



St. John Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church
V. 27, No. 12

168 Mound St.

Berlin, WI 54923
January, 2023

Some years ago, the hands of a clock on the cover of *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* stood at four minutes to midnight. These scientists were saying that the midnight hour of nuclear destruction would soon strike unless measures were taken to reverse this trend. If uninformed people had said this, we might call them alarmists. But what scientists said could not be dismissed so lightly. The good news is that clock has since been turned back since that cover was first printed.

Someday, though, a world destruction will occur – one by the direct intervention of God. The prophets in the Old Testament, then Jesus and His apostles spoke of it. This universe once had a beginning, and will also have an end. No time schedule has been announced. Jesus said, **“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”** (Matt 24:36)

We bear in mind that time marches on and carries us with it in its advance towards eternity. Time is like a stream that flows onward until it reaches its destination – such as the Mississippi River heading for the Gulf of Mexico. Since we know this, we ought to watch and pray and be ready, always looking forward to our eternal home in heaven. By His atoning work, Jesus opened heaven and there prepared a place for us. We have this to look forward to.

In the meantime, we go about our work and school and other activities. We take an interest in the world around us and work for its betterment – but always with a detachment, always with the desire that our day to day life with Jesus will one day become eternal life with Him at God's right hand. Yes time marches on, but it leads us to our eternal home.

As we begin another New Year of God's grace in our lives here in Berlin, we will have many opportunities to live our lives in the constant preparedness that God desires of us. Make your New Year's resolution this year to have God as the number one priority in your life and the life of your family in 2023. Take advantage of the many opportunities to strengthen your faith in Word and Sacrament during 2023. Join a new Bible class and grow in your faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Make this the best and greatest year of your life as you draw closer to God and His will for your life. May each of you have a blessed New Year living under the constant grace and love of our Lord and Savior!

Pastor Munding

*So faith by itself,
IF IT HAS NO WORKS,
is dead.*



JAMES 2:17, NRSV

+In Our Prayers

Joan Parsons
The family of Orville Behm

Gerald Krause

Deb Schubert

Dave Chappa

Mark Podoll

Sylvia Wells

Gary Eggert

Jackie Albert

Frank Weiss

Brent Snow

Carolyn Schudlach

Duane Schudlach

Cathy Steinke – June Richter's
Daughter

Muriel Kroening's Brother

Our Shut-In and Homebound members

The Family of Nelma Stertz

In the Hospital

Gerald Krause

Joan Parsons

Quarterly Voter's Meeting

Sunday January 29th

After the 9 am service.

Meeting to start Approx. 10:30 am



Sending Our **SYMPATHY**

Orville Behm

Husband of Joann Behm

Died - December 14, 2022

Funeral - December 21, 2022

Nelma Stertz

Mother of Lori Piechowski and

David Stertz

Ralph Fredrick

Father of Perriann Fredrick

BAPTISM

December 24, 2022

Hadley Helena Lare

Daughter of Zachary and

Hannah Lare

Granddaughter of Bruce and

Marian Kobishop





PLAYGROUND NEWS

Thank You! Thank You!

Thank you to Russ and Robin Henriksen for donating all 5 Christmas trees in church.



Thank You to Kevin Koch, Rich Wallner and Ron Gehrke for putting up the Christmas trees.

Thanks to Don and Barb Rosner for the small wreaths outside.

A special thanks to the Senior Choir and all other congregation members who decorated the church this year.

A special Thank You to Brian and Cindy Drews who set up the Nativity scene outside.

We will undecorate the church on Saturday, January 7th, starting at 10:00 am
Thank you to all!!

Poinsettia Donation

The 2 red poinsettias on the Altar were donated by the family of Alice Janes in honor of her 94th birthday.



January 1, 1977 - Mark & Ricki Schubert
January 2, 1971 - Kris & Ramona Hrebik
January 8, 2010 - Eric & Amy Vetrone
January 17, 1976 - Ken & Leanne Hansen

The Vines & Rushes playground fundraising event was a huge success. The event manager stated our event was the highest to date with 25% of the food sales and cash tips of \$550! The silent auction pulled in an additional \$1,175 for a grand total of \$1,735.

