take their name off of the list and give a praise report of the answered prayer!** Thank you.



- |               |                  |                   |                            |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Scott Pankow  | Bob Schindel     | Lenea Carlson     | Travis Rubright            |
| Ruth Schulz   | Carolyn Block    | Cynthia Bourgeois | Briella Peiper             |
| Clair Erb     | Nancy Jaeger     | Barb Wicker       | Jim Dobberphul             |
| Paul Gerhartz | Lorraine Giese   | Becky Kern Erndt  | Joe Doering                |
| Brenda Kadlec | Dorothy McDowell | Felix Vaslazuez   | Jamie Bratz                |
| Bill Pecha    | Lorraine Gentz   | Carrie Williams   | Rick Wollin                |
| Dale Coopman  | Merlin Lintner   | Art Percy         | Lori Skarban<br>Sobiesczyk |

## Ways to Watch/Give

If you can't make it to church but still want to feel like you're there, you can watch the service LIVE each week. We broadcast live on YouTube at 9:30 a.m. and upload the video to Facebook (@clockchurch) to premier later Sunday afternoon. You may also click the "MEDIA" tab at the top of the Church website, [www.clockchurch.org](http://www.clockchurch.org) and there are links to follow.

\* Also, if you click Subscribe on YouTube or Like on Facebook you will get notifications of all live streams or videos posted. If you need help finding anything, please stop in or call the office.

If you'd like to donate to St. John's online, please scan the QR code and it will bring you to our online giving site! Thank you!



SCAN TO DONATE

### Worship Schedule

Sunday:  
8:30am Sunday  
School for all ages!  
  
9:30am Worship  
Service

### Staff

**Pastor**  
Christopher Byars  
  
**Office/Children,  
Youth, and Family  
Ministry Director**  
Rachel Knueppel

### Office Hours

**Monday-Thursday**  
9:00am - 4:00pm  
(Closed for lunch  
12:30 - 1:30pm)  
  
**Friday**  
By Appointment

### Highlights

**Page 4**  
Big changes to the  
Newsletter!  
  
**Page 7**  
2024 Lenten  
Schedule

# Council Minutes *January 17, 2024*

Present: Pastor Chris Byars, Jon Simpson, Bill Block, Jerry Luther, Clara Luther, Marilyn Reichwald  
Guests: Sydnie Patzer, Erik & Rachel Knueppel

- 1) Call to Order 7:00p
- 2) Devotions: Jerry Luther
- 3) Motion to approve agenda by Clara, Marilyn, MSC
- 4) Communications from attendees and correspondence
  - a. Sydnie: flooring update
  - b. CYF Report: Rachel everything going well
  - c. Newsletter: Motion to discontinue the physical/mailed form of the newsletter by Clara, Jon, MSC. Team reports will still be collected, pertinent information will be published in the weekly bulletins, monthly calendar can be made available on the last Sunday of each month, will be looking into an online version of a newsletter.
  - c. Discussed Finance Team Audit
- 5) Motion to approve secretary's report by Clara, Marilyn, MSC
- 6) Motion to approve treasurer's report by Jon, Bill, MSC
  - a. 2024 Budget Review: Motion to change Lenten services by Clara, Bill (still keep Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services, but look into doing a Lenten supper & Bible study instead of regular Wednesday services)
- 7) President's Report
  - a. Read his Annual Meeting Report
- 8) Pastor's Report
  - a. New Program "Becoming" will be discussed at the Annual Meeting
- 9) Team/Organization Items for Council Action
  - a. L.A.C.E.: \$75 for full page advert in Wolf River Homeschool Group play program
  - b. From the Worship Team: After much prayer and consideration the Worship Team recommends that the printing of hymns in the bulletin for services should continue. We understand there is concern for the cost, the numbers we came up with shows that the cost is minimal per service. However, we see that there is far less confusion for new members following along in a bulletin. There were also concerns with the length of standing for all hymns and the ability of our elderly to hold a hymnal for the duration. Also we feel that having the Bibles in the pews is far more important. Respectfully, Worship team
- 10) Old Business
  - a. Annual Meeting Agenda: Jerry will put it together
  - b. Painting walls in education building before new floor: discussion, no motion
- 11) New Business
  - a. Nominating Team Report: Add Ruth Milhans to Council and Austin Wright for Technology Team
- 12) Miscellaneous
  - a. Sunday, February 4: Installation of New Council and Team Members
- 13) Communications from the council: None
- 14) Next meeting Date: February 21, 7:00 p.m.
- 15) Devotions: Jon Simpson
- 16) Motion to adjourn & close with prayer by Marilyn, Clara, MSC



## St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMC)

101 West Main Street - P.O. Box 296

Gillett, WI 54124-0296

Pastor Christopher Byars

Email: [office@clockchurch.org](mailto:office@clockchurch.org)

Office (920) 855-6215

January 18, 2024

At the January council meeting, the newsletter was discussed at length. In the past, there has been discussion about the necessity of sending a physical newsletter, especially when all relevant information is already in the Sunday bulletins.