The winners of the silent auction included Deb Johanknecht (Norwex Basket), Danielle Corach (Stained Glass Flower & Fall Blanket), Melissa Weiland (Planters/Garden Supplies & Tastefully Simple Basket), Karen Vergin-Krause (Fortifi Bank Basket), Reinbolds Family (Stained Glass Cross), Amy Vetrone (Knuth Brewing Growler & Gift Card), Barbara Markowski (LadyBug Gift Card), Patina Vie Basket (Tina Markowski), Jodi Markowski (Younique Makeup Basket), Debbie Spritka (Farmers & Merchants Basket & Violet & Co. Basket), Stacy Zietlow (Color Street Basket & Traveling Vineyard Basket), Monica Keelor (Chic Tique Basket & Alexandria Games Gift Card), and Rebecca Mosier (Poinettia).

The Board of Education & School Staff would like to thank everyone who made this fundraising event a success. We also want to thank those who donated towards the silent auction. Those include: Jennifer Billington, Chaslin's Creations, Tractor Supply, Fortifi Bank, Knuth Brewing, Ladybug, Patine Vie, Tina Markowski, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Violet & Co., Lisa Buzzell, Aimee Vergin, Chic Tique Girls, Alexandria Games, and Nancy Wallner, and Tastefully Simple.

We thank Tina Markowski for chairing this huge event.

Also...the Shoe Fundraiser raised \$1,008.00 and over 2,575 pairs of shoes were collected. Thanks to all!





New Members

Lucy Borndalh Cole

Jeffery and Debra Spritka



Ladies Aid

President Robin Henriksen welcomed members, husbands and guests to the annual Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 8 in the church lower level. Members packed the Christmas sacks for shut-ins for distribution. After which everyone enjoyed the delicious meal.

A special speaker, Bill Brooks, delighted us with an interesting presentation on his trip to Africa. Pat and Laurie Siegmund then led us in singing Christmas carols to cap off the afternoon.

The table collection was given to Seminarian/Vicar Jim Martin, son of Cindy Schuett.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 2, 2023. Happy New Year to all!



Stan Hartzke	1/02
Kristen Mertens	1/03
Kyle Verch	1/04
Caleb Voigtlander	1/04
Weston Deibert	1/05
Lucy Cole	1/06
Ronda Dretske	1/06
Nathan Mosier	1/06
JoAnn Kaufman	1/07
Dirk Lueck	1/07
Rachel Vergin	1/07
Harrison Drover	1/09
Charles Nechkash	1/09
Susan Fink	1/10
Ralane Tuinstra	1/10
Rev. Paul Mundinger	1/11
Kevin Parsons	1/12
Debra Wissell	1/12
Cindy Drews	1/13
Curt Snow	1/13
Haley Bevers	1/15
Ryan Bolen	1/16
Emma Krueger	1/16
Sandy Londowski	1/16
Sandy Gregor	1/18
Viz Ries	1/18
Antonette Kracht	1/19
Sawyer Webb	1/20
Eugene Ficken	1/22
Brandon McCormick	1/22
Julie Hess	1/23
Cassandra Snow	1/25
Jack Weiland	1/25
Brock Wilde	1/25
Connie Boening	1/26
Kashton Mehn	1/27
Pat Durrant	1/28
Bill Brooks	1/29
Noah Kaufman	1/31

From St John



Lutheran School

Happy New Year to you all. I pray that you all had a restful and joyous Christmas celebration. Now that we have recognized the birth of Christ in the stable at Bethlehem, we can turn our thoughts to the new year that lies in front of us. The new year is another gift from God. How will you spend it? How can we use our time to share the Gospel message during the coming year?

Our Board of Education has been hard at work updating policies. They also packed the annual Christmas "goodie sacks" that were given out at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Filling open positions for the 2023 – 2024 school year is also something they have been working on. I truly appreciate their hard work and dedication to our students and our school.

Our PTL fruit sale was successful again this year. We would like to thank everyone that purchased fruit this year. Thank you to our middle school students who helped unload the truck. I would also like to thank Mrs. Wallner for spearheading this projects and Mr. Gehrke, Mr. Koch, and Mrs. Schrader for sorting the orders and carting them to customer's cars.

We had our third annual drive through Nativity last month and we have a lot of thanks to pass around. Mr. Pett and Mrs. Schrader did the planning. Parents and trustees helped with set-up, take down, and collection of donations. Judith Uchtyl provided animals. Students dressed up and

braved the cold to share the Christmas message. We were able to collect about 500 pounds of food for the Berlin food pantry.

Our basketball and cheerleading seasons are in full swing.

Our day school Christmas program was on December 16th. Our students did an amazing job sharing the Christmas story to all who attended. Thank you to the staff and parents that donated their time and materials to make it a success.

We sent home our second quarter progress reports last month and January 13th is the end of our second quarter. We will be halfway through our school year in just 2 weeks.

The playground is in, and our students will be able to play on it when they return from Christmas break on January 3rd.

Have a wonderful January as we head into 2023 with all the possibilities that it holds.

I am yours in Christ's service.

Miss Melissa Linse



Divine Love



Human Care

When you were a child, your parents probably made you take their hands before crossing a street, and they reminded you to "look both ways."

New Year's Day is a good time to look both ways - backwards and forwards. What do you see when you look back on the past 365 days?

Perhaps the year 2022 seemed to go by rather quickly. As oldsters, this is a common impression. It doesn't seem to matter how we spend the time. We can waste it or put it to good use. One day, we wake up and it's a new year, and just like that - we're speeding forward into a new year!

Tempus fugit. Yes, time flies, but, as someone said, fortunately, you're the pilot.

Maybe. Often, I feel as though I don't have much control as to the course I am flying and that, when flying into the future, I find that the destination is always changing. Truth is, usually I am not certain about where the flight is going to end up, and I am a bit nervous about it..

This is what it is like when we try to look forward into the coming year. The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us that we can expect almost anything to happen.

As we gaze into 2023, let's remember to put the controls in the hands of the only Pilot who knows the way, who in fact once said, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

Edward Hopper, the 19th-century hymnwriter and pastor of the Church of Sea and Land, a church for sailors, wrote a hymn that might be in your hymnal:

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me,
Over life's tempestuous sea:
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rocks and treach'rous shoal;
Chart and compass come from Thee*

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me!
When at last I near the shore,*

*And the fearful breakers roar
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not- I will pilot thee!"*

May 2023 be a year of God's richest blessings for you and those you love!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for being at the controls, for knowing the way, for charting my course and for being my Pilot "over life's tempestuous seas. " Amen.



MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF WALTER SCHMUDLACH

For Playground

From Edgar & Janet Bender.....\$ 25.00

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD BOENING

For Playground

From Don & Donna Dretske.....\$100.00

IN MEMORY OF GERALD GERTH

For General Fund

From Yvonne Gerth.....\$100.00

From Friends & Family.....\$130.00

DONATION

For Playground

From Funds Z orgs. LLC.....\$430.00



Creation Corner

From the Bi-Monthly Journal

"Does God Exist?"

A regular feature of the journal "Does God Exist?" is a section entitled "Dandy Designs." Here are various examples from God's creation pointing to the undeniable existence of our Creator.

The Value of a Whale



Many years ago, an atheist challenged my statement that everything in the creation had a designed purpose and filled a need. My atheist friend insisted that the whale is one example of a poorly designed creature with no purpose.

He said that they eat massive amounts of the ocean's food that could be eaten by other, more useful creatures. He also challenged that they contribute nothing to the ecology of the oceans. At the time, I did not have a good answer to why whales are useful. Whale oil seemed to me to be a weak answer. Since then, I have learned the value of a whale.