As per the council's decision, the **March** newsletter will not be mailed, but physical copies will be made available in church on the last Sunday of the month, March 31 (Easter Sunday). Physical copies will still be mailed to our shut ins.

In **April**, team minutes and all reports still need to be submitted, but we will be looking for a version of the newsletter that is completely online. You will still have access to team minutes, Pastor's article, council minutes, worship assistant schedules, and more and we will be sure to make it as user-friendly as possible. All relevant information will be published in the weekly Sunday bulletins. We will also look into creating a small monthly mailing to be sent to our shut ins.

The council's decision is as follows (from the minutes on page 3):

c. Newsletter: Motion to discontinue the physical/mailed form of the newsletter by Clara, Jon, MSC. Team reports will still be collected, pertinent information will be published in the weekly bulletins, monthly calendar can be made available on the last Sunday of each month, will be looking into an online version of a newsletter.

The Messenger newsletter has been an institution here at St. John's for many years and we do not want anything to change regarding our communication in the congregation. We do, however, wish to streamline our process and possibly save money while we're at it. Please bear with us as we make these changes and get it all figured out. If you have any questions, please call the office at (920)855-6215. Thank you!

# Children, Youth & Family Team

January 10 | Time: 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chris & Dawn Byars, Erik & Rachel Knueppel, Sydnie Patzer, Heidi Young, Dan & Sandy Wright

## OLD BUSINESS

Christmas events recap: went well, will plan to do the same things this December.

Prayer Weekend: Pastor Chris gave specifics on how the team can serve that weekend.

## NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting meal: use booyah from the Bazaar, each bring sides and desserts to supplement

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: assigned things to buy and tasks for each member

2024 events: went through last year's events to see what to keep and what to change

Discussion on painting the Fellowship Hall .

Next Meeting: TBA

Submitted by Rachel Knueppel

# Mission Team

January 10 | Time: 9:00 a.m.

Present: Rachel Knueppel, Jerry Luther, Ken Butzin, Mel Reichwald, Wayne & Sheri Wenzel

Old Business: Giving for Lutheran World Relief was \$735

Giving for Tartu House of Hope:\$3,300 TOTAL for 2023! A big thank you to all who gave to these missions.

New Business: February's mission of the month is Care Share Food Pantry. We will be hosting a "Souper" Bowl Sunday event on Sunday, February 11 to help restock the shelves of our Food Pantry. As you come to church on that Sunday, please bring cans of soup—you can drop them off before or after church. Our youth will be collecting the cans in the lower narthex by the elevator door.

Next Meeting: February 14 | Time: 9:00 a.m.

Submitted by: Sheri Wenzel

**February's Items of the Month for the Care Share Food Pantry:**  
granola bars & toilet paper



"Souper"  
Bowl  
Sunday  
February 11, 2024

**GIVING STATEMENTS** for 2023 are available.

Please call or email the office to request your giving statement.

If you would like to change how you receive your giving envelopes for 2025, please contact the office. We usually order our envelopes by March, so you have time to decide. There are multiple ways to give!

- Weekly envelopes: 52 weekly envelopes plus extra envelopes for seasonal giving (Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas)
- Monthly envelopes: 12 monthly envelopes plus extra envelopes for seasonal giving (Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas)
- No envelopes: you will be assigned a number and can give whenever you wish by using pew envelopes or your own envelopes

## ALL-TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m.

This is an important meeting, as it will be the first one with all of our newly elected team members! Please join us!

The Prayer Shawl Group  
is in need of  
Prayer shawls for  
boys ages 2-7 and  
girls 3-7.

If you knit any shawls,  
you can bring them to  
the church at any time!

The Oconto County  
Public Health Department  
is giving out free Emergency  
Preparedness Binders.

They are available in  
the lower narthex by the  
exit doors.  
Please take one for yourself  
or someone who could  
use one!

## LENT AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

Feb. 14	Noon & 7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Services
Feb. 21	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Fellowship Supper & Service in the Fellowship Hall
Feb. 28	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Fellowship Supper & Service in the Fellowship Hall
Mar. 6	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Fellowship Supper & Service in the Fellowship Hall
Mar. 13	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Fellowship Supper & Service in the Fellowship Hall
Mar. 20	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Fellowship Supper & Service in the Fellowship Hall
Mar. 28	Noon & 7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Services
Mar. 29	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service



## **SOUP & SCRIPTURE 2024**

**SPONSORED BY THE GILLETT/SURING AREA  
CLERGY ASSOCIATION**

	12:00 p.m.
	Soup, Sandwiches, Dessert, and Coffee
Feb. 21	St. John's Lutheran (The Clock Church)
Feb. 28	Hillside Assembly of God
Mar. 6	Suring United Methodist Church
Mar. 13	Bethel Lutheran Church
Mar 20	Maple Valley Community Church

## *C Y F Ministry Director Report*

January 2024

### Past events:

- ◆ Sunday School is going well! We're working on making consistency a key with Sunday School families. We're using a rewards system and have a memory verse for every quarter instead of every Sunday to make it easier for kids to hide God's word in their heart. We've also started doing Bible drills to teach the students how to look up verses in the Bible.
- ◆ Confirmation is going well! More students are actively participating in conversation and discussion.
- ◆ The Christmas program went so well and was so appreciated that we've asked Dawn Byars to write one again for next year. It's great to have a program suited to the number and ages of the students we have.

### Events in the planning stage:

- ◆ January is less busy, but we are busy preparing for what's ahead: Lent, Easter, etc.
- ◆ We are planning a prayer weekend event for the youth kids to coincide with the World Day of Prayer
- ◆ We will be hosting the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, February 13.
- ◆ We have started planning the Annual Easter Egg Hunt

### Ideas for the future

- ◆ We have started to discuss the possibility of having mentors for kids earlier than when they start Confirmation.



# Worship Assistant Schedule

<b>February 4</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Read Communion Acolyte	Wayne & Sheri Wenzel, Laura Koenig <b>Heidi Schindel</b> Sheri Wenzel, Heidi Schindel Taylor Anderson
<b>February 11</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Read Acolyte Koin\$ 4 Kid\$	Darrell & Jan Ruege, Bill & Laurel Block <b>Nathaniel Byars</b> Nathaniel Byars Nathaniel & Teddy
<b>February 14</b>	<b>12:00 p.m. (Ash Wednesday)</b>
Usher/Greet Read Communion Acolyte	Jerry & Sharon Luther <b>Doug Yahnke</b> Jerry Luther, Rachel Knueppel Rachel Knueppel
<b>February 14</b>	<b>7:00 p.m. (Ash Wednesday)</b>
Usher/Greet Read Communion Acolyte	Miles & Donna Winkler <b>Amy Myrick</b> Miles Winkler, Amy Myrick Sydney Anderson
<b>February 18</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Read Communion Acolyte	Jerry & Karen Winkler, Vern & Annette Dahlstrom <b>Elaine Hertwig</b> Jerry Winkler, Claire Hertwig Charlotte Byars
<b>February 25</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Read Acolyte	Todd & Micki Carlson <b>Todd Carlson</b> Wyatt Ondik
ALTAR GUILD LEADERS	Darrell & Jan Ruege Jerry Luther
<b>March 3</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Read Communion Acolyte	Jerry & Sharon Luther, Clara Luther Jerry Luther, Claire Hertwig Kiera Konitzer

<b>March 10</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Read Acolyte Koin\$ 4 Kid\$	Al & Pearl Czechan, Sandy and Teddy Wright Doug Yahnke Charlotte Byars Dakota & Charlotte
<b>March 17</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Read Communion Acolyte	Miles & Donna Winkler, Linda Bublitz Elaine Hertwig Miles Winkler, Claire Hertwig Sydney Anderson
<b>March 24</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Read Acolyte	Jane Frederick, John Severson  Dakota Friedman
<b>March 28</b>	<b>12:00 p.m. (Maundy Thurs)</b>
Usher/Greet Read Communion Acolyte	Don & Ramona Genke, Jerry Luther Jerry Luther Jerry Luther, Ramona Genke Rachel Knueppel
<b>March 28</b>	<b>7:00 p.m. (Maundy Thurs)</b>
Usher/Greet Read Communion Acolyte	Jim & Laura Koenig  Laura Koenig Wyatt Ondik
<b>March 29</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Acolyte	Youth Led Teddy Wright
<b>March 31</b>	<b>6:30 a.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Read Communion Acolyte	   Isabella Ondik
<b>March 31</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Usher/Greet Read Communion Acolyte	   Nathaniel Byars
ALTAR GUILD LEADERS	   