One of the things I love about science is that it continues to look for understandings of the world in which we live. New studies of whales have revealed some facts that show the whale is incredibly useful. The winter 2020 edition of *Defenders of Wildlife* magazine reports data on the value of a whale.

Whales live a long time, and they accumulate carbon in their bodies. When the whale dies, it takes that carbon to the ocean bottom, removing it from the atmosphere. New research shows that each whale takes 33 tons (30 metric tons) of carbon out of the atmosphere. By comparison, a tree absorbs 48 pounds (22 kg) of carbon dioxide a year. In 60 years, which is the lifespan of most whales, a tree would remove one ton of carbon from the air. Whales play a role in removing the greenhouse gas that people are concerned about today.

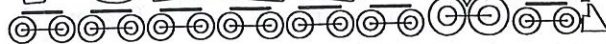
In a whale's lifetime, it will bring minerals to the ocean surface to stimulate phytoplankton growth.

This plankton contributes more than 50% of the oxygen we breathe and absorbs 37 billion tons (33.5 metric tons) of carbon dioxide a year. Phytoplankton also sustains many fish species, and today, fishing is a \$150 billion industry.

So what is the value of a whale? *Defenders of Wildlife* maintains that each whale is worth more than \$2 million. God has a purpose for everything He created, but sometimes it takes us a long time to understand how His creatures help us.



PUZZLE



Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

Shepherds
Child
Nazareth
Census
Baby
David
Mary
Travel
Town
Register
Born
Night

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

"Today in the town of David a _____
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer Savior

Thanks from the Seminary!

I was able to travel back to Wisconsin during our fall reading week (October 16-21) to visit family and had some time to enjoy some relaxation.

I was also fortunate to travel home for Thanksgiving. It was great to see family again before the final push toward the end of the fall semester.

I'm currently working on finishing up my last couple Introduction to Systematics papers, and an exegetical paper on Matthew 3:13-17, the Baptism of Jesus. The fall semester concludes on December 16. We'll have 6 weeks before the spring semester starts. I am fortunate to be able to take a class over winter break, Conversational Koine Greek. In the spring I'll be taking Homiletics (preaching), Synoptic Gospels, Pauline Epistles, Creeds & Confessions, The Devotional Life, and Pastor in Church & Mission.

Chapel Choir has been busy this fall semester! We typically rehearse over the lunch hour on Tuesdays and sing Thursdays during chapel.

We have sung various Psalms as part of the liturgy for Chapel including Psalm 3, Psalm 62, Psalm 98, and Psalm 119.

The Life Team organized a Miscarriage Remembrance Service during which the Chapel Choir sang "Take Heart" by Dan Kreider, and arranged by our Choir Director, Phillip Magness. This has been by far my favorite piece that we have sung!

Currently we are working on an arrangement of Psalm 72, and for Lessons and Carols we are working on "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied" and "Gesu Bambino".

The mission of the Life Team at Concordia Seminary is "Centered in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Concordia Seminary Life Team equips our Seminary Community and others to affirm life".

The committee I'm serving on is focusing on sexual ethics. We are working on organizing for the spring semester a panel for the campus community to hear how to minister to those who have been affected by pornography.

In His love and service,
Luke Frauenhoff 1st year Seminarian
Concordia Seminary - St. Louis

TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
 - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
 - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
 - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
 - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
 - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
 - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story — and the snack — with a friend!

St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date: December 21, 2022

The December meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Adam Ewald. Rich Wallner opened with prayer.

Present: Rich Wallner, Debra Thiel, Kevin Koch, Bob Radliff, Amy Radliff, Adam Ewald, Melissa Linse, Keith Krause.

Absent: Pastor Mundinger

Secretary's Report by Amy Radliff

Motion B Radliff/Koch to accept the November minutes. Motion approved.

Financial Secretary's Report by Bob Radliff

	<u>November 2022</u>	<u>November 2021</u>
General Fund	\$107,231.09	\$92,154.42
Children's Fund	\$ 233.05	\$27,263.56
Elderly Fund	\$.00	\$.00
Memorials	\$ 88.51	\$ 795.03
Attendance	204 per week	190 per week

Motion by A Radliff/Thiel to accept the Financial Secretary's report. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report by Debra Thiel

Square Account November 2022:

Beginning Balance: \$111.59

Expenses: \$.00

Income: \$ 49.26

Ending Balance: \$160.85

Hot Lunch Account November 2022:

Beginning Balance: \$14,239.07

Expenses: \$70,103.37

Income: \$69,582.57

Ending Balance: \$13,713.27

Elderly Fund November 2022:

Beginning Balance: \$7,702.28

Expenses: \$.00

Income: \$.00

Ending Balance: \$7,702.28

Children's Fund November 2022:

Beginning Balance: \$190,007.40

Expenses: \$ 7,482.50

Income: \$ 258.17

Ending Balance: \$182,783.07

Motion by B Radliff/Koch to accept Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

Board of Trustees Report by Keith Krause

- Wood chips have been spread on the playground
- Getting price quote to replace damaged fence and posts on the north side of the school property
- Submitting paperwork for Focus on Energy rebates of qualifying lighting fixtures
- Additional "no trespassing" signs will be posted around school playground

Motion by Koch/A Radliff to accept Trustees report. Motion approved.

Board of Elders Report & Pastor's Report by Rich Wallner

- Non-active recommendations will be made for the Quarterly Voters meeting

Official Acts:

Transfer In – Jarold Barth, from Immanuel Lutheran, Auroraville, WI.

Transfer Out – Linda Hertzberg, to Grace Lutheran, Omro.

Communicant Members 480

Baptized Members 572

Church Families 297

Motion by Krause/Thiel to accept Elder's report. Motion approved

Board of Education Report by Kevin Koch

- Thank you to Tyler Kettlewell and friends for unforeseen concrete removal required during the playground installation project.
- Fund raiser held at Vines and Rushes brought in \$500 in pizza sales and \$1,100 from Silent Auction.
- Will begin interview process of teacher candidates
- Currently have 9 students signed up for the 2023-2024 3K all-day class.
- Safety Plans have been reviewed and updated
- Board made recommendation to remove “interim” from the title of Principal Miss Linse,

Motion by A Radliff/Wallner to accept the Board of Education report. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- Clarification made with Concordia that maternity leave pay is covered under short-term disability.

New Business:

- Amy Radliff made a motion to transfer funds from the Memorial Account (Special Projects-Playground) to General Fund to allow for payment to be issued for the completed playground project. Second by Kevin Koch. Motion approved.

Meetings next month: Trustees – Monday January 9th – 6:30 pm. Board of Education – Tuesday January 10th - 6pm. Elders – Tuesday Jan 10th – 6pm. Council – Wednesday, January 18th – 6pm.

Quarterly Voters Meeting – Sunday January 29th following service (approx. 10:30)

Motion by Linse/Thiel to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm. Meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer

*Respectfully submitted,
Amy Radliff, Secretary*

***Note: These minutes have not yet been reviewed by the Council and are subject to revision and correction at the next meeting.*





January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am Worship/HC	2 No School	3	4 3:45 Public Confirm	5 6:30 Worship/HC	6 EPIPHANY	7 10:00 am Un-decorate the church
8 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 Sunday Sch. 10:15 Bible Class	9 6:30 pm Trustees	10 6:00 Board of Ed. 6:00 Elders	11 3:45 Public Confirm	12 6:30 Worship/HC	13	14
15 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 Sunday Sch. 10:15 Bible Class	16 No School	17	18 3:45 Public Confirm 6 pm Council Mtg. 7 pm Sr. Choir	19 6:30 Worship/HC	20	21
22 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 Sunday Sch. 10:15 Bible Class	23 6:30 pm LWML Mtg	24	25 3:45 Public Confirm 7 pm Sr. Choir	26 6:30 Worship/HC	27 No School	28
29 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 Sunday Sch. No Bible Class Voters Meeting	30	31		6:30 Worship/HC		
Lutheran Schools Week						January 22—28