# Birthdays & Anniversaries



## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Zachary Young
- 3 Don Lisowe Jr., Samantha Patzer
- 5 Miles Winkler
- 6 Maureen Wollin
- 8 Tina Parsons
- 11 Betty Porath, Gary Lisowe, John Severson
- 12 Conner Stanek
- 13 Edward Patzer
- 14 Steve Wetzel
- 15 Chris Lemirande
- 18 Scott Krueger, Russel Carlson
- 19 Samuel Lemens
- 21 Brianna Delzer
- 22 Theodore Wright
- 24 David DuQuaine
- 26 Janet Petersen
- 28 Austin Magee

## ANNIVERSARIES

Date		Years
8	Bernard & Farran Korth	8
14	Jim & Laura Koenig	39
14	Troy & Michele Sherman	33
21	Jim & Janet Petersen	48
28	Kyle & Kelly Frederick	15

**Altar Flowers** for the month of January are being provided by Jim & Laura Koenig and the Porath Family.

March slots are still open and there are plenty of other slots still available for Flower Chart—stop in the office to sign up!

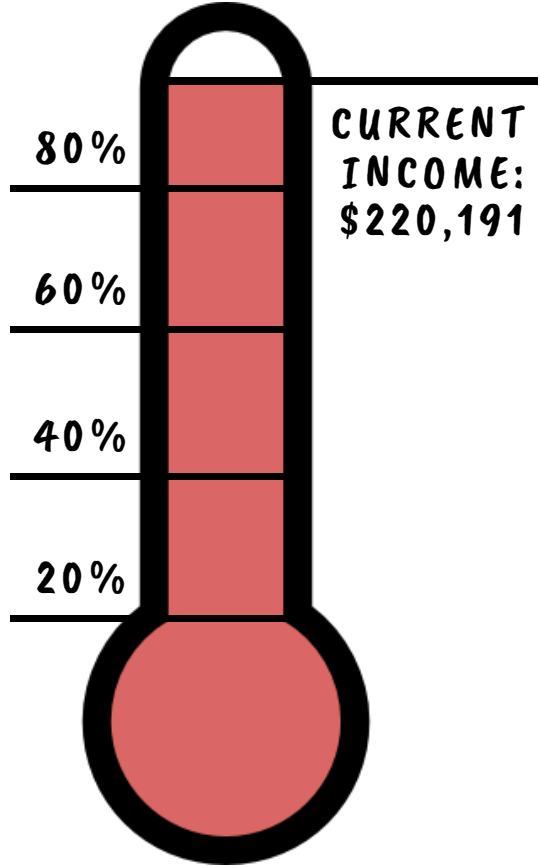


## Memorials

We are thankful for any Memorial Gifts given to us in honor of loved ones who have passed on. At St. John's we don't expect any of these things but are thankful for them as they better our worship life together. Thank you for remembering us in your giving as you help perpetuate the ministry here in honor of your loved ones.

- Technology Updates: \$8,650
- Replace altar cloths
- Reblack parking lot: approx. \$8,500
- Banners for church, approx. \$100/each
- Safety & Security upgrades to facilities (doors, glass security film, etc.)
- L.A.C.E. Endowment Fund
- Carillon (new unit): \$6,500-15,000

**OUR GOAL:  
\$240,600  
2023 budget**



*Christian Symbol*

**CROSS OF ASHES** — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers’ foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus’ death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



*Thank you!*

Thanks for my pretty vase of flowers and Eilleen Yahnke and Ruth Schulz delivered to me for Christmas and the visit too. It is nice to be remembered, so I do thank you very much.  
- Joyce Vizelka

In this season of Light and Hope, we are mindful that there are countless millions who do not know the saving Grace of Jesus. Thank you for your continued support and your most recent gift.  
In His Service,  
Pastor David Breidenbach  
SON Executive Director

We would like to thank you for your monetary donation to our Gillett We Believe program. With your help, we were able to give 22 families in Gillett a very Merry Christmas, and 10 adults a little something to make their Christmas more enjoyable.  
- Linda Hougas and Rachel Weckler,  
Coordinators of We Believe

*Treasurer’s Report*

<b>Operating Checking</b>	
Beginning Balance (11/30/2023)	\$4,152.97
Deposits	\$30,820.26
From Savings	\$6,000.00
Expenses	- \$25,945.27
Ending Balance (12/31/2023)	\$15,027.96